

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

September 22, 2014

Present: Sandra Larson, Thomas Cotter, Victoria Hedenstrom, and Thomas Laing

Absent: Brittany Boothe

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Katie Babits, Management Analyst; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; and Joan Mariner, Fern Ridge Review

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sandra Larson called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Glen Smith II, 87950 Applegate Ct., Veneta, OR

Mr. Smith asked about providing funding to increase police patrols. He said his work keeps him out of his home and he felt additional patrols and more of a police presence in the City would help deter criminals.

Ed Litten, 87410 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Litten wanted to address the Council and say that public safety is a huge issue to citizens of Veneta. He said his neighborhood is forming safety watches and he's concerned about citizens trying to police neighborhoods in the absence of deputies. He said kids are out at night and he said it's dangerous for residents to try to apprehend thieves because someone will eventually get hurt. He said this is an emergency and we need to make public safety a priority and it can't wait until the next budget, it needs to happen now.

Mike Litten, 87769 Oaks Orchard Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Litten said he lives in Phase II of Hayden Homes. He said he works out of town and is gone 12 to 14 hours a day. His neighborhood is full of young families and because the crime in his area has gotten ridiculous, he and his neighbors formed a neighborhood watch program. He said he talked to a deputy about what they can and can't do legally because he and his neighbors have been put in situations that they would rather not be in. He said in his opinion, it's the responsibility of law enforcement but because they are not available, crime continues to happen in his neighborhood and it's not getting any better.

Isaac Trimble, 25182 E. Broadway Ave., Veneta, OR

Mr. Trimble said he agreed with what everyone is here to say. He said he has had multiple crimes committed on himself in the last couple of months, vandalism, etc. He said he leaves a voice mail message on the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) dispatch line because no one will answer the phone. He said he understand it's a small community and funds are short. He said if and when someone is arrested for committing a crime, it takes the deputies off the streets to transport the person. He's said there needs to be an answer because he doesn't want to endanger himself or his family while he's trying to protect his family. He said he felt if it's not life or death situation LCSO won't respond.

Amy Huff, 87790 Territorial Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Huff said she had an incident four to six months ago when she found a man in her backyard. She said when the deputies arrived they talked to and found methamphetamine on him. She said they took him to his home because they didn't want to take the time to take him to jail. She said it concerned her because what would have happened if there wasn't a deputy on duty when she called. She asked how she would have protected her daughter. She said the man has been cited several times with multiple charges. She said she has since moved because her daughter was too afraid to sleep in her room.

DeVonne Bowman, 24938 Hunter Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Bowman said the lack of coverage is ridiculous. He said he knows it's difficult to provide the coverage but maybe we should have more protective services and law enforcement to make sure things

are safe and not just in Veneta. He said when it's a high dollar patrol like the Country Fair or Rhododendron Festival there's plenty of police coverage.

Zachary Tillotson, 24788 Sertic Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Tillotson said he doesn't know how many patrols there are but the deputies are not seen in unmarked cars. He said the number one crime deterrent is seeing law enforcement. He said the criminals don't see the cops in unmarked cars. He said we need our law enforcement to be out in the open with marked patrol cars to make a showing that they're here. He said we don't need more cops in unmarked cars and writing speeding or DUI citations. He said he's lived here two years and his taxes are twice the amount he paid in another city in Lane County. He said Creswell deputies have a presence all the time. He asked why deputies are driving such expensive vehicles. He said they don't need \$100,000 Ford Raptor to catch criminals. He said if we bring more money in we need to make sure we budget it to the right cause.

Stacy Thompson 24938 Hunter Rd., Veneta, OR

Ms. Thompson said two weeks ago, her sister-in-law and brother caught someone breaking into a car. She said they called the sheriff but dispatch said a deputy wasn't available to respond so they had to let the perpetrator go. She said they didn't know who the woman was and that's really scary because the criminals know they're going to get away with it. She said it's not right and it's not fair. She said residents' hands are tied and she hopes we can fix this.

