

Minutes of the Veneta City Council September 24, 2007

Council Present: Veneta City Council President, Thomas Cotter, Darrell Carman, and Sharon Hobart Hardin

Absent: Mayor T. J. Brooker and Marion Esty

Others: Ric Ingham; City Administrator, Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Brian Issa; Associate Planner, Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Linda Boothe, Tabitha Perkins, Tami Sakany, Mona Linstromberg, Devon Trottier, Paul Romain, Joan Mariner; and Jeneca Jones, West Lane News

City Council President, Thomas Cotter called the Veneta City Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Boothe, 25127 E. Hunter, Veneta, OR

Ms. Boothe spoke on behalf of the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce. She thanked Councilors for the job they do for Veneta. She said some residents requested the City Council and Planning Commission agendas be posted on Wednesdays or Thursdays rather than Fridays. She said some residents would like more time to view the agendas prior to the Monday night meetings.

Tabitha Perkins, 88170 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Perkins requested funding for billboard advertising and artwork to be placed on West 11th Avenue, in Eugene for advertisement for her restaurant. Ms. Perkins is co-owner of Our Daily Bread Restaurant. She said she doesn't get the business to support a breakfast, lunch and dinner menu for her restaurant and would like to draw west Eugene residents to Veneta.

Tabitha Perkins, 88170 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

On behalf of Greg Demers, Tabitha Perkins read a letter from him. It was the same letter published in the September 19, 2007 edition of the West Lane News. It responded to the article in the same edition of the paper written by Jeneca Jones. He wanted to make clear that Ric Ingham and City staff have been committed partners with the community in supporting economic development activities in Veneta. He said Ric and City staff were instrumental in securing \$500,000 from the City and other partners for the Cornerstone project on Highway 126. With that project completed, Bow Tech will be constructing some of their facilities at Cornerstone and bringing employment opportunities also. He said he was concerned with the direction Veneta is taking with old and amended ordinances being replaced with new ones. He is also concerned that new initiatives presented to the Planning Commission and City Council will affect the opportunities our community will have to thrive and prosper in the future. He felt keeping communication lines open is the key ingredient for Veneta's economic development success.

Tami Sakany, Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 94949 Highway 126, Veneta, OR

Ms. Sakany thanked the City Council for their involvement with the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce. She asked for continued support from the City Council by funding a portion or all of the \$2,700 needed to update the Chambers' website and create a community calendar and photo gallery.

Mona Linstromberg, 87140 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Linstromberg came to City Hall today to review tonight's agenda and City Council packet. She said when Council and Commission agendas are provided on the Fridays prior to Monday meetings, it doesn't leave much time for public review. She questioned why the City would even consider contributing \$1500 for only one restaurant in Veneta. She said the City would be spending taxpayer dollars for one business and not all the restaurants in Veneta. She felt this may alienate a lot of people. She felt Ms. Perkins' views on the hillside development ordinance supports special treatment for specific businesses.

Devon Trottier, 24733 Dogwood Ln., Veneta OR

Ms. Trottier spoke at a City Council meeting in July regarding the water being taken from the Bolton Hill tank. A water truck has been filling up on weekends, six times a day. In August she was told by Mayor Brooker the water was purchased from a contractor for use on City projects. She followed the water truck last week and it went to a residence on Chinquapin Ranch Road off of Fleck Road in Veneta. She said other people have also followed the truck and every time it goes to the same residence. She could provide witnesses and pictures. She said previously she saw no meter on the water truck and now there's a visible meter. She asked if the City is selling water to private dwellings under contracts, how many residents are getting water from the City, who decides who gets it and how much? She heard people living on Green Ridge Drive, off of Central Road are charged 25 cents per gallon for 500 gallons. She asked why is she charged more? She said if the contractors are telling the City the water is being used for City projects, why believe the contractor and not her? She asked City Councilors and staff to please look into this in more detail.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Sharon Hobart Hardin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Darrell Carman seconded the motion.

