

CITY OF NEWBERG CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES
JULY 31, 2007
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
414 E. 1ST ST., NEWBERG

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Andrews called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Members

Present:	Mayor Bob Andrews	Robert Soppe	Roger Currier
	Bart Rierson	Mike Boyes	
	Bob Larson (arrived at 6:55 p.m.)	Jeff Palmer (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)	

Staff

Present:	James Bennett, City Manager
	Terrence Mahr, City Attorney
	Norma Alley, City Recorder

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Mobile Vendors

Jim Bennett said there are more than just food vendors that are mobile, but they probably get the most visibility. We need to look at operating hours, locations and other known issues. The aesthetic issues also need to be considered. The question is should there be aesthetic site standards to ensure they are not an eye sore.

Councilor Boyes said we need to keep in mind someone who is there short term, a few days, compared to someone who is there longer. We need to think out the price of charging them depending on their length.

Councilor Rierson said I am most concerned with the aesthetic issues. I am not sure how you regulate it, because I do not know what I can tolerate until I see what I do not like.

Councilor Palmer said one criterion is styles of signs.

Councilor Currier suggested the City request a layout plan of what they propose it will look like and the permit would be approved contingent upon approval of the plan. He also suggested requiring a single structure, with a single awning, commercial printed signage and nothing else for sale except the main product advertised.

Councilor Rierson suggested addressing sanitary issues.

Councilor Soppe asked what the difference was between a festival, carnival, and local business putting on food vending. I am assuming there are different standards.

Terry Mahr said there are site review standards that vary.

Jim Bennett suggested stating something for accessory structures are limited to and then list them. The City does differentiate between merchant and local vendors by the number of days they are selling.

Council directed staff to look at what other cities are doing and draft a preliminary policy for Council review.

2. Budget Policy

Jim Bennett said this is to begin discussing budget policy issues for next year. Staff does not have numbers now, but we want to discuss potential significant issues such as local street maintenance. This is also for discussion on how budget process will be put together this year.

Councilor Soppe asked Jim Bennett what he was looking for regarding a budget policy.

Jim Bennett said he would like to see the Council inform staff what process they would like to use and give guidelines for staff on creative financing.

Councilor Soppe said we need to look at the concept of the Budget Committee as established in Oregon law and make sure we are following that.

Jim Bennett said there is very little restriction stated in law on what the committee can and cannot do. That is something cities decide on their own.

Councilor Palmer said I feel strongly the Budget Committee should meet before the end of this quarter to get started on looking at the city's future.

Mayor Andrews asked if the Council would consider a subcommittee to identify priorities the Council should consider. This is to look at what fees we want continued and established.

Councilor Soppe said subcommittees are great with a narrow issue, but given the involvement of the Council I am not sure much is saved by having a subcommittee. Something with this deep of a discussion is discussion the entire Council should be involved in.

Jim Bennett said this subcommittee would help staff to get ready for getting meetings started, priorities, and better define what the Council wants for a better process and budget.

Mayor Andrews said he would look into the subcommittee more.

3. Sign Ordinance

Jim Bennett said this discussion is a courtesy to Dennis Lewis. Signs are very important to him and he had purchased a very nice top of the line electronic sign that has red lights and the way he wanted to use his sign is not permitted in the Sign Code, which he was not aware of when he purchased his sign. He wanted some consideration of the Council to relax the Code. He is requesting that it not be regulated by the size of the signage, but should be regulated by the pixels of the lights. He is meeting the Code standards currently.

Councilor Soppe asked did he not apply for a ten foot sign and know that his sign is larger than ten

feet.

Mayor Andrews clarified the contractor applied and he went by what the contractor said.

Jim Bennett said the sign did not get constructed as the sign was designed because he could not build it to original specifications.

Councilor Soppe said the vast majority of the advertising has not been community related, it flashes more often than every ten minutes, and his way of approaching the Council bothers me.

Discussion commenced about acceptable regulations of content on a sign and distraction while driving down the road.

Mayor Andrews said if the City provides a waiver or increases the square footage can we mandate the number of pixels, frequency of changing, amount to be devoted to community announcements. For example, you can go to a certain size but then you must commit to a certain amount of time to community event.

Councilor Soppe expressed concern for some community events being offensive or dangerous.

Councilor Rierson said I would not support having more than ten square feet of an animated sign, but I might relax on the frequency of the flashing.

Councilor Palmer expressed his concern for the motion.

Jim Bennett suggested taking the suggestions shared tonight to the Planning Commission for review.

Mayor Andrews said the petitioner has acquiesced to our Code today and is asking for latitude.

Council directed staff to inform the petitioner there would be no latitude in Code regulations.

4. Annexation Policy

Jim Bennett handed out a draft policy addressing fees, frequency of asking for it to be placed back on the ballot, significant changes occurring on the property, and requiring a new application to get it back on the ballot.

Terry Mahr suggested adding when there are additional considerations for reasonings to require going before the voters and making sure they follow through with their promises to the public. We currently do not have something in our Code to ensure they follow through.

Councilor Currier asked for clarification on significant.

Councilor Rierson said that would be the discretion of the Council on a case by case basis.

Terry Mahr clarified is that the application can not be reheard more than once in a calendar year, but you could have it on the ballot twice because of the initial vote and the revote.

Councilor Soppe said my preference would be a twelve month period instead of a calendar year. Second, we need to make it clear if number two is referring to the re-application. Number two is

about the Council having the opportunity to put the item on the ballot. The problem I want the Council to decide is how often they want it on the ballot and number two limits how often the Council can hear the matter. Third, in number three, Council is not given the discretion as far as the additional requirements being in writing. He asked is there anything now that prohibits us from that.

Jim Bennett answered no.

Council directed staff to bring a policy before Council for approval.

5. Other Business

Discussion commenced regarding issues of paper deliveries on personal property. The Council asked Terry Mahr to look into the issue and possibly create a policy enabling the City to cite the newspaper companies if they do not stop delivering the papers after a citizen requests it.

Discussion commenced on people illegally parking on private property around the Public Library.

Councilor Palmer asked for an update on signage for the breezeway and use for the second street parking.

Jim Bennett said Barton Brierley is looking to do a sign directing pedestrian parking through the breezeway and he is talking with ODOT to get a sign on First Street. Dan Danicic has estimated construction of a two-level parking structure to be \$2 million.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.