

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

June 22, 2009

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

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Sonny Chickering; Lois Coen; Scott Carr; and Ephraim Payne, West Lane News

Mayor Sharon Hobart-Hardin called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Jeans, 25022 W. Broadway, Veneta, OR

Ms. Jeans lives across the street from the City owned property west of the Dari-Mart store. Many homeless adults frequent the area as late as 11:00 p.m. and at times consume alcohol, use foul language and yell at people passing by. She has witnessed several cars spinning tires in the vacant lot and at times make more noise than the homeless men. Recently minor children on bicycles have been in the area and she believes the homeless are purchasing alcohol for the minors. She said some days they start gathering at 8:00 a.m. and stay all day. She is concerned about retaliation from the group because her front door can be seen from the area. She said the day after a deputy responded to her call, she found foul language spray painted on her fence.

Ric said the City and Sgt. Harrold have allowed the six or eight adult homeless men to stay on the City lot where they are visible and more easily monitored. He said it's a difficult situation. If they are asked to vacate the area, they may move to a City park and potentially keep residents from enjoying City parks. Ric said once construction on the Service Center begins, they will need to find somewhere else to socialize. The Council will discuss this matter at a future work session. He indicated that the six or eight individual homeless people have done a good job of policing themselves.

Sgt. Harrold said he will ask the deputies to address the late night noise, purchasing alcohol for minors, and minors violating the City's curfew. He assured Ms. Jeans that deputies are monitoring the situation.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda contingent on St. Catherines' providing a current certificate of insurance. Marion Esty seconded the motion.

Vote: Darrell Carman, aye; Marion Esty, aye; Mayor Hobart-Hardin, aye; Sandra Larson, aye; and T. J. Brooker, aye.

The Consent Agenda as approved included minutes for June 1, 2009 Joint Work Session, minutes for June 8, 2009, bills paid and payable for May, 2009, Civic Calendar for July, 2009 and a temporary liquor license for St. Catherines' barbeque.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said she would sign the temporary liquor license for St. Catherines' barbeque when they provide a current certificate of insurance. The one submitted expired July 1, 2008.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

(1) Law Enforcement Activities Report

Sgt. Harrold said the Lane County Board of Commissioners indicated they would fund 84 empty jail beds. Deputies have identified individuals on Parole/Probation Officer Christina Doolittle's case load who are engaged in certain activities that are in violation of their parole. In addition, if the grant funds are received, they will cover the cost for five resident deputies; two in Florence, two in southern Lane County/Dexter area; and one in the McKenzie/Marcola area.

Sgt. Harrold said the Park Exclusion Ordinance has been very successful. He said deputies have issued seven 30 day park exclusions to date which consist of minors violating the City curfew, fighting, and vandalism to the picnic table at Fern Park. One individual was excluded from Ralph Johnson Park and was back in the park prior to his exclusion expiring. Deputies issued him a six month exclusion from the park and a trespassing citation into Veneta Municipal Court.

Sgt. Harrold said this year the deputy coverage for the Oregon Country Fair is down to eight deputies compared to 21 last year. He said the traffic grant should provide for decent coverage. He said most of the positions he requested have been filled. Deputy Denham is driving the new white patrol car.

Ric said the City would like to get unmanned patrol cars parked at strategic locations to remind fair goers of the sheriff coverage.

(2) Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Presentation - Hwy 126 Maintenance Projects - Mr. Chickering

Sonny Chickering of ODOT briefly reviewed the many projects beginning in Western Lane County. He said the bridge bundle project includes the bridge on Highway 126 at Wildcat and Knowles Creek (near Mapleton), the steel bridge over the Siuslaw River in Florence, and the bridge over the railroad tracks on Highway 126 and Nielsen Road. Twenty miles of paving on both sides of Mapleton will also be done this summer. Mr. Chickering provided an ODOT road construction schedule as a public handout.

(3) ODOT Presentation - Community Engagement Program - Ms. Lois Coen

Lois Coen handles all the outreach for bridge and road improvements for ODOT. She works with local schools, community members and stakeholders to involve them in ODOT projects. She anticipates holding an open house at Veneta Elementary in October, 2009 to explain the construction projects ODOT will be doing in our area. She assists community leaders in passing on a sense of civic responsibility to the younger residents by telling them where the public dollars go for bridge and road construction projects. She said this also gives children a chance to think about careers. She has done many projects with youth from several communities where ODOT worked on road construction projects. Bat boxes were constructed and placed under a bridge in one community. In Elkton local high school students designed the pylons for a bridge renovation.

Scott Carr of Stayton Construction Company was contracted by ODOT to repair the bridge at Nielsen Road and Highway 126 as well as replacing the bridges on Highway 126 at Wildcat Creek and Knowles Creek. A detour road will be built and

in place by the end of 2009. The work should be completed by summer of 2011.