Vote: Darrell Carman; aye, Thomas Cotter, aye; and Sharon Hobart-Hardin, aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda as approved included minutes for September 10, 2007, Bills Paid for August/September, Civic Calendar for October, 2007, Parade Permit - Elmira High School, 24936 Fir Grove Ln., Elmira, an Acceptance of Emergency and Public Access Easement - Southwest Area Plan (Applegate Landing); and Temporary Liquor License - St. Thomas Becket Academy, 25269 E. Bolton Rd., Veneta

3. PUBLIC HEARING - GORILLA and CITY OF VENETA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONE CHANGE (CP/ZC-1-07)

- a. City Council President, Thomas Cotter opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.
- b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Ex-parte Contacts: None

- c. **Staff Report (Brian Issa)**
Brian said the City Council declared tax lot 1212 as (Bolton Hill property) surplus property. He said negotiations were successful and the swap was complete between the City owned Bolton Hill property and the 8th St. property (Gorilla property north of Fern Park). However, now the zoning designations on the properties need to be changed to conform with their intended uses. The Bolton Hill property is designated park land and requires a rezoning designation to single family residential. The 8th Street property north of Fern Park requires rezoning from single family residential to park designation.

Referring to the Park and Open Space Master Plan, Brian said four of the five Veneta parks are smaller than optimal but they are fairly close to one another. The parks are under-served but they do contribute to the open spaces in Veneta. Fern Park will continue to serve as a City park but tree removal, increased street frontage and lighting will enhance the area. Expanding the park by utilizing the adjacent lot to the north and removing the buildings, the lot will create a larger play area. The Bolton Hill property is 1.47 acres and is sloped with scattered trees. It could be developed as a park if adjacent land could be incorporated into the site. Brian referred to his draft map, since the Southwest Area Plan (SWAP) was amended, portions of the property purchased by Hayden Homes is designated wetland. Out of the 30 acres designated open space, seven plus acres will be used as an active park. With Territorial Sport Park southeast of the Bolton Hill property, residents in the Bowling Green area are better served than anywhere else in town. Adding to Fern Park would serve the community more efficiently by increasing the street frontage and area of the park in an under-served part of town.

Two public comments were received from residents living in the Bowling Green Subdivision. Staff requested the City Council approve the proposal. On September 4, 2007 the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the zone change to the City Council.

- d. **Public Testimony**
(1) **Proponents**

Joan Mariner, 25712 Cochran Ct., Veneta, OR

Ms. Mariner has heard all the issues involved in the land swap. She said it is a very wise and judicious opportunity for the City. She said Fern Park will become more usable with the addition.

Herb Vloedman, Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 24949 Highway 126, Veneta, OR

Mr. Vloedman spoke on behalf of the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce. He said the Chamber supports this land swap and commends the City for thinking outside the box. He said this is a good opportunity to utilize non-park property more efficiently.

(2) Opponents

Mona Linstromberg, 81740 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Linstromberg informed the Council her public comment from the September 10, 2007 City Council meeting was not included in tonight's Council packet. However, it was copied and provided to the Councilors as a handout. She said she and Devon Trottier were listed in the September 4, 2007 Planning Commission drafted minutes as opponents in the public hearing session of the Gorilla/City of Veneta land swap. She said at that time she was not opposed to the land swap. She just wanted to make a public comment. She has researched the issue since that time and said Oregon rule stipulates a public hearing was required on the land swap. She said people living near the City owned Bolton Hill property would not have bought their homes had they known it was going to be swapped and eventually developed.

Devon Trottier, 24733 Dogwood Ln., Veneta OR

Ms. Trottier is concerned about the net loss of park land this land swap would create. She said there are many trees on the Fern Park site that will need to be removed in order to make the park versatile. She said it's not designated as a park but as just open space. She is concerned the open space won't stay open space. She said there are no sidewalks on 8th Street so why is it a problem with no sidewalks at the Bolton Hill property site. She said the speed limit at the Bolton Hill site is the same at the Territorial Sports Fields site. Why is the City using the speed limit as a factor in the land swap? She asked why the Bolton Hill site can't be a park also? She said there should have been a public hearing on this land swap.

