

# Minutes of the Veneta City Council

## January 11, 2016

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

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Shauna Hartz, Finance Director, Darci Henneman, City Recorder; Len Goodwin; Steve Reister; and Joan Mariner, Fern Ridge Review

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER THE VENETA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Larson called the Veneta City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Steve Reister

Mr. Reister said he wanted to simplify the three critical issues included in his request he submitted to the Council which was included in the Council packet. He said he would like to see the Council make formal support of the intended rollback of City taxes. He said there is some confusion in the community about how the proposed District impacts the other taxing districts. District proponents have said all along if addressed correctly from the Council, the other taxing district could benefit. He said if the Council's intent is to roll back to \$1.67 per 1000 or beyond, will it alleviate compression for the other districts, if so, it should be made known. He said lastly, he felt the Council has all the information they need, from the District, City staff, and Lane County, to move forward with the District and give the proponents the power. He said it's okay to have unanswered questions but let residents know what the Council intends to do. He said the longer the confusion is out there, the more problems it will cause. He said let's not keep it hanging because everyone needs to understand where we're going.

### 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 Minutes for December 14, 2015, Accounts Payable Checks for Approval – Paid through December 29, 2015, and Checks To be Paid – Payable through January 5, 2016

### 4. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

#### a. Business

##### (1) Appointment to Fill a Planning Commission Vacancy

Mayor Larson said Planning Commissioner, Lily Rees has applied to be reappointed to her current position on the Veneta Planning Commission which expires January 25, 2016. With no objections from the Council, Mayor Larson reappointed Lily Rees to the Planning Commission.

#### b. Council/Committee Liaison Reports

##### (1) Economic Development and Legislative Committee Updates

Len Goodwin, Chair of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) said the EDC is meeting every two weeks. The first open house will be in the Library Konnie Room on January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. He said every business in Veneta and the surrounding area have been invited (about 250) to express what their businesses need to prosper and/or expand. He said the EDC wants businesses to tell them what the community and City can do for them, to hear from the community what is needed to make Veneta and the Fern Ridge area succeed and prosper, and what do residents feel are the critical needs for businesses to thrive and expand. From there the EDC wants to come to the Council to see if any of those things are achievable. He said the EDC will also publish a newsletter periodically. On January 28<sup>th</sup> at Our Daily Bread Restaurant, the EDC will kick off the Business Retention and Expansion program. He explained how the EDC

intends to implement that program. He said the Council is welcome to attend the meetings but the meetings are not designed for formal Council involvement. He said they want to separate the EDC from City government. He said they want to position the EDC as an entity that can talk to the Council if the business community needs something addressed. Mr. Goodwin thanked Ingham and Claudia Denton for their efforts in making the EDC function smoothly and simply.

Mr. Goodwin also provided an update on the upcoming legislative session. He said he was recently reappointed President of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) General Government Committee. He said he will attend those meetings on a regular basis and he will be available if there is something the Council would like him to say or not say at those meetings. He said the Oregon Legislative Session starts February 1, 2016 and ends March 6, 2016. He said some of the topics discussed during that session will be the minimum wage, two ballot measures, marijuana regulations, and develop some way to address active shooter situations in schools by funding a school safety hotline and create a data base of school layouts. He said the budget will continue to be an issue which includes an expected one billion dollars in new revenue. He said it will take 400 million dollars to deal with the fallout from the recent Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) decision as well as 300 to 400 million dollars for the ramp down of federal support for funding under the Affordable Care Act. He said also there is expected litigation expense and lastly they have started to draft legislature for a initiative to create a 2.5% gross receipts tax (sales tax) on in-state business sales over 25 million dollars.

Mayor Larson thanked Mr. Goodwin for the updates.

Tim Brooker said Lane ACT will not meet in January but a steering committee will meet on January 29, 2016 to set next month's agenda. He said the Super ACT will discuss the transportation issues and the 2018-21 STIP. He said he and Commissioner Sid Liken will continue to push the Veneta project and will move on from there.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she attended the January 6<sup>th</sup> Park Board meeting. She said the Light Parade was successful and they discussed how to prevent candy being thrown to the crowd to keep kids from entering the street for the candy. She said the City lost 18 trees in City Park so there needs to be a discussion on whether trees should be replanted or should we create an open space area. She said the Easter Egg Hunt is in March and biodegradable eco eggs were purchased rather than plastic eggs. She said they were a little more expensive but the Park Board felt the extra expense was worth it. She said the egg stuffing event will be held at the community center on March 19<sup>th</sup> and they are always looking for volunteers. She said the next meeting is February 3<sup>rd</sup> at City Hall.

Mayor Larson said today, the Veneta Elementary cafeteria served lunch for the first time. She said the School District has determined that the Garcia Center is not worth selling and they are still hoping that someone will remove it at their own cost. She said the District doesn't want to tear it down without making the effort to solicit takers. She said Superintendent Sally Storm is still out on medical leave after having major heart surgery. She said Elmira High School Principal, Gary Carpenter is serving as interim Superintendent along with his duties as principal. She said funding for outdoor school at the Middle School was lost and Mr. Carpenter is looking at funding options for this very valuable program. The District is also looking into purchasing bus cameras to photograph vehicles speeding pass buses, not stopping and ignoring bus signals. Mayor Larson said she visited the High School Leadership Class and talked about the "If I were Mayor" contest as well as economic development.

