

CITY OF COQUILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2007

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Steve Britton, Councilors: E.N. "Corky" Daniels, Kathy Hagen, Linda Short, Fran Capehart and Loran Wiese

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Terence O'Connor, Fire Chief Dave Waddington, Police Chief Reaves, Public Works Director John Higgins, Finance Director Chuck Dufner, Library Director Anne Conner, City Attorney John Trew and Deputy Recorder Rene Collins

PRESS: Robert Jump The Sentinel, Alexander Rich The World

AUDIENCE: A roster of those present is on file in the City Recorder's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Britton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Britton said he enjoyed the Gay 90s Festival on Saturday and hoped everyone else did.

4. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Daniels was glad to see the new City Hall construction is progressing. Councilor Wiese said he enjoyed the Gay 90s Festival and enjoyed helping install the benches and flowerpots. Councilor Hagen said she also enjoyed the festival and said the area was very clean on Sunday. Councilor Short thanked the City for helping to install the benches and planters and also enjoyed the festival. She reported that the Coquille pool will have 16 free swim days, and a few family swim evenings are planned. Operation Coquille has talked about installing a reader board downtown; the cost of the board is \$30,000. Councilor Capehart said the pool is being filled and the schedule is posted. She thanked John Spencer for getting the Rotary clock installed.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Waddington corrected his report stating the R.E.A.C.H. training scheduled for 5/31/07 was rescheduled due to an emergency. Public Works Director Higgins said the spring clean up went well with 184 requests. Planning Commission held a meeting on May 8, 2007 to continue review of the code and the next scheduled meeting is June 20, 2007. Library Director Conner did not have anything to add to her report and said she was disappointed that Washington School is not available for a future library site. Police Chief Reaves said the repair for the memorial benches would continue. They raised \$300 at the festival from the dunk tank and have raised \$2,000 for Special Olympics. Finance Director Dufner said the auditing standards for 2006-2007 have changed and the auditors will be reporting any potential control deficiencies found during the audit.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager O'Connor has secured the services of Attorney Jeannette Launer to assist the City in the contractual matters between the City and Deacon Development over the remaining portion of the GP Property. The remodel work on City Hall is progressing. Ledcore's lease will end June 30, 2007 and when they leave the work on the Public Works Department will start. Staff will be able to move by August 1, 2007 and work on the Council Chambers will continue. Cub Scout Pack 314 has requested the use of the small auditorium and kitchen at the Community Building on July 4, 2007 at no charge for a flag ceremony and breakfast. Councilor Wiese made the motion to waive the fees for the use of the Community Building for Pack 314 on July 4, 2007. Councilor Daniels seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Councilor Capehart said "Fun In The Park" is also planned for July 4, 2007.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Don Kinnaird, Fat Elk Road, asked if the car club shares any of the money they raise with the Chamber of Commerce; Councilor Capehart said they do not. He also asked where the money from traffic violations goes; Police Chief Reaves said the State of Oregon collects the fines and the City receives 49% and it goes into the general fund.

