

**Minutes of the Veneta City Council**  
**February 26, 2007**

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

Absent: None

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Margaret Boutell, Community Services Directory; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Taunya Jones, Program Coordinator; Mona Lindstromberg, Linda Booth, Cathy Coulson -Keegan, Joan Mariner, and Jeneca Jones, West Lane News

---

Mayor Brooker called the Veneta City Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Mona Lindstromberg, 87140 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR**

Ms. Lindstromberg spoke on behalf of Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth (N4RG), who supports a strong tree ordinance. She was glad to see the City protect trees in residential and especially commercial development. She said a stricter tree ordinance would encourage people to stop and enjoy the ambiance of the scenic corridor. She said N4RG had filed a petition as intervenors in the Vloedman case to show the level of commitment they have to support the City staff report and findings. She said N4RG acquired an evaluation of the existing tree ordinance from another organization. They felt the existing ordinance is strong as long as it is processed concurrently with site reviews.

**Linda Booth, 25331 Jeans Rd., Veneta, OR**

Ms. Booth said she appreciated the updating of the tree ordinance. She commended the City for welcoming the energy of the U of O students with the Ralph Johnson Park design. She suggested on any future projects, information should be provided to citizens soon after the starting point to facilitate an equitable consensus.

**Cathy Coulson-Keegan, 25130 E. Broadway, Veneta, OR**

Ms. Coulson-Keegan said Paul Hovey, State Representative, will be preparing a state legislative proposal on field burning issues. She said Pete Sorenson, County Commissioner, spoke about field burning on February 28, 2007 at the EWEB building in Eugene.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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 February 12, 2007, bill payables for February 2007, and Civic Calendar for March 2007.

**2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS**

**(1) Law Enforcement Activity Report, Sgt. Harrold**

St. Harrold did not provide a report but was open for questions from Councilors.

In response to a question from Ric, Sgt. Harrold said preferably two deputies are involved when underage drinking checks are done at local taverns/bars. He said Officer Douglas has established a positive rapport with bar owners and completes the checks on his own.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin commented the case report levels seemed high this month. Sgt. Harrold felt it was a typical month but said he could compare the monthly reports. He said typically thefts are on a rise. He said deputies arrested someone in Veneta with a pick up full of copper. He also said there is a rise in thefts due to RV electrical cords being stolen while residents have their RVs plugged in to their home.

In response to questions from Thomas Cotter, Sgt. Harrold said he didn't know if extra patrols were being conducted on E. Bolton Rd. He said an extra patrol would require a request for another cruiser from the LCSO to sit in a specific area. Sgt. Harrold said he would make such a request.

The Council thanked Sgt. Harrold for attending the goal settling session and requested him to provide a full report when the agenda would allow.

**b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said she attended the LCOG meeting and commended Darrell Carman on hosting it.

Mayor Brooker said he had his first meeting on February 15, 2007, with Lane County Metro Partnership and learned a lot about what's going on in other communities as well as our own. He provided his packet information to Ric.

Sharon suggested inviting Jack Roberts to a Council meeting to explain what the Metro Partnership consists of. She said there could be many benefits to the City by doing that.

Ric said Jack Roberts works with approximately 18 to 20 potential businesses (some from around the nation) that are in various stages of finding potential land for development, as

well as working with established businesses to help improve their business.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said there would be a Progress Board meeting on March 1, 2007 and a community wide meeting on April 13, 2007.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Ric said a staff meeting would be on March 1, 2007 to select the staff compensation committee members.

### 3. STAFF REPORTS

- a. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR . . . . . MARGARET BOUTELL
- (1) Bolton Hill Rd. Update

Margaret and Ric attended a meeting Monday, February 26, 2007 with Lane County representatives. She referred to maps she received at that meeting. She said the County is working on the design. Margaret said an additional eastbound lane is planned for Bolton Hill Rd. as well as additional turn lanes on both sides of 8<sup>th</sup> St. Margaret said a sidewalk, including a vegetation swale to separate the sidewalk from the roadway, to and from the Territorial Sports Program fields, is planned.

In response to a question from Darrell, Margaret said the redesign of the 8<sup>th</sup> St. intersection is included in the plan.