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Community Development Director.....Kay Bork
  - (1) 2015 Year End Planning and Building Activity Report  
Ingham briefly reviewed the Activity Report. He said site plans for the West Lane Technical Learning Center (WLTLC), Veneta Elementary expansion, and Veneta Veterinary Hospital were

approved and staff can provide more information to the Council if requested. He said it looks like we're on an upswing. He said new home construction is up 100% from last year and we should see an additional 20% to 30% uptick this year. He said the planning staff and Planning Commission completed amendments to the Veneta Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Ordinance to include the recently adopted Residential Buildable Land Inventory and Housing Needs Analysis, and the Economic Opportunity Analysis. He said the planning staff was very busy in 2015.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said the Veneta Veterinary site plan has been approved but they still need to submit their building permits.

b. City Administrator..... Ric Ingham

(1) Request from Proponents of the Fern Ridge Community Policing District (FRCPD)

Ingham said December 14<sup>th</sup> was the last time the Council discussed the District and a number of things happened in the last three weeks. He said the proponents provided a summary of their proposed changes and we believe the Lane County Board of Commissioners (BOC) will include all of those proposed changes. Ingham said Mr. Reister's requests were included in the Council packet, staff provided a lot of background information and some financial analysis. He also reviewed the Council's options for responding to Mr. Reister's requests.

Ingham said in his letter, Mr. Reister mentioned the impact to other taxing districts. He said state statute recommends an economic analysis be conducted but because this is a public safety issue, the BOC is not required to complete an economic analysis. He said eventually the Veneta Budget Committee will determine what amount of taxes is levied.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said Commissioner Bozievich could act as a liaison with the Lane County Assessment and Taxation to provide some calculations on roll back amounts.

Mr. Reister said he has the calculations on his computer which he will get to Ingham.

In response to a question from the gallery, Ingham explained what and how compression works.

Hartz reviewed the law enforcement fund history, the City's historical property tax allocations, and the four property tax scenarios which didn't include allocations of the net change.

Ingham said when Mr. Reister refers to net change, he is requesting the Council provide direction to the Budget Officer on where to budget the additional property tax proceeds. The intent is for Mr. Reister's group to have a number for their campaign. Based on previous Council direction, if we didn't proceed with the TUF the first priority for any net proceeds would be to cover what the TUF would cover. Any additional funds could be split between the parks and recreation fund to bolster youth activities and it's staff's recommendation to allocate some net proceeds to the Law Enforcement Fund to cover construction of a substation or until we're more clear about what those services look like in the long run.

Mayor Larson said the Council could continue moving forward with the suggested changes to the services.

Tim Brooker said he supports it but he's disappointed that some of the services were removed. He said hopefully, through grants or other ways, we can find a way to bring some of those services back.

Victoria Hedenstrom suggested we start at \$1.80 per thousand.

A member of the gallery suggested some of the net proceeds 25% could cover one or more of the services that was omitted from the District.

Thomas Cotter said he would like to think about it more and review some items that may have been overlooked and bring it back to the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Reister said we're creating some distrust by not announcing what the rollback will be. Ingham said there are a lot of moving pieces to this and to try to lock the Council in on a set rollback is not appropriate at this point.

Ingham said the Council convenes on February 8, 2016 and February 22, 2016. He said we could work with those dates or the Council could hold a special meeting on February 10, 2016 after the BOC meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and release an announcement at that time.

In response to a question from Mr. Reister, Mayor Larson said the City's intent regarding the rollback would be documented in the Council minutes, included in the City's newsletter and by way of a press release.

After a thorough discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the intent of rolling back at least an amount equal to the Districts permanent rate. Any additional rollback will be announced on February 10, 2016. The Council will also tentatively announce on February 10<sup>th</sup>, where the net proceeds, if any, will be allocated.

In response to a question from Mr. Reister, Ingham said staff can provide an announcement of the minimum rollback by the end of this week as well as after February 10, 2016.

In response to a question from Ingham, Mayor Larson said if we don't move forward with the TUF, street preservation should be a priority.

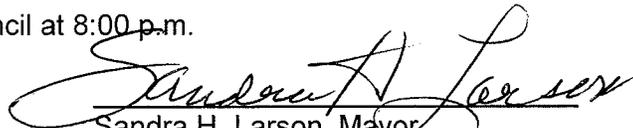
- (2) Questions from Councilors  
None

## 6. OTHER

Ingham said a resident brought up a question about why mailing addresses were included in the minutes as part of the public comment. Staff found, after reading the City Charter, Council Rules and state statute, that the City is not required to include addresses in the minutes. However, it is highly recommended that addresses are included on the written signup sheet and oral comments, which the City will continue to do. On another note, the Lane Council of Governments annual award banquet is coming up. Staff will provide the Council with information when it becomes available.

## 7. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 8:00 p.m.

  
Sandra H. Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Darci Henneman, City Recorder  
(Minutes prepared by DHenneman)