

City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

AGENDA ITEM 1 **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

CONVENED:

Mayor Young called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Young delivered the invocation and led the flag salute.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Cheryl A. Young
Councilor Sally Ann Marson
Councilor Shannon Fitzgibbons
Councilor Josh Fromm
Councilor Casey Wheeler

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Josh Harper, Police Sergeant (arrived 6:30 p.m.)
Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Harold Olsen, City Attorney

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

AGENDA ITEM 2 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

AGENDA ITEM 3 **CITIZEN INPUT:**

None.

AGENDA ITEM 4 **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

4.1 Parks Committee: Chair Fitzgibbons said the National Guard members will be holding their picnic in August at the Caples House Museum site. She said the DAR will provide the facilities to the National Guard members at no charge, and the DAR may be requesting assistance from the National Guard members for various projects in the future. She said in April the National Guard members plan to jog into Columbia City and stop at Harvard Park to complete a ½-hour workout before they jog back to St. Helens.

Leahnette said the public works crew plans to install the conduit for the power to the entrance sign site next Tuesday. She said the City's electrician will then visit the site and install the power box to prepare for PUD's service installation. She said the lighting fixtures for the sign and flagpole have been ordered. Councilor Fromm plans to install the flagpole,

which was donated by the St. Helens Senior Center. An anonymous citizen has donated a flag for the flagpole and \$1000.00 cash to be used towards the electrical work at the site.

4.2 Water Source and Development Committee: Chair Fromm said the Water Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, to work on the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Micah said the pump has been ordered for the main groundwater well. Leahnette said the work involved in connecting the smaller groundwater well into the chlorination facility is nearly complete.

4.3 Street Committee: Chair Wheeler said the Street Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 5.

4.4 Sewer Committee: No report.

4.5 Audit Committee: No report.

4.6 Hazard Mitigation Planning Group: Team Leader Fromm said the Hazard Mitigation Planning Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 5.

4.7 Other Reports: Councilor Marson recently attended the Solid Waste Meeting.

Councilor Marson said she has been working on organizing a St. Helens High School Jazz Band event in April or May to benefit the Community Library.

AGENDA ITEM 5

CONSENT AGENDA:

5.1 Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 2, 2012.

5.2 Bills paid with check numbers 16351 through 16414 during the month of January, 2012.

5.3 Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2012.

5.4 Monthly written report from the Public Works Superintendent Chief of Police.

5.5 Written report from the City Administrator/Recorder.

5.6 Appointment of the City Administrator/Recorder as Budget Officer for the 2012-13 budget process.

Micah asked that item 5.4 be changed to a report from the Chief of Police, and Leahnette asked that page 1 of the Council Minutes be corrected to reflect that Harold Olsen, City Attorney, was present during the February 2, 2012 meeting.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (MARSON), AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE TWO CORRECTIONS.

AGENDA ITEM 6

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM 7

NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Council Bill No. 12-626; Resolution No. 12-1038-R: A Resolution adopting Policy Goals and Objectives for the City of Columbia City, Oregon, for fiscal year 2012-13.

Leahnette asked Council to amend the rationale and target completion date for item 1B to read as follows:

"Rationale: The City Council has adopted City codes (laws) specifically designed to address blight, nuisances, and to maintain a clean environment for all citizens in our

community. An emphasis will be placed on code enforcement by administering a fair and unbiased enforcement program to correct violations through:

1. The facilitation of voluntary compliance with City laws and codes
2. Public outreach programs
3. The establishment of community priorities for enforcement program

Target completion date: Items 1 & 2: Ongoing
Item 3: June 30, 2013”

MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (FROMM) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 12-626 WITH THE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT.

7.2 Council Bill No. 12-627; Resolution No. 12-1039-R: A Resolution of the City of Columbia City, Oregon, adopting amendments to the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan dated April 2009.

MOVED (FROMM), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 12-627.

7.3 Release: Authorization to sign a Release of lien established by Resolution No. 11-1021-R, assessment abatement costs, fees and accrued interest.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (MARSON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE TO THE RELEASE OF LIEN.

7.4 Release of Easement: Authorization to sign a Release of Easement for a portion of a sewer easement located within River Club Estates subdivision.

MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (WHEELER) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE TO THE RELEASE OF EASEMENT.

AGENDA ITEM 8

OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Works: Micah said he has invested some time in data collection and record inventory work for the master planning projects.

City Attorney: Harold shared the following correspondence between a New Orleans attorney and the FHA. He said the attorney is attempting to satisfy the FHA’s requirements for proof of title on a piece of property.

FHA: “Upon review of your letter adjoining your client’s loan application, we note that the request is supported by an abstract of title. While we compliment the able manner in which you have prepared and presented the application, we must point out that you have only cleared title for the proposed collateral property back to 1803. Before final approval can be accorded, it will be necessary to clear title back to its origin.”

New Orleans Attorney: “Your letter regarding the title has been received. I note that you wish to have the title extended further back than the 194 years covered by the present application. I was unaware that any educated person in this country working in the property area would not know that Louisiana was purchased by the US from France in 1803, the year of origin identified in our application. For the edification of the uniformed FHA bureaucrats, the title to the land prior to US ownership was attained from France, which had acquired it by a right of conquest from Spain. The land came into possession from Spain by right of discovery made in the year 1492 by a Sea Captain named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the Spanish Monarch, Isabella. The good Queen Isabella, being a fastidious woman almost as careful about titles as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope when she sold the jewels to finance Columbus’ expedition. Now the Pope, as I am sure you may know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, as commonly accepted, created the world. Therefore, it is safe to presume that God also

made that part of the world called Louisiana. God, therefore, would be the owner of origin, and as origins date back to before the beginning of time of the world and before the FHA.”

OLCC Temporary Sales License Application for Blackbird Catering LLC: MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (FROMM) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE OLCC TEMPORARY SALES LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BLACKBIRD CATERING LLC.

Open Burn Period: Staff noted that because the first Sunday in April falls on the 1st of the month, this spring's open burn period will run from April 7 to April 14, which includes the weekend of Easter.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (MARSON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND THIS SPRING'S OPEN BURN PERIOD BY ONE WEEK THROUGH APRIL 22, 2012.

Code Enforcement: Leahnette said a continued emphasis has been placed on code enforcement efforts as directed by Council. She said staff is now sending letters and/or making personal contact with owners of recreational vehicles and trailers that appear to be parked in a manner that does not comply with the City's regulations. She said for the past few years, an effort has been placed on public education in the hopes of attaining voluntary compliance, and making individual contact is the next step in bringing about compliance. Leahnette suggested the Council may want to revisit the existing parking regulations because we currently allow parking 6 feet off of the paved street within the undeveloped right-of-way, yet we prohibit parking in the front yard set back unless it is on a paved surface. The Council discussed this topic at length. It was the consensus of the Council that the Planning Commission be asked to visit the topic and make a recommendation.

Discounting System Development Charges: Leahnette asked the Council if they wanted to consider the idea of discounting system development fees temporarily in the interest of promoting economic development. After a lengthy discussion, Councilor Wheeler offered to conduct some research into what other cities are currently offering and report back to the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED:

Cheryl A. Young
Mayor

ATTEST:

Leahnette Rivers
City Administrator/Recorder