In response to a question from Joan Mariner, Mr. Carr said the crown or slope of Highway 126 at Nielsen Road will be addressed.

a. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the West Lane Cities Alliance met June 18, 2009 in Florence. Representatives from Senators Wyden and Merkley offices attended the meeting. There was a positive discussion on how the three communities can work together at a local level to approach the United Front in Washington DC. The next meeting will be in September. It is anticipated the entire Lane County Board of Commissioners will attend the next meeting in September.

Proclamation to declare July 2009 Oregon National Guard Month.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin received a letter from Governor Kulongoski requesting Oregon cities to declare July, 2009 "Oregon National Guard Month". The Mayor of Lake Oswego drafted the declaration in which Oregon city leaders are being asked to support the Oregon National Guard troops who are in Afghanistan and Iran.

As a veteran, T.J. Brooker thanked Mayor Hobart-Hardin for bringing the declaration forward. He said Tom Laing is setting up a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in the Fern Ridge area. Thirty-two members have already signed up and many of them are young people coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sandra Larson traveled with Brian Issa to Sunriver where Brian presented the grant application for \$750,000 out of funds being made available from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Statewide there were 64 applicants totaling \$21,000,000 vying for \$5,000,000 in grant funds. She said the City's application was well received and well done but the competition is strong.

Darrell Carman said the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) meeting will be Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve and sustain the Proclamation. T. J. Brooker seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

Marion Esty said Senior and Disabilities Services asked if she could attend the upcoming Lane Council of Governments' meeting held at City Hall on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. She is looking forward to the meeting.

b. CITY ADMINISTRATOR..... RIC INGHAM

(1) Poplar Plantation Recovery Project

Ric said staff put out a request for proposals (RFP) for cleanup and tree removal of the poplar plantation. He said the bids ranged from \$19, 640 to \$74,998. After reviewing the bids, staff recommended the Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Koffler Construction for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Ric said Koffler Construction will only be cleaning up the area and removing the debris. He said Jerry Elliott and Kyle Schauer will work on leveling and regrading the area to ready it for

replanting. Koffler Construction will haul all the waste material off site and work with Rexius Fuel to chip the material. There will be no onsite burning of any materials.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve City Administrator Ric Ingham sign a contract with Koffler Construction on behalf of the City of Veneta for his services to remove and clear the poplar plantation of the downed trees. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

Ric said there are three overall items that are important to pass before the FY 2009/10 budget resolution is adopted. He said staff would like to stay with the numbers in the memo provided to the Council. The Council has already approved \$20,000 expenditure to Koffler Construction. Next year staff is requesting the Council's support to use \$55,000 from the wastewater un-appropriated ending balance to fund the replanting of the poplar plantation. The figures Jerri will present will not be re-prioritized or shift any projects that were approved by the Budget Committee or the Council.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. FINANCE DIRECTOR.....JERRI MOORE

(1) **Resolution 1002** - A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; IMPOSING TAXES; SPECIFYING APPROPRIATIONS; AND CATEGORIZING TAXES IMPOSED

Jerri said adoption of Resolutions 1002 was postponed in order to plan for the clean up costs of the poplar plantation. The Municipal Sewer Fund expenses were increased by \$55,000 to accommodate the projected cost of ground work and replanting the poplar plantation. Total appropriations were increased by \$122,950. Staff is recommending the Council approve and adopt Resolution 1002 for the FY 2009-2010 budget.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve Resolution 1002. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(2) **Resolution 1008** - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WATER FEES AND RATES FOR USERS OF THE VENETA MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 946

Ric asked Mayor Hobart-Hardin if the agenda could be modified to include a public comment session. Any time the City proposes a fee increase a public comment session is required.

Jerri said Resolution 1008 identifies various charges for service connections, water service rates, and miscellaneous fees within the water fund. Staff is asking for approval of a 3% increase to all tiers of the water usage rates for water billing of residential and commercial bulk water accounts.

In response to a question from Joan Mariner, Jerri explained the tier system used for billing water usage.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Ric said the previous increase of \$1.96 per 1,000 to 5,000 gallon usage went into effect January 1, 2009. The prior rate for the same usage had been \$1.80 for the past 10 years.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Jerri said a water rate study was completed in FY 2008/09 which indicated the City was not meeting its cost to produce water. Rather than impose a large adjustment i.e. doubling the rate, staff recommended increasing rates by a certain percentage every six months. The rate increase as of January 1, 2009 was 6%; July 1, 2009 will be a 3% increase and an additional 3% in January 2010. Jerri anticipates that would continue for another three or four years. Staff was looking for a compromise between a large increase and something that can be more controlled.

Joan Mariner, 25712 Cochran Ct., Veneta, OR

Ms. Mariner said the state's water quality regulator is bankrupt. She felt the City is moving in the right direction but suggested increasing the cost for new construction before the City allows new development.

Marion Esty said the City needs to make sure we know the water usage amount the City is using before we continue to increase the cost of water.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the City has the information in the Water Master Plan.

