

City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 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:

Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

None

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

AGENDA ITEM 2 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

2.1 Public Hearing: To consider the annexation and re-zoning of three parcels of property described as Tax Lots 5128-D0-1601; 5128-DB-3000, and 5128-BD-0300, located at 61265 Chimes Crest Road, 61269 Columbia River Highway, and 2105 Eighth Street.

Mayor Young said the Columbia River Highway address may be in error. Leahnette said the City obtains the address information directly from the tax assessor records, as required by law. She said the property owners will want to contact the County Assessor if the addresses on record are in need of correcting.

Public Hearing opened.

Jean McBride of Columbia City said she appreciates being able to hear what is being said tonight. She said she could not hear a word that was said during the Planning Commission Meeting, which is not helpful during a public meeting. She said she really took offense to the comments made that she had benefited from being next to the City. She said she wasn't around when the original water line went in, but it was extended to Chimes Crest under an agreement many years ago, with the understanding that the Chimes Crest residents could use the water for as long as they wanted, at the same rate as City residents pay. She said the Chimes Crest residents paid to extend the water to service that area. She said for years she has been tromping up and down the hill spraying

blackberries along her fence line that were growing into her property. She said the owner of the property initiated the annexation into the City, and she thought he knew he would be subject to new rules once his property was annexed, and she was looking forward to it being his turn to take care of the blackberries. She said it appears she is being penalized for that. She said she and her husband used to live in Columbia City, and when they had the paving company they furnished men and equipment for City clean up days and they helped build a park, and helped the City whenever they could. She said she thinks now they should have kept a ledger about how the City benefited from them.

Mayor Young apologized, saying the information was not meant to cause offense.

Leahnette said Mrs. McBride may be referring to the information she listed in her memo to the City Planner dated February 14, 2012, which listed examples of how county island property benefits from a variety of City services. She said the examples were not intended to be offensive, and the matter was not one of a personal nature. Rather, they were used to simply show how benefits from service occur. She noted that the reason we are here today discussing the annexation of Mrs. McBride's property is because the property owners of the land surrounding Mrs. McBride's property made a decision to annex, which ultimately created the county island. Leahnette said this is the only type of annexation that cities can initiate under state law, and she believes that state law permits these types of annexations because of these very issues. She said the county islands might also cause confusion for emergency service responders.

Mrs. McBride asked when the annexation would become effective.

Leahnette said the earliest the annexation could take effect would be 3 years from the effective date of the annexation ordinance, and it will take at least another 60 days before an annexation ordinance is in effect.

Mayor Young questioned the issue of blackberries infringing upon Mrs. McBride's property. Leahnette explained that the City ordinance applies only to the property within the City, and a question arises as to whether or not blackberry bushes that infringe on property outside of the city are in violation of the City ordinance. Leahnette said it is just another example of how conflicts arise because the regulations are different. She said a better example involved a burn pile that got out of hand and resulted in a structure fire. She said the burn pile would not have been permitted within the City. The fire threatened to spread to adjacent properties within the City, City Police and Public Works were called to the scene for traffic control, and City water was used to put out the fire.

Mrs. McBride said her neighbor did finally take care of all of the blackberries.

Mayor Young said the fire on the property off of Sixth Street is a good example of the service burden that can be placed upon the City when a county island exists. She said the City simply identified all of the county islands within the City for annexation - they were not selected in an effort to punish anyone. She said that she hopes the property owners will find that they benefit from being within the City.

Councilor Fromm said we lost a historic building during the fire on Sixth Street, and the neighbors within the City could feel the heat from the fire while they stood on their patios.

Mrs. McBride said it would be a real hardship on her because she does not have anyone to supervise the installation of sewer.

Leahnette said the subject of sewer has come up several times, and one of the options that has been discussed is to not require the connection to City sewer until the existing septic systems either fails or needs to be repaired.

Mayor Young asked Mrs. McBride if she would be opposed to the annexation if it does not take effect for more than 3 years from now and sewer connection is not required until the

existing one fails. She said she does not want to make a decision that would cause Mrs. McBride harm.

Mrs. McBride said she really is not in favor of the annexation, but she does understand it a lot more now. Once again she said the Planning Commission Members should speak up during their meetings.

Public Hearing closed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 CITIZEN INPUT:

None.

AGENDA ITEM 4 COUNCIL REPORTS:

4.1 Parks Committee: Chair Fitzgibbons said the Parks Committee met recently. She said Joyce Heller and Paulette Lichatowich requested permission to plant roses in Carolyn King Memorial Park in memory of a young resident that recently passed away. Councilor Marson noted that Carolyn King was the young man's grandmother. Leahnette said the ladies have selected the "Stairway to Heaven" variety of climbing roses.

Leahnette said the Public Works crew has installed conduit at the entrance sign site in preparation for the electrical work.

4.2 Water Source and Development Committee: Chair Fromm said the City water system is doing well, and the Water Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7.

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: Mayor Young said she recently attended a City of St. Helens meeting involving their interest in requesting voter approval for a police levy - possibly for a rate of about \$0.90 - to restore their Police Department to previous service levels.

AGENDA ITEM 5 CONSENT AGENDA:

- 5.1 Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 16, 2012.**
- 5.2 Investment and Cash Balance Summary for the quarter ending December 31, 2011.**
- 5.3 Monthly written report from the Public Works Superintendent.**
- 5.4 Written report from the City Administrator/Recorder.**
- 5.5 Appointment of Peter Tassoni to the Columbia City Planning Commission.**

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

AGENDA ITEM 6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM 7 NEW BUSINESS:

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7.1 Council Bill No. 12-628; Resolution No. 12-1040-R: A Resolution to temporarily reduce the City of St. Helens' portion of the Sewer System Development Charges applicable to development within the City of Columbia City as established by Ordinance No. 08-648-O.

MOVED (WHEELER), SECONDED (MARSON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 12-628.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER BUSINESS:

City Council Code of Conduct: Staff and Council reviewed and discussed the draft City Council Code of Conduct prepared by Councilor Wheeler. It was the consensus of the group that the draft looked good. Leahnette will prepare an adopting resolution for consideration during the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVED:

Cheryl A. Young
Mayor

ATTEST:

Leahnette Rivers
City Administrator/Recorder