

# Minutes of the Veneta City Council Special Meeting May 21, 2015

Present: Sandra Larson, Tim Brooker, Thomas Cotter, Victoria Hedenstrom, Thomas Laing

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder; Sgt. Billy Halvorson; and Liz Killam, Veneta Neighborhood Watch

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larson called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

### Liz Killam, 25125 Allure Ave., Veneta, OR

Ms. Killam provided the Council with an update on the neighborhood watch program. She said she met with Jeannie Hartman, a long time Neighborhood Watch resident since the '70's. She said Ms. Hartman gave her several supplies, a few radios, t-shirts, jackets, and a few hats. Ms. Killam said she and Karen Reister will talk to Ms. Hartman about coordinating watch groups for local businesses. Ms. Killam said 15 residents of Shalimar Mobile Park would like to start up a group for their park but are not interested in doing patrols outside the park. She said she would also like to talk with Heather Glen residents and she has already spoken with the manager at Country Living who indicated residents are interested in the program but they may participate on a less formal level. She said the program is gaining momentum and she would like to see a dedicated space in the weekly paper. She said the new Neighborhood Watch signs are new and are an indication that the program is active in the community. Ms. Killam said social media groups are sharing information about what's working and what's not working and she is hoping to meet with them at the end of June. She talked about how quickly the community responded to the fugitive that was eventually arrested in Veneta. She said there was some quick timing on behalf of both the Veneta Crime Watch and Neighborhood Watch groups. She said social media is working effectively even for residents that are not involved but check their Facebook page. She said the last step would be to get linked with Lane County Sheriff's Office.

In response to a question from Ms. Killam, Ingham said another package of magnetic "Neighborhood Watch" vehicle decals will be ordered before July 1<sup>st</sup> which the group can use however they choose.

The Council thanked Ms. Killam for getting the Neighborhood Watch program up and running.

Mayor Larson said Schauer needs to leave the Council meeting early so she would like to move his staff report up on the agenda.

## 3. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Public Works Director..... Kyle Schauer  
(1) Award of Construction Contract for 5<sup>th</sup> St. Improvements

Schauer provided the Council with a brief review of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement project. He said four qualified bids were received, ranging from \$92,000 to \$58,501. After review, the City Engineer recommended Professional Underground Services, Inc., who had the lowest bid, be awarded the contract. Schauer is asking the Council to grant staff permission to enter into a contract with Professional Underground including a contingency of a not to exceed amount of \$65,000 which he doesn't expect will be used.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Schauer said Professional Underground has not provided services for the City but has contracted with the City of Creswell. He said he's familiar with the company because they do a lot of work in the City.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Schauer said the City Engineer makes the final decision on the contractor chosen.

**MOTION:** Thomas Cotter made a motion to authorize City staff to enter into a contract with Professional Underground Services, Inc. to construct the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement project for an amount not to exceed \$65,000. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Thomas Laing seconded motion.

**VOTE:** Thomas Laing, aye; Thomas Cotter, aye; Sandra Larson, aye; Victoria Hedenstrom, aye; Tim Brooker, aye.

The consent agenda as approved included the June 2015 civic calendar.

### 4. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

#### a. Business

##### (1) Lane County Sheriff's Office Activity Report for April 2015

Sgt. Halvorson reviewed the April activity report. He said soon the report will include park activity to show how many times and how often the deputies are in City parks. He said Ms. Killiam gave an excellent report on the Neighborhood Watch program. He said once the program has a formalized meeting schedule, he will appoint deputies to check in with each group and eventually a zonal system will be created. He said looking for the suspect in Veneta went very well. He said six deputies and a canine set up a parameter of the area and the canine zeroed in on the suspect. He said the suspect ended up at a home he was somewhat familiar with. Sgt. Halvorson said the suspect had outstanding warrants issued for burglary and car theft in Veneta and Eugene. He said once social media and the Crime Watch Group got involved, word about the suspect spread fast. He said we're starting to see people taking a more active role. He said the press release Sgt. Carver sent out the night before went to many groups, including Veneta Crime Watch. He said Veneta patrol cars will have a more predominant marking to identify them as Veneta patrols which is one of the items he and Ingham have been working on.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Sgt. Halvorson said the "meet the sergeant" events at the library is going very well and the meetings are very productive. He said in many cases he stay's late because the conversation continues. He said a variety of questions are asked and he sees new faces at every meeting. He is hoping to get the meetings posted on the Library's reader board because there are still people that haven't heard about it.

#### b. Councilor/Committee Liaison Reports

Tim Brooker said the Lane ACT group met last week and reviewed a presentation on a car mileage tax verses a gas tax. He said there was a lot of arguments on both sides. He said a countywide pilot program will be implemented to find out which tax would be the fairest – a car mileage tax or gas tax. He said it was a very good presentation and there was a lot of discussion about what's going to happen now with the vehicle registration not passing.

Mayor Larson said Elmira High School Principal Gary Carpenter is in favor of drug testing students for alcohol but a decision has not yet been made. She said a history teacher from Elmira High School and an English teacher from Fern Ridge Middle School are trying to organize a trip to Greece and Italy for students from both schools. She said it's a very ambitious project but the trip ties in with studies at each school. She said the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class took their field trip to Ashland and the Middle School boat races are on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the community pool. She said last year's event was a lot of fun.

5. STAFF REPORTS (CON'T.)

b. City Administrator.....Ric Ingham  
(1) Questions from Councilors

Ingham provided the Council with a copy of the draft ordinance banning smoking and all tobacco products in City parks. He said staff will do a lot of outreach from now until June 8<sup>th</sup> to get the word out about the proposed ban and allow for comments. He said there will be a public comment period on June 8<sup>th</sup> and the ordinance will be read for first and second reading with enactment 30 days later.

6. OTHER

Mayor Larson said it was unanimous from Veneta and Elmira Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students that a smoking ban in all City parks will be a good thing. She said all three classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Veneta Elementary and two classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Elmira Elementary toured City Hall last week. She said this week is National Public Works week and the same classes toured the Veneta Public Works yard on East Broadway.

Ingham said he is out of the office next week and will be back Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tim Brooker reminded everyone that Memorial Day weekend is a big event for wineries and suggested everyone get out and support local wineries.

Thomas Laing said the VFW is having a Memorial Day ceremony at Oakhill Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on Monday. He provided directions to the cemetery. He said the VFW put the flags out early for Jimmy Cutshall's return home with the Oregon National Guard.

In response to a question from Tim Brooker, Thomas Laing said the Cutshall homecoming went very well. He said it was a great event.

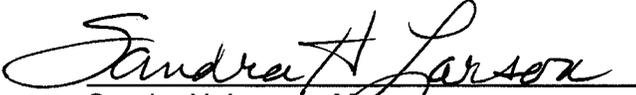
Ingham said a work session has been scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. He said it will be a lengthy evening so please be prepared.

Thomas Laing said he will not be attending the June 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Ingham reminded the Council that the 6:30 p.m. early start time doesn't begin until July.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 7:34 p.m.

  
Sandra H. Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Darci Henneman, City Recorder  
(Minutes prepared by DHenneman)