- e. City Council President, Thomas Cotter, closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.
- f. Questions from Council
In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Ric said when the City entered into the land swap procedures, Ken Jones, City's legal counsel, was very clear that if the City were selling property, a public hearing would be required but if a property exchange were taking place, his interpretation of Oregon Revised Statutes is that a land swap would not require a public hearing. The selling of property and a land swap require different criteria. He therefore, advised City staff that it was not necessary to hold a public hearing on the land swap of the Bolton Hill property for the Gorilla property (north of Fern Park).
- g. Deliberation & Decision
Sharon Hobart-Hardin said as a Park Board member, there is not always consistency with the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan. She said currently parks in the area do not meet the adopted criteria outlined in the Plan. Therefore, she saw this as an opportunity to bring the current park land into conformance with that Plan and fulfill that concern of the Parks Board members.

Thomas Cotter suggested if this issue comes up again, the City Council should hold a public hearing rather than just go by the advice from legal

counsel. He felt this is a good opportunity for the Bolton Hill area. He felt there was little negative loss of usable park land. He said whenever there is City movement, you can't please everyone. It may effect some residents. The City is trying to mitigate that and compromise as much as possible. The public hearing held at the September 4, 2007 Planning Commission meeting brought that out as well. He said expanding Fern Park is a good thing for the City.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart Hardin made a motion to approve the requested zone and comprehensive plan map amendments. Darrell Carman seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-0.

- (1) **Ordinance 473** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VENETA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 416, SECTION 2 AND THE VENETA ZONING MAP AS ADOPTED BY THE VENETA LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE 461, ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.04; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. First reading by title only. Second reading by title only and for final enactment.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 473. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-0.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

- (1) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Harrold (LCSO)

Darrell Carman attended the LCOG meeting in Oakridge. He said the population census being conducted by LCOG was postponed because there were public comments and they wanted to ensure the procedure was done correctly. The matter will come up at the next meeting in December, 2007 after the public hearing is held.

- (2) Public Comment Session on Gas Tax Proposal 7:35 p.m.

Paul Romain, 707 S. W. Washington St., Suite 927, Portland, OR

Mr. Romain is the Executive Director of the Oregon Petroleum Association and spoke on behalf of his organization. He said local dealers and jobbers will be the only ones who don't make any money if a local gas tax is imposed. He said a local tax increase will be devastating to local businesses. He said his organization is in favor of a statewide gas tax increase. He said everyone pays the same with a statewide tax increase. He said unfortunately the Minnesota bridge collapse has people focused on the need to repair roads. He asked the Councilors to be patient. His organization is trying to form a coalition to put a statewide gas tax before Oregon legislators in 2009. He said if it passes a substantial amount of funds will go to local government. He said a local gas tax will not trigger the weight mile tax so truckers will only pay the tax where they purchase their fuel.

Tami Sakany, Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce President, 24949 Highway 126, Veneta, OR

Ms. Sakany understands the needs to explore a local gas tax but does not support a local gas increase. She agreed with Ric that increasing the gas tax from 3 cents to 5 cent would not show much increase. She felt people will purchase gas wherever it's the cheapest and not use the local gas stations. She asked staff and Councilors to look at other alternatives and explore other funding methods for road maintenance. She suggested looking at what is planned by state and county governments. She asked Councilors not to support the gas tax. It would be a burden to residents and it may or may not generate state highway funds. She asked to work together to complete the needed research.

Mona Linstromberg, 87140 territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

In response to a question by Ms. Linstromberg, Ric said the proposed initiation date of a gas tax would be January 1, 2008. Ms. Linstromberg would be happy with a gas tax. She said when the initial gas tax was imposed in Veneta, she stopped buying gas in Eugene and bought her gas out here. She believes in supporting local businesses and has no problem with supporting a gas tax. She agreed with Mr. Romain that if a statewide gas tax is not enacted, there should be a way to get local jurisdictions to impose a gas tax. She hoped the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce is in support of local roads and businesses.