Clifford Latta, 1445 N. Collier, he said that the people are here because they are unhappy with the Police Department and how they treat some of the citizens. Many citizens from Coquille are afraid of the police and will not speak out because they are afraid they will be marked. He said Chief Reaves was quoted in the paper as saying if people have a problem with an officer they need to file a complaint, and Mr. Latta said he had filed two complaints and five other people have too, and people are losing respect for the Police Department. Mr. Latta said he received a ticket in the amount of \$183.00 from Officer Bryant for an illegal turn and also received a \$97 fine for not wearing a seat belt from Officer McNeely and Mr. Latta said he was wearing it. He feels the fines are too much and the Police should issue warnings. The only way this can be changed is to change the relationship between the citizens and the Police and we are not going to give the City any more money. Mr. Latta has set up a blog site for comments about the Police Department. Mayor Britton said the City does not set the fine amounts; the State of Oregon does, and Mr. Latta has filed a complaint and needs to follow the process. Kathy Right lives on N. Elliot, and said that Mr. Latta does not speak for her and many others in Coquille, and said the citizens need to research rules. Brad Billings, 561 E. 2nd, said he was being stopped 2-3 times a week by Myrtle Point and Coquille Police on his way to work at 3:00 a.m. and after he talked with Mayor Britton he did not get stopped anymore. Sean Sanborn, 1037 N. Knott, has had the opportunity to ride along with Chief Reaves' officers and feels they are professional and if you break the law you should receive a ticket. Stacy Schrag owns a downtown business, was a volunteer officer in Coos Bay, and in September she was assaulted by a boy friend and told to stay the night with a friend by the Coquille Police Department. The only way I got anything out of that was to go before Judge Barron, and since then Officer Morin is no longer with the department. Since the incident the Police shine their spotlights in her house in the early mornings. I also received a seat belt ticket from the same Officer as Mr. Latta since the incident and she knows others have gotten seat belt tickets while wearing their seat belts. I called the Police to report a shoplifter for my store and they do no respond. Donna Wilson said she had called for a shoplifter and it took Chief Reaves 39 minutes to respond and he said his response time was 5 minutes. Ms. Schrag said they called another time about a shoplifter and Sergeant Smith responded and said he would be back to take their report and we waited 4 ½ hours and he never returned. Ms. Wilson said that it has happened twice and those reports have never been filed. Ms. Schrag said since this has started she has been pulled over while walking and been given several sobriety tests when leaving her store during prom season during the early morning hours. Ms. Schrag said she came in to file a complaint and brought her mother with her and stated Chief Reaves and Sergeant Smith treated her disrespectfully. Ms. Schrag has a restraining order against her ex-boyfriend and when Officer McNeely responded to an incident at the bowling alley she was asked to leave. In February I had a roommate that was asked to leave and she and Officer Bryant went into Ms. Schrag's home without permission and stole \$4,000 of jewelry and cash. Theodore McBroom, 869 N. Collier, has had problems with officer Bryant over the past years after the officer walked in and used his phone without permission. Terry Johnson, N. Birch, said she was pulled over by Officer McNeely and when asked why they were pulled over he said because they were new in town. Officer Bryant has pulled her over and asked them why they had been at 3 different addresses. Mary Geddry, 340 N. Collier, said she believes their civil rights are being violated and has been denied equal protection under the law; other have had similar experiences and we are presenting this to the State Attorney General or US Attorney General. There is an ongoing problem with the local police and she will not raise her daughters here because she does not think the community is safe. She wrote a letter to the City Manager and did not get a response. Dan Billings, Coquille, says he has friends who will not come into town because of the Police. Mayor Britton thanked everyone for their comments and said the Council will be looking into these issues. John Fraiser received a parking ticket after he has been parking there for 21 years. He did not agree with the officer so he went to court and the Judge dismissed the ticket and the Police Officer said he will get another ticket if he continues to park in that manner. The judge said he should talk to Council. Larae Withroe, 756 N. Collier, feels that the Police Department harasses the citizens. Last Friday she went to the Broiler to pick up two friends and an officer stopped her a block and a half from her house, and the officer said he stopped her because it was Friday night. The other incident was when Sergeant Smith gave her a ticket for careless driving when he was on the wrong side of the road. Dora McDonald has lived on Dean Street and left due to the drug activity; nothing was done and according to the Police Department it was sent to the SCINT team and they said it was invasion of

privacy to film them. We then moved to a new address and were told by Police Dispatch that they had not had any calls to that area and the day we moved in there was a big drug fight and now we have moved from that address. When Councilor Daniels was the Chief, they used courtesy stops, which they do not now.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A: City Council Minutes of May 7, 2007

B. Annual Library Services Contract

Councilor Capehart made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilor Wiese seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Mayor Britton recessed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Britton called the Council Meeting back into session 8:13 p.m.

Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the item C. - City Council Minutes from April 17, 2007. Councilor Hagen second the motion; all voted in favor.

