

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

March 22, 2010

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

Others: Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Brian Issa, Community Services Director; Zac Moody, Associate Planner; and Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder

Mayor Hobart-Hardin called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hobart-Hardin moved the temporary liquor license application from St. Thomas Becket Academy and the parade permit application from Fern Ridge Rotary for the "Run 4 the Kids" to the Consent Agenda as they did not require separate actions by the Council. No objections were made by the public or the Council.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Marion Esty seconded the motion.

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

The consent agenda as approved included the Civic Calendar for April 2010, the Declaration of Dedication of 4th Street Right-of-Way, Temporary Liquor License Application from St. Thomas Becket for April 23, 2010, and the Parade Permit for Fern Ridge Rotary "Run 4 the Kids".

3. PUBLIC HEARING – Community Development Block Grant (Senior Center)

a. Mayor Hobart-Hardin Open the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

b. Declaration of Conflict of Interest or Ex-Parte Contacts: None

c. Staff Report

Zac provided a staff report on the Fern Ridge Service Center. Staff has been working on applying for grants, one of which is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The application will be submitted at the end of the month with a decision made in May, 2010. As part of the application, a public hearing is required for public comments on the CDBG grant application and the Service Center. The Federal government is awarding approximately 14 million dollars to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2010 for senior and community development projects. The City of Veneta is applying for an \$800,000 grant. Zac provided the Council with a copy of the public notice.

d. Public Testimony: None

e. Questions from the Veneta City Council: None

f. Mayor Hobart-Hardin closed the Public Hearing at 7:05p.m.

g. Action by Council

Zac said a motion by the Council is not required. However, it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to move forward with the CDBG grant application.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

(1) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Osborne, LCSO

Sgt. Osborne said there had been a rash of burglaries in the East Hunter and Trinity Terrace area in the month of February. One home was broken into while the homeowner was home. Deputies are very concerned and they took some pro-active measures by talking with residents about keeping their homes locked and taking valuables out of their cars. Burglars were breaking into cars to get to garage door openers to give them access to the home. Sgt. Harrold drove by a home one night and noticed the garage door was open. He knocked on the front door of the home but the homeowner would not answer the door. He managed to get the garage door closed and left his card so they could get in touch with him the following day. The homeowner did so and thanked him for his efforts. Deputies have also been patrolling the school zone areas, which has resulted in a large reduction in speeding in those zones.

In response to questions from Sandra Larson, Sgt. Osborne said the garage door incident was listed in the monthly report as a patrol check. Two suicides were listed in the report, one was an attempt and the other was an actual suicide.

(2) Donation Request from Veneta Elementary for Auction Item (5 family swimming passes)

Stacy Cornelius provided a letter of request from Olivia Johnson, the principal of Veneta Elementary for a donation for their annual Spring Auction.

In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin Brian said the passes do not have an expiration date so if for some reason the pool does not open this summer, they will still be good for the 2011 season.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion approving a donation request from Veneta Elementary for five family swim passes for their annual auction. Sandra Larson seconded the motion with passed with a vote of 5-0.

(3) (Moved to the Consent Agenda)

(4) (Moved to the Consent Agenda)

(5) Mayor Hobart-Hardin to appoint Parks Board Vacancies (2)

Two Parks Board members whose terms are expiring wish to continue to apply for their positions. Mayor Hobart-Hardin reappointed Cathy Coulson-Keegan to her position 2 on the Veneta Parks Board. Mayor Hobart-Hardin also reappointed Craig Soderberg to his position 3 on the Veneta Parks Board. Both terms will expire March 31, 2014.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Proclamation - Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor Hobart-Hardin was in support of the proclamation. She said it's very important to have citizens support and become more aware of sexual assault. This is a positive tool for our community to learn more about the devastating reality of sexual assault. Mayor Hobart-Hardin declared April, 2010 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

T. J. Brooker had nothing to add.

Sandra Larson had nothing to add.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the Area Committee on Transportation (ACT) met last week. This is very exciting because creating the ACT will be a first for our area. Previously transportation issues have been addressed by the Lane County Board of Commissioners. The ACT will effect and benefit all of Lane County. The West Lane Cities Alliance (WLCA) also met last week and had a great meeting. A LCOG facilitator attended the meeting. The main focus was to review and identify the primary economic goals and see where they overlap between Junction City, Florence and Veneta which was accomplished. Three other goals were established; 1) Create a Junior Achievement curriculum at area high schools. This is a very successful program and among other things, would educate young people on how to run a business. 2) The development of community wide broadband; and 3) Tourism.

Darrell Carman said the West Broadway Monumentation Open House was held last Wednesday. There were many positive comments and he felt the monumentation is heading in a good direction for the entrance to the downtown area.

Marion Esty had nothing to add.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. CITY RECORDER.....SHERYL HACKETT

- (1) Code Enforcement Update (Power Point Presentation)
At a goal setting session in January 2009 the City Council set General Livability as one of their top six goals including the City taking a more pro-active approach to Code Enforcement. In February 2009 the City Council adopted a new Code Enforcement Policy which allows residents to enter into a Voluntary Compliance Agreement with the City for removal of nuisances from their properties and avoid punitive action by the City. On behalf of Teresa Warrick, City Code Enforcement Officer, Sheryl Hackett provided a power point presentation on the current and closed Voluntary Compliance Agreements the City has been working on with some City residents. The Voluntary Compliance Agreement program has been very successful.

In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Sheryl said because of limited staff and the fact many properties are not visible from the street, it's difficult to know how many properties may need abatement assistance from the City.

b. FINANCE DIRECTOR.....JERRI MOORE

- (1) Second Quarter Financials

Jerri provided the Financial Report from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 as well as a separate report on Capital Construction Fund balances. By December 31, 2009 in all property tax receiving funds, the City received 96% of the budget for the current FY. The City will continue to receive smaller property tax payments over the next six months and in all likelihood will exceed the budgeted amount for property tax collections.

In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Jerri said it appears Lane County has not had a problem collecting property taxes as it may be that many residents have property taxes included in their monthly mortgage payments.

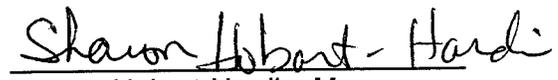
Some revenue areas are performing below budget because of the economic climate and drop in interest rates. The City budgeted for less interest and currently is receiving less than budgeted – about 50% less in most categories. This is not a resource that we depend on but is still lower than anticipated and is a clear reflection of the economic climate and status of interest rates. Currently, all City interest bearing accounts are earning about .5% interest. Expenditures are moving along as anticipated with most categories below 50%. Transfer categories are at 100% and some debt service accounts are exceeding 100%

are exceeding 100% which requires a budget adjustment.

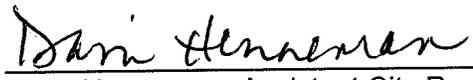
In response to a question from Marion Esty, Jerri said the Zumwalt Campground Fund was over 100% of revenue because of a very well attended event last year and staff is hopeful of the same turn out for this year. The Zumwalt Campground Fund exceeded the anticipated revenue by almost 10% plus costs were lower than budgeted. Because of this success, the Budget Committee increased the amount transferred from the Zumwalt Campground Fund to the Parks Fund by 25%. Staff is hopeful to be able to continue with this increased transfer.

6. **OTHER**
None

7. **ADJOURN**
Mayor Hobart-Hardin adjourned the Veneta City Council at 7:40 p.m.


Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:


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