Devon Trottier, 24733 Dogwood Ln., Veneta, OR

Ms. Trottier is not opposed to a gas tax. She felt Mr. Romain's comments are accurate. She said people will go to the cheapest place possible to purchase gas. She would rather see a statewide tax go into affect so statewide, everyone would pay the same. She said the truck drivers using our roads will only pay the tax if they purchase their fuel here.

William Wright, 25130 E. Broadway, Veneta, OR

Mr. Wright felt a local gas tax would not jeopardize a proposed state gas tax. He said things can always be negotiated and changed in the future. He said we need to work on our roads now.

City Council President, Thomas Cotter closed the public comment session on the local gas tax proposal at 7:54 p.m.

Sharon Hobart-hardin thanked the audience for their comments.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Mr. Romain said politics effects local and state gas taxes. He said in the last legislative session, the Republicans locked up and said no to new taxes. He said the more local taxes being proposed, the more Republicans are threatening to lock up again and say "no" to a statewide gas tax. He said a package needs to be put together with a cap of what local governments can do when a gas tax issue comes up. He said there will be a substantial increase with a statewide tax with cities and counties getting a bigger portion of the pie than they are currently getting with the current tax. He said every time a

local jurisdiction puts something out there, the petroleum association has to revert to the voters because they need the local jurisdictions to come to the table. He said that's the politics of it all. Every time there's a vote, somebody needs to campaign against a gas tax and the voters don't distinguish the difference between a local and statewide gas tax, they just vote against it. If a local gas tax were to pass, voters wouldn't vote for a statewide tax also. He said the mix needs to be perfect to get a state gas tax. The last time one was on the ballot it failed by almost 90%. He asked Councilors to be patient and wait two more years. He felt the petroleum association can get a statewide tax passed. Eventually local governments will get what they want and that is more money for roads.

Ric said with Mayor Brooker and Marion Esty being absent at tonight's meeting, it would make more sense to give them time to read the minutes from tonight's meeting and include them, as well as other stakeholders in making a decision. He said this issue should continue to the October 22, 2007 meeting and decide then whether to move forward, send it to the voters, or enact or hold back the gas tax. He said we need to get Mayor Brooker and Marion Esty up to speed at the first meeting and then proceed at the October 22nd meeting.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin, said it could be helpful to analyze expenditures. What we currently have, what a gas tax would contribute and what would be addressed with and without those funds

(3) Request Funds to Reimburse Costs for Fern Ridge Mural
Ric said entities of the community requested funding for the mural being completed at the Bi-Mart store. This mural project was funded with personal out of pocket funds from several of the members involved in the project. He said in the past the City contributed funds for rural marketing tourism projects. These projects are required to meet certain criteria. Ric said there are still Rural Tourism Marketing funds available and this project meets the criteria for funding. He said the Council could deny the request, pay a portion of it, or they could pay the entire amount. The Councilors will need to direct staff where to pull the funds from. Ric said the City did not play an active role in the mural design.

Tami Sakany said the Fern Ridge brand "Inspired by Nature" will be painted on the mural. She said the artist who painted the mural is very talented and donated many hours of his time. She said it's almost complete.

Joan Mariner said she was on the committee and said the Elmira High School students, who were involved with painting the mural, were really excited to be a part of such a large project.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the students' names will be painted on the mural. She said the mural is a wonderful addition to our community. She said the Beautification Parks Board discussed creating a project that would enhance the "gateway" to our community.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the total cost for the mural was \$1877.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Linda Boothe said she would talk to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) about trimming the trees and brush in front of the mural in order to make it more visible.

Joan Mariner said the strip of land between the Bi-Mart store and Highway 126 is an ODOT easement.

Cathy Coulson-Keegan said she talked with the ODOT people and they are very agreeable to volunteers cleaning up their easement on the north side of Highway 126. She suggested holding a community clean up day and provide more landscaping.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Sharon Hobart-Hardin said initially they wanted to secure funding prior to beginning the project. They looked into applying for grants but they missed all the grant application deadlines. She said the artist volunteered to do the project for free but had a small window of time to complete the project. The committee didn't want to lose this opportunity so they went ahead with the project. They considered listing local wineries on the mural as advertisement and a way to pay for the mural but this didn't come to fruition. Sharon said the high school students were available over the summer and they wanted to get it done prior to the winter rains starting.

