

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

April 26, 2010

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

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Brian Issa, Community Services Director; Kyle Roberts, R.A.R.E. Participant; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Buck Pelroy, Lavera Puchacz and Suzanne Tull-Stroup

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Buck Pelroy, 23689 Vaughn Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Pelroy is the owner/operator of Eco Systems, a local garbage company. He expressed his interest in providing a portion of the garbage services to City residents. He heard from some City residents that they are not happy with the current garbage service provider. He said in 2013 when the County Transfer & Recycling franchise is up for renewal he would like to be allowed to provide a portion of the service to City residents

Lavera Puchacz, 87860 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Mrs. Puchacz wanted to encourage the City Council to vote yes on Measure 20-158. This measure will be on the May 18, 2010 ballot and a "yes" vote will keep the Lane County Extension office open. The Extension service offers many programs, i.e., master gardeners, 4-H, food preservation, and many others. She provided information to the Council. She also asked the Council to waive the rental fee for use of the Community Center. She would like to hold an invitation only "open house" on May 1, 2010 to provide information to residents on Measure 20-158. She has spoken to Lane County Elections and it was determined the open house would not be considered a political meeting. She would like to provide information about the services the Lane County Extension Service provides.

Mrs. Puchacz has worked at the Food Pantry in Veneta for the last 10 years. Last month they had over 1300 families needing food boxes. They are only open for three hours a day, three days a week and in one month the food pantry received over one ton of produce from local farms and gardens. Last week they served 48 families in three hours.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the Council will make a decision on waiving the rental fee for the Community Center after the public comment session is over.

Suzanne Tull-Stroup, 87860 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Tull-Stroup is Mrs. Puchacz's daughter and she moved to Veneta from Texas to care for her mother. She encouraged everyone to vote yes on Measure 20-158. The message our government is sending to our youth is that we cannot afford to pay for programs like 4-H. She is very concerned if the 4-H programs go away, many youth will start getting into trouble. The 4-H kids are not the ones we hear about getting into trouble.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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 Minutes for April 12, 2010, Bills Payable for April, 2010 May, 2010 Civic Calendar, and the Public Works activity report for March, 2010. In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Sheryl said the Community Center is available on May 1.

In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Mrs. Puchacz said the purpose of the open house is to talk about the Extension Service and to explain Measure 20-158 only. It will not be a political meeting. She made arrangements to use St. Catherines parking lot on that day. She also checked with Lane County Elections and they said the type of meeting she is having is not considered a political rally if only information is provided.

T. J. Brooker would like staff to run the request by legal counsel. He wanted to make sure the City was not opening itself up to a potential issue by allowing a public building to be used for a political cause. He said the Council could approve Mrs. Puchacz's request contingent on approval from legal counsel.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to waive the rental fee for the Community Center and allow Mrs. Puchacz to conduct an informational meeting on Measure 20-158 contingent upon approval from legal counsel. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

- (1) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Osborne, LCSO
Sgt. Osborne was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

T. J. Brooker attended the Earth Day celebration. He said it was very organized, well attended, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

Sandra Larson said the Tree City dedication was an exciting part of the Earth Day celebration. The pool committee discussed an invitational potluck for City officials and employees, committee members, and volunteers tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 18th. The pool would officially open Saturday, June 19th for regular swimming and the grand opening of the pool would be celebrated on Saturday, June 26th, with donor tours, a ribbon cutting and free swimming on Saturday and Sunday.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin attended the Lane Area Commission on Transportation (LACT). The Bylaws are completed and should come to the Council for adoption at the May 10th Council meeting and then return to the Lane County Board of Commissioners for approval. LACT members are hopeful their first meeting will be in July. Lane County is the only county in the State of Oregon that does not have its own transportation commission.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin thanked the City public works department for construction of the foot bridge in the Trinity Terrace subdivision. She also met the new school superintendent for Fern Ridge School District 28J. He is very interested in getting involved in the community.

Darrell Carman attended the LCOG meeting on Thursday, April 22nd. The three areas the task force is working on are human services coordination, economic enhancement, and communication. They decided to focus on human services by creating a 211 system in Lane County which is not currently available. This is a system that allows people to dial 211 and get information about all the human services available in their local area.

Marion Esty was asked to serve on the Senior Services Advisory Committee for the next three years. She said they have received more than the usual number of inquiries for help and assistance from residents.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. CITY RECORDER.....SHERYL HACKETT

(1) Garbage Rate Increase

Sheryl said at the April 12th Council meeting Councilors requested staff to prepare a garbage rate increase resolution which was provided in the Council packets. After review of Resolution 1022, legal counsel suggested a minor correction in Section 3. of the repealing clause to add the following language “. . . effective April 30, 2010.” This is the first rate increase since 2008. Sheryl said the recycling requirements for multi-family units will be included in the next round of land development code amendments.

