

CITY OF COQUILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 2, 2007

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Terence O'Connor, Fire Chief Dave Waddington, 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, Tim Novotny KCBY

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 7:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Britton welcomed all those attending, and said we are small community and we need to work together and encouraged the citizens to discuss any issues they may have with Council.

4. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hagen asked about the recycling center. City Manager O'Connor said we could have it fenced and it would be open on Saturdays staffed by Les' Sanitation, or have a 24-hour watch person, which is not feasible. Mayor Britton said we are required to have the recycle center. Councilor Parker said he was glad to see so many people attending the meeting. Councilor Short invited everyone to attend the Council meetings and welcomed any ideas to help with the recycle center. Councilor Capehart invited everyone to attend the "Fun in the Park" Wednesday, July 4th, from 10:00 to 4:00. Mayor Britton introduced Steve and Nella Abbott, the new owners of City Hall.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Waddington did not have anything to add to his report, and reminded people they could burn inside the city limits from 6:00-10:00 a.m. Planner Higgins added he would like to have the recycle bins removed by August 1, 2007 and have Les' Sanitation come on Saturdays. Les' said they would do the advertising for the recycling information. Mayor Britton and Council agreed with the idea and asked Public Works Director Higgins to follow up with Les's. Library Director Conner said there is an opening on the Library Board. It has been advertised in the paper and the decision will be announced at the next Council Meeting. Police Chief Reaves introduced Shawn Sanborn, the newest officer of the Coquille Police Department. He will be the DARE Officer. Chief Reaves introduced each officer and the reserves and talked about the different community activities they are involved in throughout the community. Finance Director Dufner said the audit has started and they will return in October. The investment fund with the Rietman money is earning 5.16%.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager O'Connor said the City is now a tenant in City Hall. Deacon Development has some positive response to their inquiry into a hotel chain for the GP Site. The new City Hall remodel continues and ComSpan has vacated the premises so the construction upstairs may start. The Port of Bandon will supply a grant writer for the river walk project and we look forward to working together on this project. There is another possible source of funding for the river walk project; more details will be provided as available.

O'Connor reported that staff had reviewed the alleged allegations discussed at the last City Council meeting regarding the Police Department by reviewing reports and listening to audio recordings. In no instance did any

officer respond or behave in anything other than a courteous and respectful manner, and in no instance were any of the allegations even remotely supportable by the facts of the cases.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ed Norris, 1591 N. Ivy, is asking Council to reconsider the License Fee ordinance passed at the June meeting. Mr. Norris has collected 140 signatures from his neighborhood and 86 signatures at the Smoke Shop. There are only 2 people in favor. He would like Council to consider putting it on a ballot for a people's vote. He requested an answer tonight or he will start the recall process. Mayor Britton said the terminology is a Business License Fee of \$.03 a gallon charged to the gas distributors; the owner does not have to pass it on to the customer. The funds collected are solely dedicated to the repair of roads and sidewalks. It would cost the individual who drives 15,000 miles a year and gets 15 mile per gallon \$2.95 a month or \$30.00 a year. Mr. Norris feels that if a tax starts there will be no end and that is why he does not want it to start. Leo Moore, Rosa Road Bandon Oregon, said that those on social security cannot afford the tax. Ross Ferren, 1337 N. Dean, spoke in regards to parking log trucks at the end of Dean Street to perform weekend repairs. They are willing to bring the trucks in on Friday empty and take them out on Sunday and work on them during the daytime hours. Mayor Britton said in 1973 there was an ordinance that says anything over 16,000 pounds is not allowed in the City Limits and said the City should possibly think about a permit process to allow this type of activity. Gary Johnson, 1340 N. Dean, asked about cement trucks and their weight; Mayor Britton said the ordinance allows for the delivery of goods. Bob Kimball, 1189 N. Dean, said they are the most respectable drivers in his neighborhood and they do not bother us. Lowell Thomas, 854 N. Elliot, stated that the planning commission is working on codes and anyone who has any other similar issues should give them to John Higgins. Mary Fraizer, 485 W. 5th, lives in the middle of a cul-de-sac and has received a ticket for blocking traffic and the ticket was dismissed and they were told to write a letter to the City and have received no response. Mayor Britton said Council had received a letter from Judge Muenchrath and said it will be passed on to the Public Safety Committee for review and recommendations. Phillipa Benson, 342 E. 3rd, said that Ms. Geddry is her neighbor. Ms. Benson stated Ms. Geddry dug up a plant from her yard and was told by the Police Department that she needs to post her property as private. She stated Ms. Geddry has been cited for trespassing twice and seems to write what she feels. Ms. Benson reviewed several incidents that have occurred with Ms. Geddry during the past several years and said Ms. Geddry will go to court on July 30, 2007. Ms. Benson feels she makes false accusations on a regular basis. Richard Fish, Coquille, said we have the Police Department to protect us, but we should do our part to help protect ourselves. Diane Courtright, Coquille, said a goal of the Citizens of Coquille is to inform people of their civil rights; they want to be an independent group of citizens that will help with the solutions to the problem with the Police Department. The group is only a month old and they are working on their goals and they are not villains. Mayor Britton said that if an officer violates someone's civil rights they could lose their job. Tim Pflaum, 473 E. Main St, supports the Police Department and the Concerned Citizens group and hopes everyone can work together to resolve the issues.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A: City Council Minutes of June 4, 2007