Ric said funds are available from the Rural Tourism Marketing program because funds were set aside for downtown beautification projects that didn't get done.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to reimburse volunteers for their out of pocket costs for painting the Mural on the Bi-Mart building in the amount of \$1877.00. Thomas Cotter seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 2-0, Sharon Hobart-Hardin abstained.

Darrell Carman suggested using a portion of the three funds to cover the \$1877.00.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. ASSOCIATE PLANNER BRIAN ISSA
(1) **Resolution 956 - A RESOLUTION INITIATING AN EXPEDITED ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF VENETA AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 949.**

Brian said Resolution 956 initiates expedited annexation to the City of Veneta for the Southwest Area Plan (SWAP). He said this annexation has already been approved by the Planning Commission, City of Veneta and Lane County as part of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion for the SWAP. The annexation brought the west end of Perkins Road in the UGB. He said when the annexation resolution was passed by the Council,

which is currently at the Boundary Commission for approval, the legal description in the resolution was incorrect. He said there were discrepancies in the surveys of the surrounding properties. The surveyors came to a consensus and created a new legal description. In order for the annexation resolution to be valid, the new legal description needs to be inserted into the resolution.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve Resolution 956. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-0

(2) Vloedman Update (Brian Issa)

Brian gave a verbal update on the Fern Ridge Self-Storage litigation issue. Mr. Vloedman filed a Mandamus Action in Lane County Circuit Court regarding a violation of the 120 day rule. Brian said the City entered into a stipulated judgment with Mr. Vloedman and interveners, on behalf of Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth. Brian believed this issue has been resolved and the stipulated judgment has been signed by all the parties. He said the revised site plan that was approved as part of the stipulated judgment is a compromise between what Mr. Vloedman originally applied for and what the original recommended approval was. It included "... removal of the trees on the property but does afford protection based on arborist recommendations for trees on adjacent properties." He said he has the revised plans if anyone is interested in viewing them.

b. FINANCE DIRECTOR JERRI MOORE

(1) 2006/07 Year-end Financial Report

Jerri Moore presented Councilors with the financial report for the period ending June 30, 2007. She said this was the first financial report following the close of operations as of that date. However, it is not the final outcome of the financial activities for the year. She said the year-end-close-out is being conducted and adjustments that arise and will be made. She said those adjustments include approximately \$660,000 in bills outstanding at the end of the year. She asked Councilors to feel free to ask any questions they might have.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Jerri said the reason General Fund materials and services are at 130% of budget was some costs exceeded budget allocations. She said overall, we still operated within budget.

Ric said this was the first full year that staff split out Planning as a stand alone fund. Staff was estimating from past experiences, how much of the total expenses were really a part of Planning and how much were General Fund operations. Ric said staff did a good job of determining and allocating all the direct mailing and other administrative costs to Planning. He said possibly there were more expenses related to the General Fund that we thought would shift from the General Fund/materials and services to a Planning Fund/materials and services. In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Jerri said several ending fund balances are substantially larger than the beginning balance because some projects were included in the budget were not done last year.

Ric said some funds had a higher ending balance than what was projected because a few projects came in under budget on personal and contract services. The funds that seem to be most out of wack are those most dependent upon property taxes. He said the General Fund will drop down as residential development slows down. He said over estimating expenditures will make fund balance come in higher, which will result in a higher ending balance.