Margaret said the County proposed two Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs). One CIP included the Bolton Hill Rd. project and the other without. Margaret said because of the budget cuts occurring from the loss of the rural school funding, the County may use the CIP that doesn't include the Bolton Hill Rd. project. She said a public hearing will be held February 27, 2007 to make that decision. She encouraged people to attend.

Margaret said the City agreed to match funds for the project at 20% of the total project cost (\$360,000). She has a draft of an Intergovernmental Agreement and if the County signed the agreement before the CIPs go to the Commissioners, along with the City agreeing to put in the waste water lines and pay for the engineering and construction, the CIP including the Bolton Hill Rd. project could be done.

Ric said if the improvements are done, the City will take possession of the section of Bolton Hill Rd. that has sidewalks.

Mayor Brooker suggested as soon as the changes are negotiated, the City should sign the agreement and get it back to the Commissioners soon.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Ric said he and Margaret will be attending the public hearing on February 27, 2007. Mayor Brooker said he also plans to attend.

(2) Discussion on Process for Proposed Changes to Tree Ordinance

At the last Council meeting, Phillip Carroll, a volunteer from the University of Oregon, gave a presentation on proposed revision to the City's tree ordinance. Staff is requesting the Council's approval to proceed with a modified version of the tree ordinance.

Margaret said there had been past issues with the tree ordinance and at the recommendation of the legal counsel, tree removal permit applications are now process concurrent with land use applications.

Ric said the tree ordinance should be a publicly transparent process and he would like to see more community involvement. He said the ordinance should be revised to make it more clear and concise so there is no interpretation required to enforce the tree ordinance.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said Phillip Carroll provided the on line survey to the Chamber of Commerce and Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth and that the survey is also on the website. She also suggested the Councilors appoint a committee to head the survey results.

Sharon liked the idea of a committee and suggested using the material developed from the survey to create an ordinance.

Ric said Phillip is only here until the end of June so if the Council would like to create a committee, time needs to be taken into account.

Sharon suggested holding three meetings and then use the information to craft a final ordinance.

Mayor Brooker suggested rather than holding open meetings, try to create an application form for targeted people to supply feedback.

Marion Esty suggested having an open house with displays and invite the public.

Darrell Carman said the existing tree ordinance isn't in need of many modifications and felt it doesn't need to be micro managed.

Mayor Brooker said some of the complaints in the past have been that the tree ordinance isn't clear and is somewhat ambiguous about certain criteria.

Darrell Carman felt it needed to be refined somewhat. Mayor Brooker agreed but felt there is room for input from the community.

Darrell Carman felt the public meetings are a sufficient enough pool of opinions. He suggested the major stakeholders be invited to the public meetings.

Thomas Cotter said an area of concern for him is that the existing tree ordinance doesn't address the commercial development issue. He felt Margaret's revisions addressed the issue but would like to know if a compromise can be added to address the Highway 126 corridor. He said businesses will need frontage but if an ordinance limits tree removal and a business can't remove enough trees to develop their project, there should be a method for replacing the trees or the value of those trees. He said if a large development is proposed, for a large parcel with existing large trees, trees should be replaced with larger ones or more landscaping.

Darrell Carman felt Thomas Cotter was talking about something different and he could see where replacement would be an issue. He said as far as replacing trees, a different ordinance should apply.

**MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the Tree Code Update Project Description. Darrell Carman seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

(3) Proposed Comments on ODFW Fern Ridge Wildlife Management Plan. Taunya Jones and Ric Ingham attended one of the informational public meetings the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) held the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Taunya said the ODFW is in the process of revising their Management Plan for the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, which consists of seven parcels, totaling 5,010 acres, surrounding the southern half of Fern Ridge Reservoir and is owned by the US Army corps of Engineers (USACE). The ODFW is seeking public comment on a draft plan which will go to the ODFW Commission for approval on April 13, 2007. Ric and Taunya approve of the plan but with some concerns. They requested Mayor Brooker to sign a written statement representing the City and its concerns. The formal statement included the necessity to explore a wider range of recreational activities and try to find a compromise between hunters and bird/hiking enthusiasts.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the proposal is consistent with what the City is trying to create and felt it is extremely appropriate to offer the City's recommendations to ODFW.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Taunya said there is a will among users to pay admission fees, membership fees, etc. if it would mean more diversified uses. Taunya said currently 75% of funding comes from excise taxes on arms and munitions and 25% is from ODFW state hunting license fees.

**MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the City's request to submit comments to ODFW. Marion Esty seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

(4) Trails Project Update.

Taunya Jones has been working on a regional trail system plan intended to provide recreation opportunities and alternative transportation options for residents. She provided the Council with a draft map with multi-use paths and bike lanes along with existing parks, hiking trails and wildlife viewing areas. The map shows opportunities for new walking and bike lanes which would connect to existing paths. Taunya said her preliminary discussions were with Lane County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Eugene, LCOG and the Oregon Country Fair. She would also like to get input from the public, Fern Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce and Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth. Taunya said once final routes are designated, she can prioritize the information and, time permitting, complete some funding research and possible grant writing.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin commended Taunya for her efforts.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Taunya said she didn't know if the multi use paths could accommodate horses but would look into the possibility of horse trails. Taunya said the wetlands are an area of concern and would need to be addressed.

(5) South West Area Plan Agreement for Construction Improvements.

Margaret said as part of the adoption of the Southwest Area Plan (SWAP) there was a condition for Hayden Homes to enter into an agreement with the City and ODOT for improvements to the intersections at Highway 126 and Territorial Rd. and Huston and Territorial Rd. Margaret said Hayden Homes was also required to enter into an agreement for the construction of a turn lane at the intersection of Territorial and Cheney Drive. These agreements were required prior to approval of the first tentative subdivision.

Margaret said now, ODOT had clarified they don't require Hayden Homes to have an agreement with ODOT or with the City for these improvements, including the Cheney Drive improvement, but if the City would like to encourage ODOT to complete these two intersections on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), the City could propose sharing the funding of these projects with Hayden Homes. Therefore, an agreement between the City and Hayden Homes to collect their proportionate shares of future impact to these two intersection is advisable.

Margaret attached a draft of the Construction Improvement Agreement between the City and Hayden Homes for all three road improvement projects that were required as part of the SWAP. In order for Phase I and Phase II of Hayden Homes subdivision to be approved, the agreement must be signed by March 5, 2007. Margaret requested the Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the Construction Improvement Agreement.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said it would still be up to

ODOT when the projects are started but the City could request the projects be put on a priority list. Margaret said the Cheney Drive improvement will have to be done before the development begins.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Margaret said the Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Margaret said the traffic study indicated the intersection at Highway 126 and Huston Rd. would be used more when the developments begin and even more when the developments are completed.

**MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Construction Improvement Agreement. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

b. CITY ADMINISTRATOR ..... RIC INGHAM  
(1) Council Retreat Summary

Ric referred to the 2007 Council Retreat Summary Report prepared by Richard and Barbara Townsend. Ric said the original report was color coded and when copies were made, the color coding did not copy correctly. He said corrected color coded copies will be placed in the appropriate updated Urban Renewal Agency notebooks.

Ric said he Margaret and Jerri have planned to apply the work plan goals set out in the retreat over the next two years. Ric said six of the eight high priority projects are currently underway. Ric said the goal of including the last two of the eight could be budgeted for the 2007/08 year.

Ric said hiring a grant writer and the waste water plan were also high priorities. Margaret said she and Ric will be conducting interviews with potential grant writers because grant deadlines are coming up.

Ric asked the Council for their feedback on how Richard Townsend conducted the retreat.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Ric said the work plan goals should be reviewed on a quarterly basis and suggested the review to be at the same time the quarterly financial information is reviewed.

Ric said statements of economic interest will be mailed directly to councilors. Ric told the Councilors to return the statements to City Hall and staff will mail them certified mail/return receipt requested.

Ric told the Council that Sheriff Burger and Commissioner Fleenor want to use the Council Chambers on March 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. for a public safety forum. He said Commissioner Fleenor may come every other month, starting possibly this April. Ric said he will speak on transportation issues. Ric said he wanted to hear from staff and Councilors on these issues and possibly have Sgt. Harrold give his power point presentation at the same meeting. Ric suggested having an open house.

**5. OTHER**

None

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:28 p.m. Mayor Brooker adjourned the Council into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) and ORS 192.660(2)(i).

Having made no decisions, the Council returned to the regular Council session at 10:25 p.m.

**8. ADJOURN**

Mayor Brooker adjourned the City Council at 10:25.



---

T. J. Brooker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder  
(minutes prepared by dhenneman)