

CITY OF COQUILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2008

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Steve Britton, Councilor E.N. "Corky" Daniels, 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, Sergeant Pat Smith, City Attorney John Trew and Deputy Recorder Rene Collins

PRESS: Coquille Community News, The World

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

4. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Parker thought it would be a good idea to investigate the use of electric golf carts as a viable source of transportation in the City. Sergeant Smith said he found that Oregon Statute would not allow the use of golf carts outside a gated community or road adjacent to golf courses, but electric cars are acceptable. City Manager O'Connor said that this subject had been discussed previously and the only situation that would apply would be if you were ambulatory disabled. City Manager O'Connor said that there was an article about a person who received a \$1,000 fine for operating his golf cart on a road. He said there is a company in Woodburn that makes street legal golf carts for the approximate cost of \$6,400. The cart would be licensed, and have to carry insurance. He will visit the factory next week and inquire further about what is available; the main concern is the liability to the City if there is an accident. Councilor Short asked what the procedures are to make a golf cart street legal. Mayor Britton requested the City Manager draft a letter to the legislature about easing the requirements due to the economic conditions and fuel prices. Councilor Capehart said on July 16th there would be a town hall meeting at the Community Building with Kruse and Krieger. Councilor Short said that there are fund raising activities planned for the dog park and have raised \$1,151.00. Councilor Capehart said today is "Relay for Life" day and is dressed in purple. The Coos County Fair is July 22-26 and Tuesday the 22nd is Coquille Day and Senior Day and there are a lot of activities planned. Councilor Capehart will be attending the 75th anniversary of the Roseburg VA hospital next Tuesday.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Waddington invited everyone to the Annual Fireman Steak BBQ on August 2, 2008. Public Works Director Higgins said the joint meeting with the Council and Planning Commission is tentatively set for July 23, 2008. The Coos County Annex is moving to 2nd and Adams and they are requesting a handicap parking space be marked on the North end of their building and there is a ramp in the requested location. Councilor Parker made a motion to prepare a resolution designating a handicap parking space between Sterling Bank and the County Annex building on the North located at 2nd and Adams. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Councilor Capehart asked who gives Denny's the authority to block 5 to 6 parking spaces while they wait for delivery truck? Planner Higgins said they have never been told a time frame. City Manager O'Connor said that there has been a safety issue with the delivery truck blocking one and a half lanes of traffic, so staff has allowed them to set the cones in anticipation of their deliveries. Councilor Capehart said they should be able to narrow the delivery time to allow more downtown parking. City Manager O'Connor said that it is safer to cone the area off and not have a truck blocking one and a half lanes.

Sergeant Smith introduced Dustin May who is serving as an intern from the Western Oregon University. He is working on his Criminal Justice Degree and is going to be a reserve officer.

Finance director Dufner said we are between budgets and audit time and he will be working on the website and also streamlining council meetings on audio.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager O'Connor stated the City received a request from Mr. Marca to have parking authorized on the east side of the 100 block of Birch. The public Safety Committee recommended and the Council concurred last month not to designate the east side of the 100 block on Birch as a loading zone. Mr. Marca said the letter stated that the request was denied due to the statute stating you can not park within 50' feet of a stop sign and he also has 20 feet from the front of the building to the centerline. He said there are many areas down town that do not meet this requirement, and feels there is more than enough room. Mayor Britton asked how many spaces he is requesting; Mr. Marca said 4 spaces. Sgt Smith said that under the ORS does state that requirement and a loading zone was requested and if a truck was parked on Birch it would block the view of the cross walk. If parking spaces are being requested it can be reviewed. Councilor Short requested photos be presented at the meeting.

Last week the USDA presented a loan and grant package totaling 3 million dollars. After meeting with USDA last week they are stating that the rates being charged for sewer will not meet the necessary rate to pay for the financing and equipment reserves for the new facility; they would need to increase the rates by \$9.00. How to proceed is the question. We would have 3 years before the facility is in operation and 3 ½ years to do the rate increase. Staff will propose a 90 cents a month raise twice a year as we have previously and by repaying the loan sooner the rate will only have to be raised by \$5.00 per month.

Five Candidates have been selected for the Police Chief position, and will proceed to the next phase. On July 21, 2008 the candidates will take part in an assessment testing, on the evening of the 21st there will be a meet and greet at the Community Building. On the morning of the July 22nd they will be interviewed by a panel of 8. The public is invited to attend and listen to the interview session. The City Manager encouraged public comment to himself and or the Mayor. A background check will be conducted by the Mayor and the City Manager in the current City they are working.

The City Manager said he would be attending a conference in Cottage Grove.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Betty Jo Berg, 56046 Fat Elk Road, has been asked the by the Freeman family to thank the City for the candle light vigil and the float, and a special thanks to the Police Department; they will be planning additional events throughout the year. They are hoping to keep the case moving forward and would appreciate the City and Council's continued support.