Ric said staff is finalizing the Work Plan FY 2009/10. Referring to the Water Master Plan, staff is recommending the capital improvement program be reviewed before any reworking can be done or the next rate increase.

Darrell Carman said rather than requiring residents to request a refund of their water deposit in writing, refunds should be processed automatically after two years as long as they have not defaulted on any payments.

Jerri Moore said she would take it under advisement.

MOTION: Sandra Larson made a motion to approve Resolution 1008. Darrell Carman seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(2) **Census Proclamation**

Ric said the "It's in our Hands 2010 Census Partner Proclamation" is sponsored by the United States (U.S.) Census 2010 in hopes to get cities more involved in accurate and thorough census counting. An accurate count affects the amount of state and federal funding cities may receive. The Eugene office of the U.S. Census Bureau requested cities pass the proclamation.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said part of the problem for communities like ours is under reporting which impacts the amount of grant or other potential funds we could receive.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the proclamation will educate and hopefully encourage people to understand the negative effects of under counting its population can have on a community.

Staff could bring a continual spectrum to the Council of what the City can do to

make sure all residents are included in the census count. She said residents with post office boxes cannot be counted unless a street address is known.

MOTION: Sandra Larson made a motion to adopt the 2010 Census Proclamation. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(3) **Resolution 1009 – 2010 Special City Allotment**

Ric said staff is waiting to apply for grant funds offered through the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Special City Allotment Grant Program. These grants are specifically for communities with 5,000 or less residents. The West Broadway Redevelopment project is the type of project that would qualify for these grant funds. Staff would like to be able to match the dollars with federal stimulus dollars to complete Second and Third Streets and West Broadway. Ric said this will probably be the last time the City will be eligible for the funds. The last project completed with allotment grant funds was the Pine Street connection. The deadline for submitting an application is July 1, 2009. If awarded along with possible federal dollars the West Broadway Redevelopment Project could be completed by the end of 2010.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to adopt Resolution 1009 in order to apply for the 2010 Special City Allotment Grant funds. Sandra Larson seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(4) Work Plan updates

(a) 2008/2009 Status Report

Ric said staff was able to complete 60% to 65% of the projects on the 2008/09 Work Plan with many other projects wrapping up in the first quarter of 2009/10. The Bolton Hill Road Improvement Project, the Water Master Plan, Wastewater Master Plan and, procurement of new utility billing software were some of the projects completed from the 2008/09 Work Plan.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said City staff accomplished many major projects last year. She felt the Earth Day Celebration and the Easter Egg Hunt should have been listed on the Work Plan.

Ric responded that when he came to the City of Veneta four years ago, staff was focused on large deliverables to advance the efforts of the City. Staff stayed away from annual events and focused on large projects. The day to day tasks are completed without listing them on the Work Plan as well as the two events the City sponsors. Staff can only commit 40% to 50% of their time and the other 50% is spent administratively. Brian Issa spent 20% of his time this past spring pulling together the Earth Day Celebration.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the two events this year were fantastic and new partners were brought in and participation was up.

In response to a question from Sandra Larson, Ric said the initial installation of an emergency generator at City Hall has been completed. We just need to earmark \$30,000 to \$35,000 to purchase the generator.

Ric said Jerri has been successful with fiscal service issues and the implementation phase of several of those items. Brian will be working with LCOG on updates to the City's website. Sheryl and Teresa accomplished updates to Code Enforcement and Municipal Court and will begin working on a new Animal Control Policy. Brian and Zac are working on the final phase of the updates to the Land Division and Land Development ordinances which should be completed in August 2009. The Tree code updates took longer than anticipated and unfortunately it was appealed shortly after it was completed and adopted. Ric suggested postponing improvements to Ralph Johnson Park until the new swimming pool is 100% funded. Brian would like to spend more time working on the essential services such as stormwater, water and wastewater issues which will take a significant amount of staff time to get done right. The City does not have the resources to hire someone so staff needs to work on these projects. Staff completed the water rate study, however, could not get the SDC rate analysis done. Ric would like to move directly into the East Bolton Road LID project so we don't have to reeducate ourselves on the process. At one time some residents were angry over the Bolton Hill Road LID project but many are now happy with improvements and are pleased with the way the project was completed.

Jerri said several residents on Bolton Hill Road paid their sewer assessments in full. Staff has received many positive responses on the outcome of the project. The final assessment amounts were lower than first reported.

Sheryl said one resident applied for a sewer connection because their septic system failed.

T. J. Brooker felt the two issues that should be a priority for FY 2009/10 are SDCs for water and wastewater.

5. OTHER

Sheryl gave the Council an update on the Wymore abatement process. Mrs. Wymore entered into another voluntary compliance agreement. Staff is hopeful Ms. Wymore will complete the abatement process by the deadline. The other two property owners on the code enforcement (abatement) list have been very cooperative and both entered into voluntary compliance agreements. Clean up on those properties has already started.

6. ADJOURN

Mayor Hobart Hardin adjourned the City Council at 8:19 p.m.


Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:


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