

Minutes of the Veneta City Council
May 8, 2006

Present: Mayor T. J. Brooker, Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter, Marion Esty, and Sharon Hobart-Hardin

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator, Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Superintendent; Brian Issa, Planner; Jerry Elliott, City Engineer; Mona Linstromberg; Cathleen Coulson Keegan; Norman Welch; Ron Faust; Leigh Taylor Lowe; and Rob Lafferty, West Lane News

Mayor Brooker called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terrence LaMora; 25451 Hunter Road; Veneta, OR

Mr. LaMora said in December he talked to the Council about flooding on his property that he believes is being caused by water from the Forest Grove Subdivision being diverted through an east/west culvert under Lindsey Lane.

In response, Kyle Schauer said Margaret Boutell has visited the site and determined that the problem is being caused by illegal fill placed on a lot to the west of Mr. LaMora's property. The City is currently pursuing the violation to have the fill removed.

Cathy Coulson-Keegan; 25130 E. Broadway Avenue; Veneta, OR 97487

Ms. Coulson-Keegan said the Oregon Country Fair has given support to Crest Drive Elementary School's study of watersheds. The students have been on field trips to see watersheds in action, performed tests, and created models to demonstrate how ground water moves and how pollution gets into the waterways. The students have produced a report for their project called "Our Journey to the Sea". Ms. Coulson-Keegan said wetland areas are critical for filtering water, protecting against floods, and providing a home for flora and fauna.

Ms. Coulson-Keegan said she attended the "Celebration of the Fenders Blue Butterfly" on Thursday at which local botanist Mary O'Brien said the current estimate of remaining native upland prairie in the Willamette Valley is less than one-tenth of one percent of the original upland prairie and similar losses have occurred for wet prairie habitats. She said she talked to Mary O'Brien about the concept of off site mitigation and was told that it is impossible to transplant the insects and plants from one area to another. She also said mitigation is only overseen for five years and many sites have failed after that period of time. Ms. Coulson-Keegan said we must consider the fragile balance that protects these valuable resources that represent the riches of the Veneta neighborhood.

In response to a request by Marion Esty, Cathy said she will ask for a copy of the Crest Drive School's study on watersheds that can be kept at City Hall.

Norman Welch; 25181 Cherry Lane; Veneta, OR

Mr. Welch asked how many wells the City has and how many of those wells are in production. In response, Ric said the City has nine wells, two of which are currently in service. In response to a question about arsenic, Jerry Elliott said arsenic has not been detected in any of the City wells. Mr. Welch said he feels the City is spending a lot of tax payer money on wells.

Mona Linstromberg; 87140 Territorial Road; Veneta, OR

Ms. Linstromberg said she found it interesting at the last Planning Commission meeting that Jerry Elliott said the permit to work on the drainage ditch on Coven's property was denied but Margaret Boutell said the City chose not to provide the additional information requested by the state to process the application because of the cost involved. Mona said she has reviewed the Council minutes from 2003 and this issue has been around since then. She said the City obtained after-the-fact permits for water lines and realigning culverts. She said Jerry Elliott assured the neighbors the fill in the new Coven development would not exacerbate the flooding and the flooding problems would be resolved. She said she found a letter written by Margaret Boutell to Mr. Faust on August 12, 2004 assuring him the City was getting permits from DSL. She said she remembers attending a meeting where Mr. Elliott said the City had permits. She said the discussions have gone on and on. She said last week Mr. Elliott thought the permits had been denied but other information is that the City decided not to proceed. She said she feels Mr. Elliott has mismanaged the Cherry Street situation and is doing the same on Well 10. She said other staff are evaluated, why not Mr. Elliott.

Ron Faust; 25175 Cherry Lane; Veneta, OR

Mr. Faust said his question relates to Mona's comments. He said his utility bill includes a \$1.95 drainage fee. He said he asked the City receptionist what the fee was for and she had not idea. He said the Cherry Street neighbors have been told improvements would be made on the stream but at the last Planning Commission meeting they were told the City will not be making those improvements because of the cost. He said the City should have the money because of the drainage fee. He said today a survey crew was in the neighborhood working on a new development of 16 homes to the west of Cherry Lane. He said that development will result in even more runoff into the stream that needs improvements. He said they were originally told it takes at least 90 days to get a permit from DSL. He said DSL will deny the City permit because the City did not supply the requested information. He said it will take more time to go through the permitting process again.

Agnes Morris; 25115 E. Broadway #2 (Veneta Villa); Veneta, OR

Ms. Morris said she is a very active senior citizen and is concerned about the City's natural resources being destroyed. She said there is a large heritage tree on her street that the City wants to cut down. She said the City also wants to destroy the watershed. She asked the Council to not allow that to happen. She said the City should turn its wetlands into a place like Mt. Pisca. She said if the City doesn't save its resources future generations will suffer for it.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the consent agenda.
Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion.

Vote: Marion Esty, aye; Thomas Cotter, aye; Mayor Brooker, aye; Darrell Carman, aye; and Sharon Hobart-Hardin, aye.

The consent agenda as approved included minutes for the April 27, 2006 special meeting of the Veneta City Council and Public Contract Review Board, and bills paid for April 2006.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

(1) Report on Employee Negotiations for FY 2006/07

Mayor Brooker reported on a recommendation for a 3% employee PERS pickup for this fiscal year in lieu of a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The employees have agreed to the committees recommendation. He said the Council will take action on the proposal as part of the Budget Committee process.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Sharon Hobart-Hardin (Park Board) - The last Park Board meeting was well attended. They began discussions on plans for the coming year which they hope to present to the Council next month. She encouraged the Council to attend the upcoming Wings & Wine event.

