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Regular City Council Meeting
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MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
May 8, 2017
5:30 p.m.

THE DALLES CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Stephen Lawrence

COUNCIL PRESENT: Russ Brown, Tim McGlothlin, Taner Elliott, Linda Miller, Darcy Long-Curtiss

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Julie Krueger, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Izetta Grossman, Finance Director Angie Wilson, Planning Director Steve Harris, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Patrick Ashmore, Human Resources Director Daniel Hunter, Assistant to the City Manager Matthew Klebes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lawrence at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Grossman, all Councilors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lawrence invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by Long-Curtiss to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Gorge Towns to Trails Presentation – Renee Tkach, Gorge Friends

Renee Tkach reviewed the documents provided to the Council and presented a five minute video.

Tkach asked for Council support of the project. She said support did not mean monetary.

Mayor Lawrence asked about the concern that the trail in Lyle could impede the urban growth boundary.

Executive Director Kevin Gorman said they were working with Columbia Housing Authority to allow some of the 12 acres in Lyle to be developed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Nathan Haworth, 208 West Fourth Street said he wanted to express gratitude for the NEAT officer. He said he was a property manager and Officer Nagamatsu had been a good resource. He encouraged the City to fund the position full time if at all possible.

Debby Jones, YouthThink asked Council to consider what they want the City to be when considering a less than 1000 foot buffer between marijuana shops. She said young people in the community asked her why we have breweries and marijuana shops, but cannot fund a youth center. She asked Council to consider what the City looks like to visitors.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Krueger said Public Works Director Anderson was unable to attend the meeting, but wanted Council to know the bid for the roundabout repaving had come in higher than anticipated. She said ODOT had gone out for rebid, as the first bids were much higher. She asked if Council was comfortable with the higher bid of \$69,097. She said there were funds available.

Council was ok with the higher amount.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said he attended the semi-annual City Attorney Conference last week.

He said the 3% local marijuana tax was anticipated to be distributed in June. He said he didn't have an estimate of the amount the City would receive.

Parker said there was a bill that would alter the distribution of the State Marijuana Tax. He said it would be September before those funds would be distributed.

Parker reported on the Public Records Bill. He said cities would have 5 days to acknowledge a request and 10 days to produce the requested documents, if the bill passed.

He said there was a Transportation Funding Bill that is before the State today. He said if approved it would raise the gas tax to 14 cents per gallon.

He said he was preparing a memo for Council on Discretionary Immunity/Tort Claims.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Long-Curtiss reported on attending a Taiko Drumming presentation at the Library, City budget meetings, and a Governmental Affairs meeting. She said she would be attending the Urban Renewal Agency meeting on Wednesday. She reported that at the meeting on the future of QLife, one option had been a public/private partnership.

Councilor McGlothlin reported he attended the City Budget meetings and the QLife discussion.

Councilor Miller reported on attending the City Budget meetings and a tour of the Sunshine Mill. She said she would be attending the Urban Renewal meeting as well.

Mayor Lawrence reported on attending City Budget meetings, QLife discussion, and the ribbon cutting at Sweetheart's Bakery. He said he was on the radio at KODL, KIHR, and met with the Mayor of Hood River, attended the Regional Solutions meeting with Governor Brown, and sent a memo to the Governor regarding Dog River Pipeline.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Long-Curtiss and seconded by Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a scrivener's error noted in the April 24 minutes.

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Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) Approval of April 17, 2017 Special City Council Meeting Minutes; 2) Approval of April 24, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

Request for System Development Charge Reduction for Mid-Columbia Senior Center Facility

Planning Director Harris reviewed the staff report.

McGlothlin said he had been opposed to waivers in the past. He said he was inclined to agree with this request as it enhances the building. He said it was a viable use of tax payer money and served a population of the City.

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Miller to approve the Mid-Columbia Senior Center's request for the additional 50% reduction in Transportation System Development Charge for their addition to the Senior Center Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of SEIU Bargaining Agreement

City Manager Krueger reviewed the staff report. She said she had received notice that the SEIU ratified the agreement unanimously.

It was moved by Long-Curtiss and seconded by Brown to approve the SEIU Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Exempt Employee Salary Increases, Position Classifications, Insurance Benefits

City Manager Krueger reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Miller and seconded by Elliott to approve a 2% COLA on July 1, 2017, reduce the insurance premium cap to 7%, approve MLK Day as an official holiday, and reduce the VEBA eligible sick leave hours to a minimum of 600 for exempt employees. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Miller and seconded by Elliott to approve the salary for the position of Finance Specialist in the exempt pay plan, level "N". The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Miller and seconded by Brown to approve a salary for Safety Officer Position, in the exempt pay plan, level "M". The motion carried unanimously.

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Adoption of General Ordinance No. 17-1354 An Ordinance Amending General Ordinance No. 16-1345, to Include Provisions for Interest and Penalties for Delinquent Payment of Tax Upon Sale of Marijuana Items by a Marijuana Retailer, and Declaring an Emergency

City Attorney Gene Parker reviewed the staff report.

