

**Minutes of the Veneta City Council
Work Session
July 30, 2012**

Present: Sandra Larson, Mayor Pro Tem: Thomas Cotter: Brittany Boothe: Marion Esty

Others: Shauna Hartz, Finance Director; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Superintendent: Chris Workman, City Recorder/Human Resources and Risk Management Administrator; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Michelle Ossowski, Fern Ridge Review

Mayor Larson called the Work Session of the Veneta City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. COUNCIL VACANCY – DISCUSS PROCESS FOR FILING COUNCIL VACANCY

Thomas Cotter suggested the vacancy be filled rather than left vacant. He also said with the large projects coming to the Council over the next few months it makes sense that the candidate should have insight and knowledge about those projects.

Mayor Larson agreed with Thomas Cotter that the position should be appointed and not left vacant for many reasons, one of which is to ensure there is a quorum at Council meetings.

Brittany Boothe agreed with Thomas Cotter and said advertising the vacancy would take too long.

Mayor Larson said Tim Brooker would be willing to step in as a Council member until the vacant position expires on December 31, 2012. She said he certainly has the expertise and is more than qualified.

Thomas Cotter said Tim Brooker gave a positive response to filling the vacancy when he spoke with Tim over the weekend.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Shauna said a Council member could ask Mr. Brooker to complete a council application which would solidify his interest in filling the vacancy. Shauna said the Council cannot make a motion but a consensus can be made during a work session.

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of Council members to direct Mayor Larson to ask Tim Brooker to fill out a council application and submit it for the vacancy.

2. RENAMING OF WALDO AVENUE OR OTHER PROPOSED RECOGNITION

Brittany Boothe said she felt there should have been more discussion about renaming Waldo Avenue.. She felt the informal decision was premature and uninformed. Brittany Booth said she appreciated Ric's memo; however, the first time she heard of honoring Tim Brooker was in the July 9th packet, not six months ago as stated in the memo. She's disappointed the decision happened so quickly.

Mayor Larson said it is unfortunate how this issue has unfolded. She said she was aware Avenue was named after Waldo Hunter. She said the July 23rd Council meeting was the first time she heard from the Hunter family.

Marion Esty said it was clumsy the way things transpired.

Brittany Boothe said Ric did not call her about renaming Waldo Avenue Brooker Lane. She questioned how there could be a consensus of the Council if she was not included in the decision. She said the Hunters' comments at the July 23rd Council meeting made her feel very uncomfortable because she did not participate in making the decision to rename Waldo Avenue.

Thomas Cotter said she has a valid reason for feeling the way she does but that's between her and Ric. However, as a City Administrator he can informally poll the Council to get a consensus and act on that consensus. Thomas Cotter said the consensus was to announce the name change at the July 9th Council meeting but it was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. He thought staff had done their due diligence when proposing the renaming.

Mayor Larson said a defacto decision has been made, however erroneous or incomplete – it's done and the issue is now public knowledge. She said the Council needs to address this issue and learn from it.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Brittany Boothe said she's not sure what kind of options the City has but she feels Waldo Avenue has already been named and it should stay that way.

Thomas Cotter said he doesn't have a problem with renaming Waldo Lane. He said Tim Brooker worked for many years as a city councilor and mayor and he felt it's an appropriate honor to change the name from Waldo to Brooker. He suggested renaming another street or a park after Waldo Hunter. He said many times city streets are renamed and this is a good way to honor an individual in a small town. Largely, Waldo Lane exists because of Tim Brooker's efforts. He said the separation of Waldo and Brooker Street would fit within the intention that was originally sought.

Marion Esty said Tim Brooker has done a lot for the City and may continue to do so. She said she's sorry this issue upset the Hunter family and it didn't make the City look very good either. She wished there was something else that could be named to commemorate Mr. Brooker without changing Waldo Lane.

Mayor Larson suggested renaming Cornerstone Industrial Drive after Tim Brooker.

Brittany Boothe said she would be in favor of that rather than renaming Waldo Lane. She said if Tim Brooker contributed to the construction of Cornerstone that would be an honor for him.

In response to a question from Sandra Larson, Kyle said Cornerstone was named by the developer but now the City now has control over the streets.

Mayor Larson suggested erecting an interpretive sign on the pedestrian path along Waldo Lane to provide historic information about Waldo and Veneta Hunter, as well as the McCutcheon and Dunham families. She said many people have no idea where Waldo Lane got its name.

Brittany Boothe agreed the interpretive sign should be done regardless and felt that would be a great addition to the downtown area to commemorate our communities' history.

Several options were discussed: **(1)** Rename a portion of "Waldo" to "Brooker"; **(2)** Name the pedestrian path "Waldo" or "Hunter Walking Path" and change "Waldo Lane" to "Brooker Lane"; **(3)** dedicate the unimproved portion of "Waldo Lane" to Waldo Hunter and change "Waldo Lane" to "Brooker Lane"; **(4)** Rename Second Street from Broadway to Waldo "Brooker Lane"; **(5)** Rename Second Street from Broadway to Waldo "Waldo Lane" **(5)** Rename the Service Center after Tim

Brooker; (6) Rename a significant street in the downtown area "Brooker Lane"; (7) Include Tim Brooker in the discussions to get his thoughts on what he would like.

Shauna wasn't sure if the Fern Ridge Service Center can be renamed. She said Cornerstone could be named Brooker.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, staff indicated they had not been contacted by a Hunter family member since the last Council meeting.

Mayor Larson said she would like to see this settled and she asked for more input from the Council.

Marion Esty suggested Ric meet with Tim and Inez Brooker. She said she got the impression after speaking with Inez Brooker that the Brookers may not want this to become so public and they may have thoughts about something else that the Council hasn't thought of.

Mayor Larson agreed and suggested that Ric should have conversations with the Hunter family and Tim Brooker.

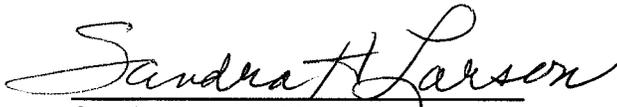
Brittany Boothe said if the Hunter family is approached it should be with sensitivity. She's not sure having a conversation with them is a good idea.

Mayor Larson said she would prefer to involve Tim Brooker in discussions rather than the Hunter family.

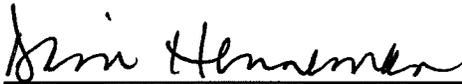
After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to direct Ric to talk with Tim Brooker about the options discussed at tonight's meeting.

3. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Work Session of the Veneta City Council at 7:03 p.m.


Sandra Larson, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


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