

CITY OF LA GRANDE

City Council Meeting

Regular Session

June 6, 2007

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
La Grande City Hall
1000 Adams Avenue

MINUTES

COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Steve Clements, Mayor Pro Tem
Colleen Johnson, Mayor
Gary Lillard
Mary Ann Miesner
Dan Pokorney
Todd Richmond

COUNCILORS ABSENT EXCUSED:

John Bozarth, Excused Absent

ROLL CALL

DISCUSSION/DISPOSITION

JOHNSON called this Regular Session of the Council to order at 6:20 p.m. and asked for Roll Call; a quorum was determined to be present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

JOHNSON asked if there were any additions or changes to the *Agenda*. There being none, the *Agenda* was then approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consider: Approving Special Session Minutes; April 30, 2007
- b. Consider: Approving Regular Session Minutes; May 4, 2007

The following Motion was introduced by MIESNER; RICHMOND providing the Second.

MOTION: That we accept the Consent Agenda as presented. MSC. (Passed unanimously).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josey Fast, 906 "H" Avenue, asked about the status of the Carnegie Building. Mayor Johnson responded that the Council held a Work Session to review the response to the Council's Request for Proposals for the use of this building by another entity. The Council had received one response; an agreement is still in the development stage.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. **Ordinance**: Second Reading/Title Only; Amending Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan to Incorporate La Grande Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan

Mike BOQUIST, City Planner

The Public Hearing was reopened; the Public being reminded that the Rules had been read in their entirety at the May 2, 2007, Public Hearing.

Declarations and Challenges

None

Staff Report

BOQUIST informed the Council that all recommended changes from both the Planning Commission and the City Council had been incorporated in the document presented this evening.

The topics of covered bike parking and required bike racks were again discussed and resolved. Bicycle riding rules, enforcement and education were also discussed. It was noted that there is a program in progress to educate children on bicycle safety. Council strongly urged the Police Department to be vigilant regarding traffic violations by motorists in regard to cyclists and, especially, with cyclists disobeying traffic laws. Council also strongly urged more bicycle safety education through signage and programs.

Public Testimony

Howard BUTTS, 69873 Summerville Road, stated he frequently rides a bike. He added that as more people in the community start riding bikes, the more and better the education (of cyclists and motor vehicles sharing the roads). He encouraged the approval of the Plan.

Lee BODINE, City Building Official (speaking not as if presenting Staff report, but as a member of Staff who frequently rides a bike), stated that by not having bike paths, the City was encouraging problems. He noted providing education was important, but the means for safe bike travel needs to be in place to allow citizens to practice safety rules. He encouraged the approval of the Plan.

Anita BETTMAN, 6528 Hull Lane, Imbler, stated she is the owner of a bike shop and is delighted with the proposal. She stated a need for bike paths and education. She also pointed out that bike rodeos take place once a year for children to learn and practice bike rules, adding the events should happen more frequently. She also suggested signage listing rules might be a good idea as well as eliminating roadside debris which interferes with cyclists safety. She encouraged the approval of the Plan.

There were no opponents.

The following Motion was introduced by MIESNER; CLEMENTS providing the Second.

MOTION: That the proposed Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan Ordinance Number 3038, Series 2005 and Land Development code Ordinance Number 3047, Series 2006 be read a second time by title only, put to a vote and adopted.

Close Hearing

The Hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m. and LUND read the Proposed Ordinance by title only.

MSC (Passed unanimously)

Mike BOQUIST, City Planner

b. **Ordinance:** First Reading/Title Only; Annexing One Acre located at East Terminus of "H" Avenue

JOHNSON opened the Public Hearing at 6:51; LUND read the Rules of Order for this Hearing in their entirety.

Declarations and Challenges

None

Staff Report

BOQUIST summarized the Applicant's request by stating the subject property is located at the east terminus of "H" Avenue, which will be extended in the future. The property has been within the City's Urban Growth Boundary since the early 1980's. The Applicant is interested in building a residence on this property and will be requesting City services to do so. In order to obtain City services, the property must first be annexed.

The Council accepted the Annexation Petition by Resolution on April 4, 2007. A Hearing was conducted by the Planning Commission on April 24, 2007; no letters were submitted nor was any testimony provided. The Planning Commission unanimously recommends approval of this request.

Public Testimony

There were no proponents or opponents present this evening.

Close Hearing

The Hearing was closed at 6:57 p.m. LUND read the Ordinance by title only.

This Hearing may be continued on July 11, 2007.

Eldon SLIPPY, Interim City Manager

c. **Resolutions:** (1) Adopting Budget, Making Appropriations, Levying Taxes; Fiscal Year 2007-2008
(2) Declaring city's Election to Receive State Revenue Sharing; Fiscal Year 2007-2008

JOHNSON opened the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

SLIPPY stated this budget represents the original request from Staff in the amount of \$24,956,000 in

Operating Funds, which was then reduced to \$24,543,792, and then was amended by the Budget Committee to \$32,915,454, of which \$24,689,183 is Operating Funds. The Property Tax within the General Fund, is based on \$7.4392/\$1000 assessed value; additionally, a Bonded Debt Levy of 244,100 is requested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The following Motion was introduced by CLEMENTS; RICHMOND providing the Second.

MOTION: That the proposed Resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 Budget as presented, be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed.

Discussion

SLIPPY's response to a question from LILLARD indicated the City Manager search would be funded from the Proposed Budget unless the City received billing from the search firm during this Fiscal Year, in which case that portion would be funded by the current Budget. Interested members of the public were encouraged to contact the City Manager's Office for information.