Ric said there are many active projects out right now. He said when the rate analysis for water and wastewater are completed, staff will have a better picture of our monthly utility fees and if they cover the operation and maintenance, including capital replacement. He said there was a considerable drop in the carryover fund for the water and an expected increase amount in the wastewater fund. He said staff will know a lot more about those enterprise funds when the rate analyses are completed.

c. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RIC INGHAM
(1) Territorial Sports Fields Acquisition LGP0244

Ric said the City was awarded the Parks and Recreation grant for the acquisition of the Territorial Sports Park (TSP). He said the funds will not be drawn until the City and the Department of Forestry sign the agreement. The purchase price for the TSP is \$385,000. The City used matching funds from the acquisition of the Bolton Hill Public Works yard but over \$60,000 still needs to be secured in order to draw on the funds and be able to acquire the site. The Department of Forestry is anxious for us to sign an agreement with them. If we don't, they will probably want to conduct another appraisal on the property, which could be at or over \$400,000. Ric said staff is requesting the City Council authorize Mayor Brooker to sign the contract with the State Parks Board. This could also help to secure other potential grant funds in the future. He said the City is not obligated to fulfill the conditions of the contract until we actually draw funds. Both parties are obligated to the agreement but we don't want to act on the acquisition until all the funds are in hand.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said there are some additional funds available. The Territorial Sports Program has raised \$10,000 and the Parks Board is putting together a game called "Fern-Ridge-Opoly". The Board is selling spaces on the game board to interested groups. She said the game will also be for sale. The Parks Board is anticipating raising about \$15,000 from the game. She recommended moving forward with signing the agreement and also suggested a grant or the Ford Family may be interested in helping the City out.

Ric said Kristen Kelly assisted the City in securing the Parks and Recreation grant. She identified six other contribution sources and is confident we'll find the remaining \$60,000 in contributions. Ric felt since we have secured \$320,000 for this project, we can be aggressive with grants and local fundraising to secure the remaining \$60,000 and still allow the TSP use their funds to upgrade the ballfields.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said to his knowledge, there are no grants available for maintenance on park or ballfield facilities.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion authorizing Mayor Brooker to sign the Grant Agreement between the City of Veneta and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-0

- (2) Rural Tourism Marketing Program (RTMP)
Ric said Lane County notified City staff that in the next few weeks we will be receiving this year's Rural Tourism Marketing contracts and allocation estimates. He said the County Commissioners will authorize the expenditure. The City will have until the middle of October to get the contract completed and resubmitted. As part of this program, City staff submitted to the Council a list of projects to support with the RTMP funds; most of which are associated with the Fern Ridge Wings and Wine event. He also included a \$2,700 request from the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce for a visitor point of contact and updating the Chamber's website and a \$1,500 request from Tabitha Perkins of Our Daily Bread Restaurant for start up costs for a billboard advertisement on West 11th Avenue in Eugene. He said a Sub-committee was formed at the last City Council meeting. Ric said in the past, the City Council approved RTMP funds to go to the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce (Chamber).

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said at this point the Sub-committee consisted of herself and Thomas Cotter. The Sub-committee met twice since it's conception and reviewed all of the funding requests. She said the Sub-committee recommended the Fern Ridge Wings and Wine event should receive priority based on the Sub-committee's opinion that this event will become a signature event for our community. The Sub-committee felt the Wings and Wine event can be built on in the future and make substantial progress for residents and local businesses. They also felt it would attract businesses affiliated with the Wings and Wine concept. When reviewing the Chambers' and Ms. Perkins' requests, the Sub-committee decided on directing them to the matching grant program from the City. A request for proposal (RFP) would be utilized for the matching grant program. Sharon Hobart-Hardin said there is \$2,686 to be used to match funds from anyone in the community interested in applying for the RTMP funds. The Sub-committee felt this was a positive step to assist businesses to further our communities' tourism goals. She said those grants would need to meet the criteria of the RTMP but the Sub-committee members felt this would be an opportunity to open the RTMP funds to others in order to involve more businesses in the process.

Thomas Cotter said beginning next year, the Sub-committee will include the newly hired Community Service Director, two council members, a member from the Convention & Visitors' Association of Lane County, Oregon (CVALCO) and a City staff member. He said members would be added as the program grows. The process will also be evaluated to indicate whether the funds are being spent wisely and that specific tourism targets are being met.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter said the Sub-committee felt giving funds to a single business entity would not set the positive precedent they would like to make. He suggested the Chamber and an individual business combine their efforts to support the business. He said even though Ms. Perkins' request met some of the criteria, they felt it wasn't appropriate for all of the criteria.