Ben Bennett, 24924 McCutcheon St., Veneta, OR

Mr. Bennett said he has concerns about the obvious drug use around town. He asked who do we call or get in touch with to make sure we get a deputy to respond to make the arrests if necessary. He said he turns some addresses in to LCSO for drug use but he never hears anything back. He said when he lived on Cheney he was concerned about the safety of his own property. He also has a concern about the speed people travel on McCutcheon. He said it's a 25 M.P.H. zone and people travel 45 M.P.H. day and night. He said there's kids, elderly pedestrians, cars backing out of driveways, and a lot of kids on bikes. He said he hollers at them to slow down but it's a constant ongoing problem. He said people also roll to a stop at the stop sign. He said we need more patrols or just park patrol cars around town to show a presence. He said there are other options instead of paying more for LCSO patrols in our City.

Angela Tripp, 25223 Tyro St., Veneta, OR

Ms. Tripp said she's lucky that she lives in a newer neighborhood. She said her neighbors have put together their own neighborhood watch program and they keep in close contact with one another. She said she will call a neighbor if she sees an unfamiliar car parked in front of their house. She said it's sad that it's come down to that. She said she has lived in Veneta since she was two years old and when she was a child she walked to the store. She said Veneta used to be a safe town and a good town to live in but it's starting to get a bad rap. She said the thieves and druggies, come out here because there's no police presence. She said they know they won't be harassed out here and they don't have to worry about it. Half the time there's not a deputy on duty and when there is, it takes so long to respond to a call, the criminals get away. She said the thieves know there isn't 24 hour patrols. The cars are getting hit and broken into. She said deputies know the criminals are here but there is no police presence.

Glenn Smith II, 87950 Applegate Ct., Veneta, OR

Mr. Smith said he is one of a very few adults that use the Skate Park. He said kids are doing drugs but he can't afford to confront some stoned kids. He said if law enforcement had more of a presence, we wouldn't feel so bad about where we live. He asked the Council to please consider what everyone has said tonight.

Mike Litten, 87769 Oaks Orchard Rd., Veneta, OR

Mr. Litten said 40 residents attended a neighborhood watch meeting that he hosted at his home. He said it concerned him so many residents have the same concerns as he does. He wanted to bring to the Councils' attention a concern about residents with concealed weapon permits. He said he doesn't want things to escalate to the point that a resident with a concealed weapon permit has an interaction with a

criminal. And he hopes it doesn't take an incident like that to get an extra patrol for Veneta. He said we need to be proactive.

Mayor Larson said in the near future, the Council will schedule a meeting with Lane County Sheriff officials and the City Administrator to discuss the issue. She said she appreciated everyone voicing their concerns and there were many good ideas suggested tonight. She said the issue will be discussed thoroughly because no one wants crime in our City.

Ingham asked residents to please include contact information on the public comment sign-up sheet so staff can contact them about a meeting with Sheriff Officials.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the consent as presented. Thomas Laing seconded motion.

VOTE: Thomas Laing, aye; Thomas Cotter, aye; Sandra Larson, aye; Victoria Hedenstrom, aye.

The consent agenda as approved included Minutes for September 8, 2014 Work Session, minutes for September 8, 2014, Accounts Payable through September 16, 2014, Civic Calendar for October 2014.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

a. Business

(1) Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Activity Report

Sgt. Halvorson said this is the third month of his new activity report. He said during the month of August, 36 case numbers were drawn and almost half were for property crimes; burglaries, criminal mischief, theft, and car break-ins. He said calls are up in some areas, and down in others. He said with school out and nicer weather there seems to be more activity at night during the summer months. He said he's listening to the comments from tonight and suggested hosting a public forum with an educational segment to address the issues. He said as he stated when he first started, he has very strong ideals about community policing and he is available to talk to the community, Mayor Larson, and the City Council. He said if anyone has any questions or concerns they can always reach out to him.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Sgt. Halvorson said many times when deputies respond to an initial call it's determined to be a civil issue, misplaced property, the caller changes their mind and doesn't want to press charges, etc., so it doesn't qualify for a case number.