In response to a question from Marion Esty, Scott Johnson of CTR said the new fee schedule will be included in the next month’s billing statements.

(a) Public Comment

Buck Pelroy, 23689 Vaughn Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Pelroy realized that business owners sometimes have to do things they don’t want to do. He had several questions: How big of a profit margin does Waste Connection, Inc. have? What formula do they use for figuring their profit margin? Who do they compare it to; and what is the basis for the price hike? He felt a price rate hike now could possibly perpetuate people to dump their garbage on roadsides because they cannot afford to pay for garbage service.

(b) **Resolution 1022 - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 962**

Mayor Hobart-Hardin thanked Mr. Johnson for providing good information and community comparisons from other like size cities. CTR’s rates are not the highest in our area and they need to address their rising costs.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman if CTR’s rate increase is a corporate decision or a decision made locally, Mr. Johnson said Waste Connections, Inc. is decentralized. CTR works independently and locally. Financials are reviewed, including employees’ benefits and wages, and operating costs. The majority of the expense is the tipping fees. He said its simple math when costs are on the rise.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Mr. Johnson said DEQ’s regulations are based on the City’s population and not on the size of Waste Connections, Inc.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve Resolution 1022 and repeal Resolution 962 to be effective April 30, 2010. Sandra Larson seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

b. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR.....BRIAN ISSA

(1) Wastewater SDC Update

As follow up to the discussion at the April 12 Council meeting, Brian provided a memo from FCS comparing the Meter Equivalent (ME) and Drainage Fixture Unit (DFU) methods of assessing SDC charges. The memo reiterates most of the points made at

the meeting and reinforces that there are no major differences between the two. In response to a question from T. J. Brooker if the two methods could be combined, using ME for new construction and DFU for turnover, FCS recommended that although this is technically allowed, it would be more administrative work to determine SDCs.

Staff felt that the increased administration required to implement the DFU methodology would outweigh the potential benefits. Staff is requesting the Council pass a motion directing staff to use the Meter Equivalent methodology and to release the final report for public review once it is received.

Sandra Larson thanked staff for providing the clarification showing that turnover businesses would actually benefit from the ME process.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin appreciated receiving the memo from FCS which clarified the equity issue with regard to the business community. The ME method made sense to her.

Darrell said that the vast majority of meters installed are not operating at their maximum capacity. If someone puts more fixtures in a home and uses more water and sewage but they don't have to increase the meter size, they would have already paid for that excess capacity. Darrell agreed with using the ME method.

Marion appreciated the information and agreed with Darrell Carman that the information provided clarified the two methodologies.

MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion directing staff to use the Meter Equivalent methodology for determining wastewater SDCs and upon receipt release FCS's Final Report for public review. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(2) Earth Day Update

Brian said 136 meal tickets were sold at Earth Day. He said it was a little windy and rainy but it was a very successful work party. Plantings were installed at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. It was suggested that maybe next year the event be held at a different location other than where the work should be done to try to get people spread out to work on more than one park. Brian said CTR and the Kiwanis were great partners for the event. The event has re-energized the Parks Board.

Joan Mariner said that Pony Gilbert was injured at the Bolton Sports Complex. He was pinched between his truck and a large log that he was sawing to use to side the concession stand for the ball fields.

(3) Water Conservation Program Overview

Brian introduced Kyle Roberts, the R.A.R.E participant from the University of Oregon. Kyle has been working on a water conservation program and provided the Council with a powerpoint presentation.

Kyle discussed the basic structure of the program and the timeline. He said the research phase has been completed and currently he is in the process of developing the program and is hopeful it will be implemented by the beginning of summer 2010.

Kyle's research included looking at academic literature as well as existing water conservation programs. He was unable to find small communities in Oregon with Water Conservation Programs (WCP). He felt Veneta could be a forerunner for a city its size to develop and implement a WCP.

Goals and Objectives: Included consumption history; the program's guiding principles, identifying and targeting the audience; timeframe; conservation goal. He suggested a five year water conservation program that would be incremental in nature and take on a "City to lead by example" theme in the program's first year.

Components of Conservation Program: Provides incentives to encourage water conservation by distributing toilet leak detection tablets twice a year. Rate structures: Would implement seasonal block rate billing structure. Rebates: Retrofitting non-ultra low-flow with ultra low-flow toilets that use 54% less water. Education and outreach: Providing water conservation information in the monthly utility billing; a conservation page on the City's website; school programs. Pilot projects: Xeriscaping a portion of City Hall's lawn and purchasing and installing Smart Irrigation Controllers at four public facilities.

Darrell Carman was impressed with the Water Conservation Program Kyle presented to the Council and is glad to see it did not include any mandatory measures.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin thanked Kyle for providing the information and agreed that water conservation education is a key component. She would like to see local schools getting involved because at times kids serve as our conscious.

Kyle said he's starting to work on the education aspect of the program.

Sandra Larson agreed.