Marion Esty (Planning Commission) - At their last meeting, the Planning Commission postponed taking action on the Coven application for a land partition and Conditional Use Permit to develop in the Greenway until their next meeting. The Planning Commission requested additional information on the past history of the property.

Darrell Carman (LCOG Board meeting) - The board had an interesting panel discussion on economic development and the role work force development plays into that. He said closing of the LCC leaning center will have an impact on Veneta's economic development efforts.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. FINANCE OFFICER

(1) Quarterly Financials

Ric presented Jerri Moore's financial report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005/06. He said everything appears normal for a first quarter. The second quarterly report should be ready for the first meeting in June.

b. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

- (1) **Resolution 914** - A Resolution Establishing Swimming Pool User Fees and Repealing Resolution No. 783

At the direction of Council, staff presented Resolution 914 that increases adult fees and out-of-area fees for the pool.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to adopt Resolution 914. Darrell Carman seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

- (2) Public Works Monthly Activity Report for April 2006

Kyle Schauer reviewed his Monthly Activity Report for the Council. Currently a lot of work is being put into the poplar plantation, including replacing irrigation pipe and mowing. A new seasonal employee is now on staff.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin commended the Public Works staff for their help with the annual Easter Egg Hunt. She said they did an excellent job on short notice.

Kyle said this year they had a 20-30% higher turnout for the citywide cleanup. He said they couldn't have done it without the volunteers and staff provided by County Transfer and Recycling (CTR). Mayor Brooker asked staff to prepare a thank you letter for CTR.

On behalf of Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth, Leigh Taylor-Lowe thanked Ric for all the help he provided. She said next year they would like to get more people involved in the liter pick up patrol. She said CTR also provided them with liter pick up supplies.

- (3) Quarterly Planning Report

Brian reviewed for the Council the Planning Commission quarterly report for January-March 2006. He said the biggest application pending at this time is for a partition and conditional use permit for lot 9 of the Coven Estates Subdivision. He said the Planning Commission has not yet made a recommendation to the Council on the Greenway subzone.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said she is very appreciative of the fact the Council approved the recommendation for a park land dedication ordinance. She thanked staff for preparing the ordinance amendment.

c. CITY ENGINEER

- (1) Well 10 - Revised Time line and Budget

Jerry Elliott provided the Council with a memorandum that included a

revised schedule. He said a revised cost estimate will be prepared as part of the bidding documents. He said part of the delay is because his structural engineer had to wait for a soils report to be done. He said the cost of the project will be significantly higher than an estimate prepared in 2002. He said the increased costs are a result of the increased cost of steel and other materials. He said they may be able to reduce the costs a little by changing the configuration of the building.

Ric advised the Council that staff has not had time to review Jerry's new cost estimates. He said he would like time to do that and then come back to the Council at their next meeting to discuss whether to request additional funds or to take a different approach. Mayor Brooker said he would like to see specifically where the increases are and why. At the request of Mayor Brooker, the Council will take it under advisement until they have more information and staff has time to evaluate the full project.

In response to a question from Ric about Pine Street, Jerry said he will have plans for staff to submit to ODOT within the next two weeks. Ric said the project is still on track for July or August.

d. CITY ADMINISTRATOR

(1) Tanglewood Land Swap Proposal for Well 10

The water treatment facility has been moved from the Well 10 site to a lot on Jeans Road to avoid the impact to wetlands. As a result, the City will need to acquire additional land. Staff is proposing to swap two of the city-owned lots in Tanglewood for a comparable size lot and easements to the well site. As part of the land swap, the owner of the property the City wishes to acquire is asking for first option to purchase the other city-owned Tanglewood lots at current market value. Ric said the lot the City is acquiring is the City's preferred site; therefore, the property owner is asking to receive their two preferred sites. The Council requested a map of the lots.

By consensus, the Council directed staff to have City Attorney Ken Jones prepare a draft agreement. Mayor Brooker asked Ric to have Ken Jones include as many safeguards in the agreement as possible.

(2) Cancellation of Contract with Greenhill Humane Society

The City received a letter from Greenhill's Executive Director that they do not plan to renew the City's animal control contract. A 90-day extension of the current contract will be requested to give staff time to evaluate options for animal control services. Kyle is concerned that the Public Works staff could be over extended by adding animal control to their list of duties. Staff will continue to try to work with Greenhill.

5. OTHER

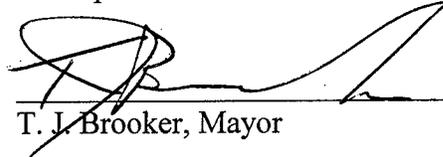
Ric said Carol Heinkel will be making a request for funding to conclude Region 2050. The request will be submitted to the Council after staff receives a work plan

Ric said he and Mayor Brooker are working with the Veteran's of Foreign Wars on a memorial to be located somewhere in Veneta.

Ric reminded the Council of the budget meeting scheduled for May 16, 2006. Finance Officer Jerri Moore has provided the Council with a memorandum about the meeting.

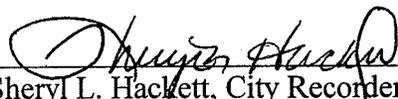
6. ADJOURN

Mayor Brooker adjourned the City Council at 8:14 p.m.



T. J. Brooker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sheryl L. Hackett, City Recorder
(minutes prepared by SLHackett)