In response to a question from Ms. Huff regarding the man in her yard with methamphetamine, Sgt. Halvorson said the individual was issued a CLC, which is a citation in lieu of custody; meaning the individual was given a citation to appear in court instead of being taken to jail.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Sgt. Halvorson said if a case number is not drawn, it's safe to say the majority of them are civil issues. He said law enforcement is based on criminal code and Oregon law enforcement does not have the authority to enforce civil law, that's what the courts are for.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Sgt. Halvorson said if roommates have a dispute over communal property or a family member living in the house takes the cat. He said Oregon law is very clear on what is a property crime verses a personal crime. He said law enforcement is required to operate within the statutes; meaning they can only take action on criminal matters, but not civil issues. He said many of the calls are for civil disputes.

Sgt. Halvorson said with regard to the recent article from the Portland based company that ranked Veneta No. 2 in the state. He said he's not sure how they came up with those numbers

so he pulled his own numbers. He said the article was based on the National Coding System, they list "Aggravated Assault" but Oregon doesn't use that term; we have a different classification and use "Assault 1 through 4". He said Assault 4 is the lowest and classified as a misdemeanor, i.e., a fist fight. But in a domestic situation and in the presence of a child, Assault 4 could be bumped up to a felony. He said the statistics used in the article referenced a total of 20 crimes based on population. He said it's easy to see that one or two crimes would make a huge difference in the ranking system. He said it's something to be aware of and pay attention to and he cautioned people to make sure they have all the information but even then, it may not be correct.

Mayor Larson said the article also said Aggravated Assault accounted for 4% of all crime in Veneta which in actuality it is .4%. She said that's a huge difference.

Sgt. Halvorson said we need to be aware of these things and maybe we need an outside source to remind us. He said the education portion of awareness is critical so residents understand the process LCSO is required to follow.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Sgt. Halvorson said the deputies also perform evictions. He said a dispute is classified as a personal crime but if no one was injured it doesn't meet the statutory level of assault so a case number is not issued.

In response to questions from Victoria Hedenstrom, Sgt. Halvorson said he would have to sift through the calls and find out when specific calls are being made but it would be very time consuming. He said he generates and reviews the call list every seven to 10 days.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said in the first 15 days of August deputies patrolled the Skate Park 21 times either on foot or by vehicle.

b. Councilor/Committee Liaison Reports

Thomas Cotter said the Lane Economic Development Committee meeting was very interesting. He said he and Ingham attended the meeting. He said he spoke on behalf of Veneta and the challenges we face with regard to economic development. He said there were representatives from Oakridge, Florence, Vida, and Cottage Grove/Drain. He said all of the cities have "retail leakage". A term used when residents work in another city and spend money outside our city which leaves our businesses with only 25% of the incomes. He said it's a huge problem for any small town with workers. He said there is new money available for business owners and the Small Business Association (SBA) helps with loans but there's a problem with gap funding. He said the meeting was very interesting and very informative.

Victoria Hedenstrom said a lot happened at the September Chamber Board meeting. She said Sollevato Vineyard is interested in pouring their wine and serving all wine for WwW. She said Sollevato also had a wine tasting on September 20th at the Noti Pub. She said there were only three chili cook-off competitors with Curves winning first place and Siuslaw Bank coming in a close second, and West Lane Tech placed third. She said the Chamber is starting to get calls for the Holiday Bazaar which will be November 21st and 22nd. The Chamber will have a large corner booth and is also looking at opening more space at the old Curves location. She said the nominating committee will hold elections for the Chamber Director position and the Chamber's lease agreement is up for renewal. The Tree Lighting will be December 4th and the Light parade will be December 11th. She said Lorrie Normann from Domaine Meriwether and Lisa Lawton from Travel Lane County spoke at the Wednesday Chamber luncheon about what is being done in Lane County and our area to support businesses and recreational opportunities in Veneta. She said the meeting was very informative and positive.