Dian Courtright, 57 N Adams, expressed her concerns that the Police Chief interview panel is not representing the average citizen and feels that it is important that the new Police Chief knows they will be accountable to the citizens. She asked if the people on the interview panel live within the city limits. City Manager O'Connor said that everyone does except Dr. Sinnott. She asked if more could be on the panel; the City Manager felt seven was a good number and they are all long time citizens of Coquille. She asked how much influence the public would have and who should their questions be directed to? The City Manager responded you could approach anyone on the panel. Ms. Courtright asked if a camera for a police car has been purchased. Sgt Smith said they have tested some units and are researching which camera will offer the options we are looking for. Councilor Short said she considers herself an average citizen, and always welcomes comments.

Mary Geddry, Coquille, said she feels some younger adults should be considered to serve on the interview panel and increase the size of the panel. By adding younger people there would be a better representation of people with school age children.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council minutes from June 2, 2008 and June 18, 2008
- B. Resolution 14-2008 – Annual resolution extending Coquille’s Worker Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of City of Coquille.

Councilor Parker made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

9. Request by Mary Craddock for the City to support the Lincoln Elementary School’s PTK Reading Program

Mary Craddock, Lincoln PTK, is requesting financial support for the PTK reading program. The PTK reading program will be replacing the SMART reading program, as it will no longer be available in Coquille. City Manager O’Connor said \$2,700 had been requested and approved for the SMART Program during the budgeting processes. Staff recommends the dollars be directed to be for the Lincoln School PTK reading program.

Councilor Parker made a motion to use the money budgeted for SMART in the amount of \$2,700.00 be given to the Lincoln School PTK reading program. Councilor Daniels seconded the motion; all voted

10. Request by Ross Ferren to park his logging truck at his residence located at 1337 Dean Street 7 days a week rather than the currently allowed 3 days a week.

Mr. Ferren, 1337 Dean Street, said he would like to park his log truck at home 7 days a week. He said it would come home empty at the weight of 26,000 pounds empty. The Mayor said it should have less weight impact on the streets due to the number of tires compared to a motor home. Staff is concerned about road failure over time. Mr. Ferren stated that he had signatures from the neighbors in the area in support of his request.

Attorney Trew said that there is an ordinance prohibiting the parking of log trucks on residential streets and a repeal to the ordinance would need to be presented at the next meeting. The resolution passed last year allowed the log truck owners to park for 2 days for repairs.

Mayor Britton asked if it should be a permit process. Attorney Trew said he was not sure how that would work. Attorney Trew said if Council directs to repeal the ordinance it can be ready in a few days and would go in effect 30 days after it had been approved. City Manager O’Connor recommended there be a special meeting at 5:45. Councilor Capehart said she thought the original ordinance was because a truck was running for extended period of times. Mayor Britton directed staff to prepare the repeal to the ordinance.

11. Request by Matt Iverson to allow the planting of fruit and nut trees and shrubs on City owned property (right of way) between Baxter and Elliot Street on 3rd Street for the City of Coquille.

Matt Iverson, 95245 Rink Creek Lane, reviewed his plan for planting trees and shrubs on 3rd Street between Baxter and Elliott or other portions of the City. The trees would provide fruit for the citizens, shade in the summer and beautification to the City. Mayor Britton expressed his concern about the maintenance of trees and sidewalks and the use of pesticides, so he suggested 5th Street and Sturdivant Park. Councilor Short said she could meet with Mr. Iverson and show him the area that the Mayor is talking about. Mr. Iverson would like to know more about the ordinance.

Lowell Thomas, 854 N. Elliott, said this will be addressed at the work session and suggested no decisions be made until the review of the new code.

12. Resolution 13-2008 A resolution declaring certain personal property to be surplus property and providing for disposition of such property

Council Parker made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-2008 declaring certain personal property to be surplus property and providing for disposition of such property. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

13. Resolution 15-2008 A resolution designating K&L Gates, LLP as the Bond Counsel.

The City Manager said part of the requirements for financing the WWTP plant with the USDA is a Bond Council opinion. The bond opinion about the bond market and that the City can float and redeem bonds. Staff looked at several Bond Counsels and recommend K & L Gates.

Council Parker made a motion to adopt resolution 15-2008 designating K & L Gates, LLP as the Bond Counsel for the City of Coquille. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

14. Resolution 16-2008 A resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement to reinstate the intergovernmental agreement for telecommunications financial review services

City Manager O'Connor said in 2002 the Cities and the State of Oregon started to notice the telecommunications industry seemed not to be keeping up with their franchise fees, so the Cities hired professional auditors to the books. The initial investment was 1,200.00 and an additional \$65.00. Since both court cases were in favor of cities the process continues on and the agreement needs to be extended; the fees generate approximately \$27,000 in revenue. Councilor Parker made a motion to adopt resolution 16-2008 approving an intergovernmental agreement to reinstate the intergovernmental agreement for telecommunications financial review services. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

15. Executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1)(e) for the purpose of conferring with person designated by the governing body to conduct real property transactions

Mayor Britton announced that the City Council would meet in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(e) for the purpose of conferring with the person designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. It was explained that representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend, but all members of the audience are asked to leave the room. The news media cannot report on the deliberations from the executive session and no decision will be made in executive session. The executive session was opened at 8:55 p.m. Executive session was closed at 9:14 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Mayor Britton adjourned the Council Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor, Steve Britton

ATTEST: _____
Deputy Recorder