

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
Regular Meeting - June 9, 2015

6:00 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Mark Kujala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., then led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Rick Newton, Tom Dyer, Pam Ackley, Mayor Mark Kujala, Henry Balensifer

Staff Present: City Manager Kurt Fritsch, City Attorney Harold Snow, City Recorder Linda Engbretson, Fire Chief Time Demers, Public Works Director Don Snyder, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Public Works Foreman Craig Walter

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/AGENDA ADDITIONS

Commissioner Balensifer - congratulated Mayor Kujala on the birth of his daughter, ~~Karley~~ <sup>Karlie</sup> Marie.

Commissioner Ackley - said she was honored to give the Warrenton SMART program \$1,800 from the Windemere Foundation. She said Warrenton has the most need and the least amount of volunteers. Need volunteers!

City Manager Fritsch - last week was Finance Director Laurie Sawrey's last day and April Clark is acting Interim Finance Director. We are advertising. Manager Fritsch requested an addition to the Agenda - Item F - Shilo Street Widening Project, noting this project needs to be completed this fiscal year.

**Commissioner Henry Balensifer made the motion to add item 6.F. to the Agenda, *Approval of Plans, Specs & Award of Contract for NE Pacific Ct. Road Widening Project*. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2015
- B. City Commission Work Session Minutes - May 26, 2015
- C. Monthly Finance Report - April

D. Fire Dept. Activity Report - April

**Commissioner Henry Balensifer made the motion to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

**BUSINESS**

City Manager Fritsch stated item 6.A. is the resolution to increase water rates by 15%, as discussed and approved during the budget process. He detailed the need for the increase which will raise approximately \$300,000 for the water fund. The City is in a serious spot in the water fund due to loss of water revenue over the past couple of years, including Pacific Coast Seafood. Loss of revenue has put a strain on the fund and the majority of capital improvements are on hold. The FY 2015-2016 budget includes funding to pay for an updated rate study (both water and sewer) to provide data to plan for the future. The impact of the increase for an average user (rolled into the sewer and storm sewer rate increases also under consideration) for a monthly user of 4,000 gallons of water per month means about a \$10.42 increase on their utility bill. Average increase for just water use for 2,000 gallons will be \$3.46. Mayor Kujala said there has been a lot of discussion/debate, but this is needed. "It doesn't get us very far in capital projects, but it keeps us on the positive end for now." City Manager Fritsch explained the major project in the budget is the waterline project to Hammond. The City is looking at a grant/loan to help with the cost, about a \$1.6 million project. Commissioner Newton asked if the rate study will be completed by next year. City Manager Fritsch stated it will be done and will provide recommendations for moving forward. Mayor Kujala asked for public comment. Mr. Jim Ray asked if the increase is across the board, and City Manager Fritsch replied the increase will affect all users, commercial, industrial, etc. Commissioner Newton wanted to make it clear that if the increase isn't adopted, the fund would be broke.

**Commissioner Pamela Ackley made the motion to conduct the first reading, by title, of Resolution No. 2438; *Updating City of Warrenton Water Rates, Repealing Resolution No. 2411 and Any Other Resolutions in Conflict.* Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

City Manager Fritsch introduced Resolution No. 2439 to increase sewer rates at 2.5%. The increase will raise approximately \$42,500 during FY 2015-2016. As earlier noted, a sewer rate study will also be completed. Shoreline Sanitary connecting to the City's system will benefit our rate payers long-term.

**Commissioner Tom Dyer made the motion to conduct the first reading, by title, of Resolution No. 2439; *Updating City of Warrenton Sewer Rates, and Repealing Any***

***Resolutions in Conflict. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

City Manager Fritsch explained the third rate increase proposed is the storm sewer surcharge. The surcharge pays for storm water infiltration, flooding issues, tide gate replacement, and pump stations, as well as levee improvements. He explained the City is looking at an unknown amount, but several million at least, to improve the levee system, a requirement of FEMA. The proposed increase is double the current amount for a total of 20% of sewer charges on utility bills. The net increase will be approximately \$178,500 in this next fiscal year. Commissioner Newton stated he hopes the public understands that each of these funds has to stand on its own.

**Commissioner Henry Balensifer made the motion to conduct the first reading, by title, of Resolution 2440; *Adopting an Increase to the Storm Sewer Surcharge and Repealing Any Resolutions in Conflict.* Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

At its May 26 meeting, the City Commission deferred the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Addendum to this meeting, directing Community Development Director Skip Urling to update demographics and to adjust language regarding the Federal Emergency Management Administration Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Mr. Urling provided the revised plan addendum. Mr. Urling explained the plan acknowledges hazard issues in the community and the plan is required in order to apply for funding, should any be available, to address identified hazards. City Manager Fritsch explained this is a County document, partnered with the cities and special districts. This is Warrenton's component. Discussion followed on the issues delineated in the document and the specific time lines attached for correction, i.e., move City Hall from the Tsunami Inundation Zone within four years. Commissioner Balensifer stated, "I have problems putting something into the record that isn't realistic." Mr. Urling said FEMA requires a plan you have to at least recognize to identify types of disasters that could hit the community. Commissioner Newton noted a correction to page 13; it says the Mayor is appointed by the Commission. Mr. Urling stated he will make that correction before submitting the document.

**Commissioner Tom Dyer made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2436; *Adopting the Warrenton Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Addendum.* Motion was seconded and passed.**

**Commissioner <sup>Newton</sup> Balensifer - aye; Commissioner Dyer - aye; Commissioner Balensifer - nay; Commissioner Ackley - aye; Mayor Kujala - aye.**

Police Chief Mathew Workman explained that while researching grants he found a \$1,000 grant opportunity from the City's insurance provider, City/County Insurance Services for police body cameras. Body cameras are included in this year's budget, so the \$1,000 will help offset the total

cost.

**Commissioner Henry Balensifer made the motion to approve staff to complete and sign the application for the 2014-2015 CIS Law Enforcement Body Camera Grant to obtain up to \$1,000 toward the purchase of body cameras. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

Public Works Director Don Snyder explained funding is in this fiscal year to improve NE Pacific Ct. Road (Shilo), and the work needs to be completed by June 30. Discussion followed on the dire need for improvement. N. Pacific Excavation submitted the low bid at \$68,562.47.

**Commissioner Henry Balensifer made the motion to approve the plans and specifications for the NE Pacific Court Roadway Widening Project and award the contract to North Pacific Excavation for \$ 68,562.47. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Antilla - speaking on behalf of his mother who lives on SW 7<sup>th</sup> said she called the City recently regarding a downed tree. He said the tree was from the City's property and fell across the road, effectively cutting off emergency access. She was told it wasn't the City's responsibility. He requested a copy of the City's policy. Mr. Antilla said the situation was "ridiculous. City Manager Fritsch said he would look into the matter and contact Mr. Antilla.


Steve Fulton - Port of Astoria Commission- stated a letter should be forthcoming requesting a joint meeting between the City and the Port. He requested the Commission strongly consider accepting the request to discuss mutual issues.

There being no further business, Mayor Kujala adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Engbretson, CMC, City Recorder