Mayor Larson said the School Bond sale was a week ago in Portland which was very successful. She said the 26 million dollar bonds sold for 30.96 million dollars. She said the interest rate combined

with other fees came in lower than anticipated at a savings of about 2 million dollars. She said that will shorten the pay-off from 26 years to 24 years. She said that means the school district will meet the commitment to not raise the property tax rate. Mayor Larson said enrollment is down district wide but not dramatically.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. Management Analyst.....Katie Babits

(1) Approval of HEAL City Grant

Babits said back in July, the City was approved as a HEAL City which allowed us to apply for grant funds which we did. She said a partial grant of \$7000 was awarded on September 8, 2014 for the conceptual design and feasibility study for the multi-use path from Veneta to Elmira. She said in order to move forward the Council is required to accept the award.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she wonders if that \$13,000 would be better served helping the safety of our community.

Ingham said he can appreciate her concern, however the match funds that we would use are funds we received from state gas tax which can only be used for transportation projects.

Mayor Larson said ultimately the multi-use path will address safety for our children and residents.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to accept the funding from the HEAL Cities and Oregon Public Health Institute (OPHI) and move forward with the conceptual design and feasibility study. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(2) Approve Recommendation of Logo Committee

Babits said after working through a logo design and meeting several times, the Logo Committee would like to revise the current logo rather than coming up with a different logo. However, the Committee decided to purchase the design from 99designs which received the highest ranking from a poll taken from the City Council, Planning Commission and staff. She said using the existing logo with some modifications will be more cost efficient. Babits provided the existing logo as well as some in-house reworking's to upgrade the logo. Staff is asking the Council to determine which they prefer or if they have any recommendations that staff could work on in the future.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said it could be up to \$2000 to use the 99designs logo; changing letterhead, business cards, etc. He said if and when we chose to use the new logo, we wouldn't make all of the changes right away.

Mayor Larson said the committee agreed we would keep the favorite 99designs logo in reserve and at some point it may be phased in but we wouldn't use it immediately. She said the cost for the new logo was \$300.

Babits said we own the 99designs logo so we can use it for special events and even rework it if we want to.

After a thorough discussion it was the consensus of the Council to use the first option.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the logo committee's recommendation to revise the current City logo of the City of Veneta and to use the font of option 2 for the City's incorporation date. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

b. Public Works Director..... Kyle Schauer

(1) Bid Rejection for Poplar Removal

Mayor Larson said Fred from the Fern Ridge Library passed on a thank you to Schauer for asking the street sweepers to clean Territorial Rd.

Schauer said due to last winter's snow and ice storm a significant portion of the poplar plantation was destroyed and because we were due to harvest the remaining trees; he put out a request for quotes for harvesting the entire plantation and return the land use to a hay field. Schauer said he was disappointed that he only received one on time quote for \$70,000 and one late quote (which was disqualified) for \$59,000. He said in his opinion the City would not be served well to accept either bid. Based on that, he would like to propose that the Public Works Department be allowed to do this project. He said working with Ingham, he would like to put together a plan using both our labor and some outside contracting, particularly for equipment that we don't have. He assured the Council his crew, with some outside assistance, can do this project cheaper than the lowest quote.