9. Public Comment – Business License Tax on Motor Vehicle Fuel Dealers

Mayor Britton said that Council has been talking about doing this to help repair the roads and many cities are looking into this. Council has found little resistance to this tax as long as the money goes to the street fund. The funds will be collected by the State and they may only be used for the street and sidewalk repair. Mayor Britton opened the floor to public comment. Lowell Thomas said that the City Of Eugene has had the tax for several years and just raised theirs from 5 to 8 cents a gallon. Don Kinnaird said his only concern that once you open the door you will just keep raising the tax amount, and the State has other thoughts about how individuals should be taxed on their miles. Mayor Britton said the fueling station on the HWY 42 would also be taxed. John Spencer, 768 N Birch, wanted to thank Council for taking on this task to help with the improvement of the streets. Lowell Thomas said years ago that a hotel tax was considered being adopted and council did not do it, and now the State prohibits the tax. Council members think the gas tax is a good idea. Councilor Wiese said it is like a user tax, that those who use it will pay it. Councilor Hagen said even the tourists will pay the tax. Mayor Britton said it should generate 85,000 to 120,000 a year. The cost to overlay every street to engineering standards would cost 21 million.

The Dyer Partnership showed a colored map of the road inventory and the different needs of the City's streets. Steve Major said included in the cost is the paving of gravel streets. If the streets are rated at poor they needed to be upgraded immediately, 0-5 years need to do something soon or they will be in poor conditions. If they are graded good they would need minor repairs. The City of Coquille has 20 miles of streets, 6 miles excellent, 3 miles good, 3 miles gravel, 4 miles 0-5 years, 4 miles poor. Mr. Major reviewed the individual areas and their specific needs.

City Manager O'Connor said the ordinance would not take affect until August 1, 2007

Ms. Gilliard asked what would happen to concrete streets and Mr. Major said the cracks would be filled. Mr. Gilliard asked if the corners are too sharp for trucks to make a turn would they make them better; Mr. Major said that they could be reconfigured during the repair process.

Planner Higgins said that people are responsible for the sidewalks, but if the City has some funds they can help with the sidewalk improvement districts.

Mr. Kinnaird asked why the city has not had the funds; the Mayor said because of the lack of tax dollars.

Mr. Major said one of the repair methods is hollow chip seal, and overlay and we have provided the City with a block-by-block cost repair report.

Terence said he received two negative comments about the gas tax.

10. Ordinance 1462 an ordinance imposing a business license tax on motor vehicle fuel dealers, providing for administration, enforcement and collection of the tax; adding chapter 5.26 to the City of Coquille Municipal code.

Councilor Wiese made a motion to read the title. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor

Councilor Capehart made a motion to approve ordinance 1462 imposing a business license tax on motor vehicle fuel dealers, providing for administration, enforcement and collection of the tax; adding chapter 5.26 to the City of Coquille Municipal code. Councilor Short seconded the motion;

Councilor Hagen – yes
Councilor Capehart – yes
Councilor Daniels – yes
Councilor Wiese – yes
Councilor Short –yes
Mayor Britton - yes

Councilor Parker –Absent

11. Revocable Personal License

Planner Higgins stated there is a correction to description of owner’s property as follows:

The North 49.3 Feet of the West one-half and the North 25 feet of the East one-half of Lot 3 and the North 45 Feet of Lot 4, Block 3, original Coquille City, Coquille, Coos County Oregon

Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the revocable personal license to Brian and Leslie Nelson on City property parking with the amended property description

12. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Mayor Britton adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Mayor Steve Britton

ATTEST: _____
Deputy City Recorder

**COQUILLE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Urban Renewal Chairman Wiese called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

Don Erickson, Acacia Painting, has signed a contract with the owner of the Nosler building and painting will begin soon.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Britton made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2007 meeting. Member Daniels seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chairman Wiese adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Chairman Wiese

ATTEST: _____
Secretary