

CITY OF COQUILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2004

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Steve Britton, Councilors: E.N. "Corky" Daniels, Kathy Hagen, Mollie Anderson, Jan Torbeck, Fran Capehart and Loran Wiese

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Terence O'Connor, Public Works Director John Higgins, Accounting Tech Ruth Graham, City Attorney John Trew, Library Director Anne Conner, Police Chief Mike Reaves

PRESS: Dan Schreiber, The World
Robert Jump, Coquille Valley Sentinel

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

1. CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in a flag salute.

2. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Britton commented on how nice the lot where Southwestern Motors was looks since the building was demolished.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Wiese commented that there seems to be a lot of things happening in Coquille. He has been looking for lodging and storage facilities for some people and hasn't had much luck. Councilor Capehart stated that the Oktoberfest at the Community Building went well, even though there was not as many as in the past in attendance. Councilor Capehart also reported that there would be a fashion show at the Community Building being put on by the Coquille Valley Hospital Auxiliary. The money raised from this event will go to scholarships. Mrs. Capehart is also preparing for the Christmas tour of homes and the rotary auction. Mayor Britton asked if City Manager O'Connor could send a letter of thanks to West Coast Contractors for the professional manner in handling clearing the Southwestern Motors lot.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Higgins' monthly report was in the packet. Library Director Conner read her report that was not included in the packet. She reported that the Library was awarded a grant for the Accelerated Reading Program. Chief Reaves reported that his department is still working on changing over the records management system with the County and it is going well. He also commented that his department is running short-handed right now but are maintaining. Councilor Torbeck stated that she appreciated the way a recent call about having someone in her yard in the middle of the night was handled.

5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager O'Connor introduced Jessica Ford from the Coquille High School Leadership Group. Ms. Ford asked Council for permission to close the streets from the G.P. site on to Adams, turn left on First and right on Central to the High School for a homecoming parade on October 29th at 4:00 p.m. Police Chief Reaves urged Ms. Ford to consider staging their event at the old Southwestern Motors lot then from there go down First Street and on to Central to the High School. He was concerned about safety of the students having to cross the highway from the G.P. site. After some more discussion, it was decided that City Manager O'Connor would work this matter out with the students. Ms. Ford also asked Council for permission to plant a tree in memory of Alisha Nasvall at the Sanford Heights Park. After some discussion, Council was in favor of this request.

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Mr. O'Connor reported that Pipe Experts had completed the sewer cleaning project. He will be meeting with them on October 5th and are discussing an area of concern in the West Fourth Street area. Mr. O'Connor will review the video that was done and report back to Council.

City Manager O'Connor reported that the State Short Term Investment Board has reviewed the City's Investment Plan. They will be asking for a revision of that plan. He discussed this matter with Don Leek of Seattle Northwest Securities. Mr. Leek stated that the City of Hermiston had recently gone through this process, and the State would like to see essentially the same thing in Coquille's investment policy. Mr. O'Connor will be clarifying that the funds to be invested are not operating funds and are investing monies with specific purposes. That should change how they are looking at our proposed plan.

Reservations have been made for the League of Oregon Cities Conference.

Mr. O'Connor will be attending the International City Manager's Conference in San Diego later on this month. He attends this conference every four year, when it is located on the west coast.

City Manager O'Connor asked Accounting Tech Ruth Graham to stand up. Mr. O'Connor reported that Utility Clerk Becky Ryder was not able to attend this meeting. He went on to read a commendation that he had prepared, and he and the Mayor and Council had signed, to both employees for their work while staff is short.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Conner of 61 East First Street asked about the status of the stencils for the sidewalks about no skateboarding. Public Works Director Higgins stated that he would see that this is taken care of.

The speed zones in the Middle School and High School areas were discussed. Lowell Thomas of 854 N. Elliott Street stated that he felt that the 20 M.P.H. sign on Central close to the Tenth Street intersection is not posted clearly enough. His concern was that after going past the high school there is a 40 M.P.H. sign then you come upon the 20 M.P.H. sign which is not easily seen. Councilor Hagen requested that the 40 M.P.H. sign going from the Tenth Street intersection to the high school be removed. Police Chief Reaves explained that this request has been denied from the State previously. Mayor Britton asked for some consistency in the speed zones from the high school to the middle school areas.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilor Anderson made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Hagen seconded. All voted in favor.

8. DISCUSSION ON POLICY FOR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY

City Manager O'Connor explained that this matter came about as the result of some discussion previously about selling city property not needed for public use. Councilor Wiese stated that he liked the policy document that was prepared. City Attorney Trew asked that Council consider striking the words "In accordance with State of Oregon statutes" in item #2. He explained that the State does not require an appraisal, but does require some evidence of market value. The statement could be changed to state that all real properties not needed for public purposes shall be appraised or other evidence of market value obtained to determine the fair market value and striking out "by certified appraiser". After some more discussion, it was pointed out that the words "by a certified appraiser" needed to be deleted from #6 on the policy draft. Councilor Anderson made a motion to adopt the Policy Statement with both corrections. Councilor Capehart seconded. All voted in favor.

9. DISCUSSION ON UTILITY PAYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

City Manager O'Connor explained this item is on the agenda as the result of a request by staff to look at this incentive program. Previously Council was responsive to this idea. Mr. O'Connor explained how it would work and that staff and Council would not be eligible. Councilor Hagen asked if there has been any public response

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to this idea. There were no public comments received. Don Kinnaird, Fat Elk Road, stated that he felt this would need to be looked at in a year to see if it made any difference in receipts. Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the incentive program on a six-month trial basis. Councilor Capehart seconded. All voted in favor, except Councilor Torbeck.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Mayor Britton adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Recorder