City Clerk Grossman read General Ordinance No. 17-1354 by title only.

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Miller to adopt General Ordinance No. 17-1354 by title only. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Chamber of Commerce Work Scope and Budget/Ship Tourism Program with Main Street

City Manager Krueger reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Lawrence proposed an alternative to the Chamber proposal. He said the City Manager had met with the Chamber CEO/President Lisa Farquharson a number of times to discuss the upcoming budget and scope of work. He said after the presentation the Chamber was asked to look at a reduction in budget and the CEO declined.

Mayor Lawrence said if the Council desired to accept the Mayor's suggestion, the Chamber had two weeks to respond. He said according to the agreement the Council had to respond by May 15 to the Chambers scope of work and budget.

Long-Curtiss asked why this wasn't brought up sooner, since the Mayor was on the Budget Committee and didn't mention it at that time. She said the Budget Committee had approved the City Budget.

Mayor Lawrence said the City Manager was discussing it with the CEO/President of the Chamber. He said the City Council can make changes to the Budget Committee recommendations.

Elliott asked if the \$40,000 for the ship focus program had been removed from the Chamber budget.

Chamber CEO/President Farquharson said the part time position had been removed. She said the total was around \$24,000.

She said she had come to the Council in January for more funding to stay competitive in the

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Oregon tourism market. She said at that time she withdrew the request, to wait until this budget cycle.

City Manager Krueger said the exact amount of the position was \$28,704, for the staff person only.

Elliott asked if it was possible to see the whole Chamber budget.

Farquharson said the Chamber was a contractor, not an employee, for the City. She said it wasn't customary to ask for financials of contractors.

In response to a question Farquharson said she had not separated out the printing costs for the Ship Focus position. She said all costs had increased. She said there was a 3% cost of living increase for all employees.

Long-Curtiss said the Chamber was not receiving a large percentage of the total transient room tax revenues, that they were responsible for bringing in.

In response to a question Farquharson said that the square footage of the building being charged to Tourism was a little less than half of the total building including the basement.

Councilor Brown said he would like a work session for the Council to discuss what it was they wanted regarding tourism. He said the Mayor's proposal seemed abrupt.

Elliott moved and Miller seconded to approve the scope of work with a budget amount of \$215,140, and to approve the Main Street proposal for ship tourism in the amount of \$40,000; and to direct staff to schedule a work session in the fall.

Long-Curtiss said she didn't feel Main Street was prepared or experienced enough to take on the ship tourism piece. She said it wasn't an effective use of funds.

Long-Curtiss said the Chamber had done an excellent job.

Mayor Lawrence said that the City Manager and the CEO/President of the Chamber had agreed to move the ship focus out of the Chamber budget.

City Manager Krueger said the conversations with Farquharson began long before the Chamber presented its budget. She said Farquharson had asked what it would look like to remove the ship focus piece from the contract.

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Mayor Lawrence called for the vote. The motion carried. Miller, Brown and Elliott voting for; McGlothlin and Long-Curtiss voting against.

Mayor Lawrence said the Chamber should bring back their response in two weeks. He said that would be the May 22 Council meeting.

Acceptance of the Alternative Route Report for the Riverfront Trail

Economic Specialist Dan Durow, Sharon Daleo from CH2M, and Brad DeHart from ODOT reviewed the status of the alternative route. Durow said the report was in final review.

In response to a question Durow said that use of Federal Funds require Tribal review, as it impacts fishing rights and/or traditional lands.

Daleo said the Marina area was key. She said there was no loss of parking for the Marina. She said the plan calls for reconfiguration of the parking.

DeHart said the route was Plan B. He said the purpose of the report was to determine if it was feasible, and it was.

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by McGlothlin to approve the Riverfront Trail alternative route. The motion carried unanimously.

Gitchell Building Options

Assistant to the City Manager reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Lawrence read a letter from Eric Gleason into the record (attached).

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by McGlothlin to direct staff to proceed with development of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to allow private, nonprofit, and other entities the opportunity to address the concerns regarding the building condition, liability, and historic nature. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Potential Formation of Reimbursement District for Extension of Sanitary Sewer Main in East Ninth Street, East from Morton

City Engineer Dale McCabe reviewed the staff report.

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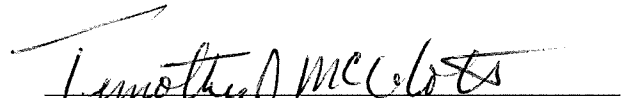
It was the consensus of the Council for Public Works Director Anderson to bring a report back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

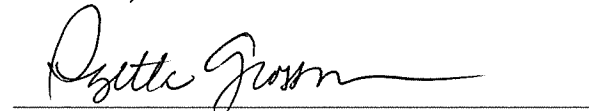
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by/
Izetta Grossman
City Clerk

SIGNED:


Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor Pro Tem
Timothy McElroy

ATTEST:


Izetta Grossman, City Clerk