In response to questions from Thomas Laing, Schauer said a portion of our treated effluent gets spread in the poplar plantation. He said when they were planted, poplars were touted to not only soak up about 100 gallons of water a day, and that there was a timber market for the trees but not now. Schauer is asking the Council to reject those quotes and allow him to work through this to create a plan to clear the trees. Schauer said not all of the City's waste water is applied to that site. He said we can get by without using that property while we complete the project.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Schauer, a hay field doesn't use up the wastewater as much as a stand of poplars, but we no longer need that small of a footprint taking up so much water. He said the City contracts to harvest the hay and the vendor pays for the hay.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said with the collapse of the poplar tree timber market, we could have stayed in hay and saved quite a bit of money. He said the poplar plantation is expensive to maintain.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Schauer said poplar wood is used to make furniture, pulp material, or chips to be used as hog fuel.

Ingham said at one time they were used to make a paper product, but because there is so much recycled paper being used, there's no value and no market for poplar.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Schauer said nitrates don't run into the Long Tom. Nutrients are used up by the hay and poplars. He said at the time the poplars were planted the City had very little property to take on that waste, since then we've gained 60 plus acres. Schauer said we likely will chip the trees once they've been removed.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Schauer said the project will be done over the next year and that's the only way his crew will be able to do this project.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to reject all quotes for the 2014 Poplar Plantation Clean-up and Authorize the City Administrator and Public Works Director to develop an alternate plan to clean-up the site. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded the motion which pass with a vote of 4-0.

- (2) Approval of Engineering Proposal to Complete Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study
Schauer said previously the Council accepted the HEAL Cities and OPHI funding and directed staff to move forward with the feasibility study to define where and how the pathway could be built. He requested a quote from Branch Engineering, which came in at \$19,500 and will provide a cost estimate for the project which is required to research funding and put it out for design bid.

Schauer recommended including a 5% contingency making the total amount requested \$20,475. He said a resolution will be brought to the Council at the October 13th meeting to accept the funds.

Ingham said nowhere in the current budget is this project specifically identified; however we do have a line item for other professional services. Currently, the Street Fund has enough overall unexpended funds to cover the expense. He said a resolution to appropriate the expenditure of the actual grant money needs to be done. He said we should have done the authorization with Branch and the resolution at the same time, but because we have a short window, we wanted to give the green light to Branch Engineering to get started.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Branch Engineering to complete the Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study for a multi-use pathway from Veneta to Elmira for an amount not to exceed \$20,475. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which pass with a vote of 4-0.

c. City Administrator..... Ric Ingham

(1) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Agreement

Ingham provided a partnership agreement from USFWS for the 27 acre parcel north of the West Lane Shopping Center. The property was deeded to the City, many years ago, from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the only purpose it serves is for overflow from the reservoir. He said the majority of the property sits outside City limits and is unutilized for any City purpose. It is critical habitat for the Bradshaw Lomatium plant, thought to be extinct in the Willamette Valley. He said when USFWS finds habitat, they continue to do habitat improvement work; brush removal, and planting additional stock in an attempt to establish a more robust crop of the plant, in hopes of taking it off the endangered species list. He said the City is not obligating any resources or staff time by entering into the agreement. There is a possible concern of how the multi-use path may impact the site but we will still be able to complete the path.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said the bigger exclusion is working with the ACOE and completing a wetland delineation if they feel the path will impact the area. He said there may also be some level of mitigation, but that isn't likely. He said it's a positive position for the City to be a good partner in assisting with a critical site and habitat.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said the agreement will terminate when USFWS completes the last of the work in the fall of 2015.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve the partnership agreement between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the City for the purpose of improving habitat on City owned property. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(2) Oregon Economic Development Association Request for Conference Scholarship

Ingham said the Lane County Economic Development Association (OEDA) approached the City to see if we wanted to help sponsor their kickoff event on Monday, October 27th at Domaine Meriwether. OEDA works to advance job creation and economic advancement throughout the State of Oregon. He said RTMP funds are an eligible use because the event will bring in folks from around the state. He said staff felt sponsoring the event is important and sends a strong message to Lane County and the southern Willamette Valley that we understand it takes a lot of hands to pull together quality events.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said the City will get great exposure for the entire event and not just on Monday night.