B: City Council Minutes of June 20, 2007

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

9. Awarding of contract for Fire Hall sidewalk and driveway improvements

Councilor Hagen made a motion to accept the following bids LTM \$47, 612.75; JBS Construction \$37,722.00 and John Williams Construction \$36,658.00, and award the bid to John Williams Construction. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

10. Liz Macuomber, 1080 W. 12th, Coquille

Liz Macuomber, 1080 W. 12th St. Coquille, has been reading the paper and is bothered by what she has read concerning the Police Department. All of her experiences with the police department have been positive; they have followed through with her situations and have been professional and respectful.

11. Concerned Citizens of Coquille – Corlis Courtright

Ms. Courtright, 31 W. 5th St. Coquille, expressed her frustrations and concerns about the investigation into the death of her daughter, Leah Freeman, as she reviewed the events surrounding the case. She feels there has been a lack of contact between her and the Coquille Police Department concerning the case and receiving updates. She asked the City Council to investigate the handling of the case by the Coquille Police Department and Chief Reaves. She also thanked whoever fixed Leah’s bench that had been vandalized.

12. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Mayor Britton adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Steve Britton

ATTEST: _____
Deputy City Recorder

**COQUILLE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 2, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Urban Renewal Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 8:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Capehart made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 4, and June 20, 2007, meetings. Member Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

3. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Member Short said the URA board members need to review the draft guidelines, and she feels an ordinance should be passed stating the guidelines. Otherwise people could do what they wanted. Member Parker said that the ordinance would force the property owners to do what the URA wants. Member Britton said that if they use URA dollars that might be possible, but if they are spending their own money he doesn't think that an ordinance would be possible. City Manager O'Connor said that some cities have these types of requirements and there is a design review committee and you do not receive a permit unless you comply. Members Short and Wiese have looked at several other cities and it seems to work, for example Jacksonville and Sisters. Mr. O'Connor said usually an engineer, architect and designer are included on the panel that works with the building owners and contractor. Lowell Thomas said the Planning Commission is also looking at the Coquille code and what is feasible for our city. They do not think our area has the expertise to staff a design review committee in a cost effective manner. Member Short said the guidelines would include color, awnings, windows, and streetlights. Lowell Thomas said the next scheduled codes meeting is in October and there will be a discussion on the verbiage, and it would be helpful to know what Council and Citizens thoughts are. Member Britton said that he is supportative of these ideas but that it needs to be flexible. The City Manager said if you do not have rules, you would not have compliance. He will check with other small communities to see how the process has been handled in their areas. The process will take time and the question is how much control does Council want to have. Member Britton said that he would like it to be a voluntary program to start, not an ordinance. City Manager O'Connor said that there would need to be public meetings to hear what the downtown property owners are willing to do. Mr. Marino said you have to start with the regulations and enforce them and they need to be clear and flexible with the period chosen. City Manager O'Connor will gather information from Sisters and Jacksonville on their themed area program and present to Urban Renewal.

4. Adjournment

Member Parker adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Chairman Wiese

ATTEST: _____
Secretary