In response to a question from Ric, Thomas Cotter said by adding future members to next year's Sub-committee, it could limit the possibility of making wrong decisions over and over. It would provide the Sub-committee a way to evaluate what they've been doing to determine if it is working for everyone.

In response to a question from Ric, Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the broader Sub-committee would evaluate RFP requests.

MOTION: **Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve the City Administrator to submit the 2008 Rural Tourism Marketing application with noted revisions to include the \$5345 allocation and the \$4091 carry over. Darrell Carman seconded the motion.**

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter said the figures on the white paper are the correct figures. The total is \$9,436.

MOTION: **Vote passed 3-0.**

6. OTHER

In response to a question from Tami Sakany, who wanted clarification on the Rural Tourism decision, Thomas Cotter said the Sub-committee allocated a specific amount of funding to Wings and Wine. That funding will not be on a matching basis but all other funding will be.

Tami Sakany said the Chamber received funding for the Chili Challenge because there wasn't anything else going on at the time. She said the Chamber received \$5,000 for two years in a row. She said events are very difficult to get up and running. She is concerned the funds should be committed to be used throughout the year rather than invested in a two day event. She is confused by this rationale. She understands we are trying to involve the community and get more things happening. She said the Wings and Wine is a two day event and it struggles as it is. She felt it should be treated the same way other funding requests are and be required to match funding. She said the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce opened it's new office this year and made a huge financial commitment to the area. She said they also service the City by receiving weekly calls from City staff referring people to the Chamber and dealing with visitors. She said to tell the Chamber they have to match funding requests is odd. She said the Chamber is not a visitor. They represent businesses but they have to cooperate with the City and serve that niche. She said they bought brochure racks and other office supplies to assist people and the City. As the President of the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, she is concerned a two day event is getting more attention than year round businesses. She said the Chamber has gone out on a ledge. She is concerned about the amount of carry over.

She asked what didn't happen to create a carryover. She said usually the County would prefer no carryover. If you don't spend the money you lose it. She said the Sub-committee should put everyone on a matching basis. The process should be equitable, otherwise she probably wouldn't be saying anything.

Thomas Cotter said after talking with other Council member, the Sub-committee determined the Wings and Wine Festival is something the City can get behind and expand. He said hopefully more vineyards in the area will be included. He said they don't want to see the Wings and Wine event end up like the Chili Challenge. They want to see the event grow and keep going every year. He felt the Wings and Wine event will be a positive event that people can support and participant in as possibly a green event.

Tami Sakany said currently the Chamber is working aggressively with local wineries as well as other wineries in Lane County. She said the Chamber is handing out brochures, maps and getting involved in Thanksgiving weekend promotion. She said the Chamber is very involved with the local wineries and it just didn't seem right for the Council to give that much attention to one project. She said the Chamber is working very hard to make things happen. She asked if the Chambers' association with the wineries would get them more funding. She asked if they could modify and resubmit their request considering the criteria has changed.

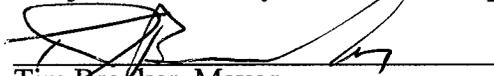
Ric said that's why he asked the Sub-committee members if will there be an application form. He said the City could move forward with matching tourism dollars and then go through a broader RFP process. He said the Council would approve those projects. He said we should probably set a date in 30 days and possibly two or three RFPs would be done throughout the program to allow the Chamber or any other entity to come forward with requests.

Tami said she was unaware of the new process. She said obviously, it's at the Council's discretion but she was unaware the process was changing. She had no objections to the change she just would have gone about it in a different way. She also asked what the rollover was.

Ric said the rollover will be determined based on how much is allocated to the mural from the RTMP but it was about \$4,000. He said some downtown beautification projects did not happen, as they were included the urban renewal activities. He said that's why the mural project should be paid out of Rural Tourism funds because it is part of the beautification and is somewhat connected to downtown.

7. ADJOURN

City Council President, Thomas Cotter adjourned the City Council at 8:53 p.m.



Tim Brooker, Mayor

ATTEST:



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