T. J. Brooker is concerned about a seasonal rate increase which may not be accepted by residents.

Ric said there are a couple different ways to look at that. Well 9 and Well 4 are high efficient and high volume so the cost per gallons is less but when we bring on less marginal wells like Wells 10 and 11 the cost per gallon increases.

Brian said all City water facilities are sized to meet peak demand. Everything is running and sized for the maximum output. The key point is the base rate stays the same but the added tier will address heavy irrigation users or larger families.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the City needs to be pro-active with water conservation by offering educational opportunities and incentives. The dye tablets used to check for leaks are a great idea. She felt Kyle is headed in the right direction.

After further discussion it was the consensus of the Council that Kyle is doing exactly what he should be doing and to keep up the good work. They look forwarding to an update in June.

Suzanne Tull-Stroup, 87860 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Tull-Stroup lives in Shalimar Mobile Home Park. She said residents in the park split the water usage bill equally among each other. To her knowledge they do not have individual meters for each resident. She said it's not fair that some of her neighbors have large families or water their lawns and others live alone but pay the same amount.

Brian said there are two options for mobile home parks to bill for water usage. The first option would be to figure an average usage per unit and bill accordingly. The second would be to provide individual meters for each resident. He will look into what other cities are doing but it may be a landlord issue and the City may not be able to get involved.

Darrell Carman liked Brian's suggestion to come up with a "per unit" billing system for mobile home and apartment residents.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Brian said bulk water sales are based on a per gallon rate and are much higher. In terms of overall water usage, bulk sales account for a very small percentage of total water usage.

c. CITY ADMINISTRATOR.....RIC INGHAM
(1) Pool Budget Update

In September, 2009 the Council directed staff to find additional resources, pool funding, and to add \$125,000 to the 09/10 budget needed to finish the pool, and to also identify future fundraising obligations. In order to meet all pool funding obligations, Ric and Jerri have been working on the actual pool resources as of April 2010 to be inserted in the upcoming budget. The \$175,000 (identified in FY 2010/2011 budget) from Recreation Facilities SDCs and the total contribution from the Parks and Recreation Fund will be \$213,200. \$50,000 will still come out of the General Fund. We will continue to identify repayment options for the \$125,000 Capital Construction loan and once the pool is completed, the final insurance payment should be received. In this budget cycle the Pool Fund had a pretty good hit totaling about \$715,000 but current projections speculate that figure should see a reduction of around \$65,000.

The final pool costs will be about 2.5 million dollars. The expected costs including the current change order (\$22,476) will be spent over the next 30 days. We do not want to cut into the contingency so we're hoping this is an amount that can be zeroed out and not included as a contingency in the budget. Half of the fundraising will apply to the inter-fund loan so only \$62,000 will be needed of the \$125,000 inter-fund loan the City made.

The 2.5 million dollar pool construction costs were spread out as follows: Urban Renewal will pay about 14%; City funds contributed 28%, insurance payments 12%; the bond proceeds covered 42%; and overall fundraising covered 2.5%. Urban Renewal and the City were hit hard with pool construction costs but all are grateful to City residents for passing the bond measure. If the Council agrees, this proposal will be carried into the budget documents and finalized in the next couple of days.

In response to a question from Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Ric said in September 2009 staff was directed by the Council to create a funding package. In order to do that, we needed to borrow \$125,000 from a Capital Loan Fund and was originally identified as interest from Parks SDCs. Luckily we'll only have to borrow about \$65,000 and two or three sources have been identified to pay that amount off based on a three year payment schedule. Funds are available in the Parks and Recreation Fund and the City could also look into selling City owned surplus property. However, this really isn't the time to be selling property. Staff talked with the pool committee and it was decided that having two major fundraising projects (the pool and Service Center) wouldn't really serve the City well so we should concentrate on one project (Service Center) and forego the pool fundraising for the time being. After the Service Center is funded we could re-engage City residents and include the greater Fern Ridge area to participate in fundraising for phase two of the pool or implement a Parks and Recreation District. It

was the consensus of the pool committee to step away from fundraising for a while, concentrate on getting the pool completed, and hold the pool grand opening.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Ric said it's not feasible to break down the pool fundraising into two small fundraising projects.

5. OTHER

Staff requested the Council make a motion to approve Mayor Hobart-Hardin signing the Right-of-Way Entry Agreement with Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, d.b.a. Coos Bay Rail Link in order to allow the City to development Waldo Lane and the West Broadway Redevelopment Project.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve Mayor Hobart-Hardin signing the Right-of-Way Entry Agreement. T. J. Brooker seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

Ric said as Joan Mariner indicated earlier in the meeting, Pony Gilbert was injured while working on the new concession stand at the Bolton Sports Complex. City staff has talked about fundraising efforts for Pony and his family.

6. ADJOURN

Mayor Hobart-Hardin adjourned the Veneta City Council at 8:44 p.m.


Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:


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