

NEWBERG CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2007
6:00 P.M.
NEWBERG CITY HALL ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
414 E. 1ST ST., NEWBERG

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Andrews called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Members

Present:	Mayor Bob Andrews	Robert Soppe	Bob Larson
	Roger Currier	Bart Rierson	Mike Boyes
	Jeff Palmer		

Staff

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

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Review Council Rules and Guidelines

Mayor Andrews encouraged discussion on creating a time limit on agenda items.

Councilor Rierson said council ought to retain the prerogative to make a motion to close the session early, but I do not think we need a rule.

Councilor Currier said we need to take care of the items at the time because if we keep pushing them out the items on the next agenda are going to be pushed back.

Councilor Larson said the chair can control discussions so the meeting does not drag on to all hours of the night.

Mayor Andrews said we have more business today than historically what this city has had. Since there is no consensus on this do we want to entertain greater frequency of council meetings.

Jim Bennett said we are trying to space things out so we do not have too many items on the agenda. Sometimes it is unavoidable. Another part is being a little more stickler on public testimony.

Councilor Soppe said it is not reasonable to say we are not going to start new business after 11:00 p.m. and have it stated on the agenda. It should not be automatic; we should be able to invoke it.

Consensus was met to include on the agenda a statement that at the Council's may choose not hear any new business after 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Andrews said a citizen came to him concerned about when public testimony can be accepted.

Councilor Rierson said as long as someone fills out the form they can speak.

Councilor Currier said all the forms should be filled in before 7:00 because it is disruptive to be giving the Mayor the forms after the items have been opened.

Councilor Soppe said I am opposed to the form being limited to when you can hand it in, it can be tough to get there before 7:00.

Councilor Larson said I do not agree to have citizens fill out the form before the meeting starts.

Councilor Boyes suggested limiting it to when the item starts not at the beginning of the meeting.

Councilor Palmer said we need to have a way to notify the public on explaining how to testify. It needs to be structured and a level playing field.

Councilor Boyes said it is good to have the extra person there to help explain the forms, it makes a little more personable.

Councilor Palmer said then that person needs to be there consistently.

Mayor Andrews said on this particular item as long as I have a form before the business item comes up then I am okay to accept it. I want to compliment our staff, before the meetings starts the staff has been telling the people what they need to do. That is a critical role of the recorder. That is something that is very important and I lean toward not cutting it off at 7:00, but we do not receive anything after the agenda item has been initiated. I do like the idea to have the recorder talking with citizens; it helps them understand what is expected. He asked for discussion on limiting the time for the applicant in a public hearing to a maximum of five minutes.

Councilor Soppe said when there is a matter that means hundreds of thousands of dollars to someone I have a problem saying you better sum it up in five minutes.

Councilor Larson said the Mayor should have the discretion to add more time if needed.

Councilor Currier said giving the principal applicant 30-45 minutes is over kill.

Mayor Andrews asked should the applicant, if there is not an extensive background laid by staff, have an opportunity to present their case for 15 minutes regardless of how many people are there to represent the applicant. Other opponents not part of the applicant party will be five minutes.

Councilor Currier said they have had every opportunity to write every fact in a report to give to staff ahead of time.

Terry Mahr suggested giving the applicant more time because they have the burden of proof.

Councilor Rierson said I would like the principal applicant get a little more time and the experts get five minutes.

Consensus was met to limit the applicants time and continue to limit others to five minutes.

Councilor Boyes inquired about personal security having citizens state their address on the record.

Terry Mahr said he had checked into it and there is not consistency from city to city. Newberg has the option of having the address out of the minutes and making sure they are not published on the website.

Mayor Andrews suggesting having the citizen state their name for the record and have the rest dealt with administratively.

2. Other Business

Councilor Soppe expressed concern that when ever there is an annexation on the agenda consideration may not be taken for the state law requiring 20 years of land in UGB and 10 years on the URA. Council should be looking at where we are in relation to our goal every time an annexation is considered. I would like to see a running inventory of each type of zone, total land within the city, what is developed, in process of being developed, and undeveloped.

Jim Bennett said he would talk with Barton Brierley.

Discussion commenced on reporting to Council when an employee professional services contract is written up.

Discussion commenced on finalizing the city manager's review and starting the city attorney's.

Terry Mahr updated the Council on the Verizon franchise process.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.