Question. MSC. (Passed Unanimously)

The following Motion was introduced by CLEMENTS; RICHMOND providing the Second.

MOTION: That the Proposed Resolution electing to receive State Revenues be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed. MSC (Passed unanimously)

Close Hearing

JOHNSON closed the Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Resolution:** Authorizing Transfer of Appropriations
Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007

Eldon SLIPPY; Interim City Manager

SLIPPY explained the various components of the Appropriations Resolution as follows:

•unanticipated and/or underestimated costs associated with the previous City Manger Search process and hiring in the Council/Manager Budget - \$95,000

•under budgeted amounts for Worker's Compensation, building maintenance costs and costs for equipment and supplies associated with a

new ambulance in the Fire/EMS Departments - \$35,000

•construction costs - \$20,000, exceeded estimates as well as janitorial services - \$8,000, for the F. Maxine and Thomas W. Cook Memorial Library

•fuel and energy costs increased more than estimated within the Motor Pool Fund - \$20,000

The following Motion was introduced by MIESNER; CLEMENTS providing the Second.

MOTION: That the proposed Resolution reappropriating the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007 be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed. MSC (passed unanimously)

b. Establishing Sewer Charges and Sewer Service Rates;
Sewer Collection Division

Ray CRAPO, Sewer Collection Superintendent

CRAPO stated the 3% sewer rate increase, effective July 1, 2007, would generate approximately \$64,045.00 to meet the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) mandated collection system improvement and to pay debt service to (ODEQ) Clean Water State revolving loan fund. The basic residential rate would increase by \$0.85, from \$28.41 per month to \$29.96 per month.

The following Motion was introduced by CLEMENTS; MIESNER providing the Second.

MOTION: That the proposed Resolution requesting a 3% increase in sewer rates to meet the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality mandated collection system improvements and debt service for Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade be read by title only, put to a vote and passed. MSC (five of six Councilors voting in the affirmative, RICHMOND voting against the motion)

c. Consider: Awarding Bid;
Taylor Creek Precast Concrete Bridges

Norman Paullus, Assistant Public Works Director

The Public Works Department received two bids for concrete bridges necessary for the relocation of Taylor Creek. The low bid, in the amount of \$153,600.00, was received from Hanson Pipe and Products, from Portland, Oregon. The bid was under the engineer's estimate; the Public Works Department confirmed the bid for accuracy.

The following motion was introduced by CLEMENTS; RICHMOND supplying the Second.

MOTION: As a result of the Gekeler Road Improvement Project, I move that we award the Taylor Creek Precast Concrete Bridges to Hanson Pipe and Products in the amount of \$153,600. MSC (passed unanimously)

d. Consider: Filling Vacant Seats; Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

Colleen JOHNSON, Mayor

The Council received nine applications for the newly created Substance Abuse Advisory Commission. The Commission members are to determine which category they best represent with the intention of leaving the At Large positions vacant for as long as possible. LILLARD, as former Chair of the Ad Hoc Drug Task Force Committee, will attend the first Commission meeting. The following Motion was introduced by JOHNSON; RICHMOND providing the Second.

MOTION: The we appoint Doug Calkins, Maria Ilona, Ron Lesley, Jeff Poppe, Rod Sands, Sharry Sherman, Denise Stone, and Keith Walker to the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission, as well as Jack Howard who would fill one of the Legal Profession positions. MSC (passed unanimously)

INTERIM CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Eldon SLIPPY, Interim City Manager

SLIPPY commented that the Monthly Report, summarizing Department events and projects, is once again to be issued on a regular basis. His goal is to broaden the list of recipients.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

LILLARD

Commended the School District for partially funding the School Resource Officer in spite of their budget constraints. He encouraged the County to follow suit. A brief discussion followed regarding attendance of the County Budget Hearing to Lobby for additional funding.

CLEMENTS

Suggested a City kiosk at the Farmer's Market to be manned by the Council and various City personnel for the purpose of answering questions and distributing information. Also stated he would like the Council to take into consideration the issue of sustainability; adding that he likes the idea of a "Green" Committee. His final comment initiated a discussion regarding the initiation of a park fee for users who are not city residents, specifically for Riverside and Pioneer Parks, but especially Morgan Lake.

RICHLAND suggested that he would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to review this idea and submit ideas for generating income to cover costs of not only the Parks and Recreation Department, but also for the Police Department's participation in patrolling the parks.

RICHMOND

Extended a thank you on behalf of himself and other residents to the Police Department for the visibility of Officers around Central Elementary and La Grande High Schools, noting traffic has slowed down and the area is much safer now for neighbors and pedestrians.

MIESNER

Extended congratulations to the La Grande baseball team and noted that many people commented how nice for them to have Police escort back into the city. Also stated that the steam train ride was a wonderful experience and enjoyed by everyone on board.

POKORNEY

Extended his thanks to the Public Works Department for street patching, adding that the City needs to be cognizant of City streets and the condition they are in before proceeding with the proposed bike/ped path.

JOHNSON

Commented on the attractive and clever calendars resulting from the annual water conservation program the Public Works Department sponsors in local elementary schools. She also noted that the City received an award from the Oregon Downtown Development Association for the appearance of the F. Maxine and Thomas J. Cook Library.

There being no further business to come before this Regular Session of the Council, JOHNSON adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The Council is scheduled to meet again in Regular Session on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1000 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Angelika N. Brooks
City Manager Department Secretary

Colleen F. Johnson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____