Thomas Cotter said with the loss of the timber industries and small industries that built up around it, he believes our wine industry will eventually take the place of the timber industry.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve a Silver Level Conference sponsorship of \$750 for the 2014 Oregon Economic Development Association conference in Eugene.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve a Bronze Level Conference sponsorship of \$750 for the 2014 Oregon Economic Development Association conference in Eugene. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(3) Review of 2014 Work Plan

Ingham said staff works to provide quarterly work plan updates to the Council. He said last year the City Council chose to do a late goal setting session so staff created a single calendar year work plan. He said it's not overly aggressive but of the 54 projects identified, 28% of the projects have been completed, 33% are substantially completed, and 21% are at least underway and waiting for the pieces to fall in place. He said 18% will be put on "to be determined" status or postponed.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said funding for sidewalks and updating a regional trail system is listed twice on the work plan under transportation and planning. He said that's somewhat redundant but Bork has wanted to update the whole regional trail plan. He said the other project would be to identify critical gaps in sidewalks for connectivity to trails outside of the City. He said we want to make sure we have the connectivity to sidewalks, like the Elmira multi-use path.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she wants to make sure that the City's public safety goals get done and that the City is focused on forward movement of this particular set of goals and she wants to make sure it doesn't get pushed to the bottom.

Ingham said that's why staff brings the work plans forward on a quarterly basis. He said if the Council wants to turn the heat up on specific projects that should be brought forward, now is the time to do it.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she felt it's valid to bring it forward.

Mayor Larson said scheduling a meeting with Sgt. Halvorson, the City Administrator, and the public is definitely moving forward with our public safety concerns but we need to understand and identify what's reasonable, affordable, and responsible.

Thomas Cotter felt that tonight the Council heard nothing out of the ordinary from what other cities hear. He said residents are concerned about their safety and we need to be cautious with our response. He said we don't want to make promises that we can't keep. He said he wonders if residents realize what our public safety contract costs.

Ingham provided the Council with a handout. He said staff is conducting talks with public safety staff about what happens. He said we felt really good about the patrols at the skate park for the first half of August but there were no patrols from August 15th through the 31st. He said he continually talks to the deputies about being as visible as possible. He said he would like to draft a letter from Mayor Larson to send to Sheriff Turner about deputies in unmarked vehicles. He said no one knows they're police.

Mayor Larson said we need to work on perception.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said Deputy Jhanke would make an appearance but having a deputy at the high school is not included in our contract.

Ingham said several years ago we had an active public safety committee and if the Council would like, Mayor Larson could appoint a few members. He suggested two budget committee members could participate with the sergeant and start meeting with the concerned residents.

He said he will meet with Sgt. Halvorson a couple of times.

Mayor Larson agreed and said after that we will decide if we need a public safety committee.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said a public safety committee would identify the areas of our contract that we're not satisfied with and the Council will help set some milestones.

Thomas Cotter said a small committee could identify what's possible. He suggested holding a pre-meeting with Sgt. Halvorson, Ingham, an appointed committee or all of the Council before a public meeting is held, so everyone knows what the City's responsibility is and how we're going to carry it out. He said if we don't sit down and talk with the deputy we would be going into the next meeting without answers and no solution.

Thomas Cotter said he wants confirmation that the sheriff's office isn't doing their job

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said any time we work with LCSO, we have certain expectations that go along with the contract. He said ideally he'd like to get a half-time sergeant. He said once the Oregon Country Fair is over, we don't see the sergeant because they're back filling for the marine patrol and our deputies are left somewhat unsupervised. He said he can't tell the deputies what to do, and hopefully they know what to do through the summer. He said there's a lot of conjecture where to go. He said he needs to meet with Sgt. Halvorson.

Mayor Larson said we need to explain clearly how the system works. She said residents here tonight are well intended and actually very reasonable and rational and they deserve to know that they're being heard. However, they do need to know the cost of the contract and we need to identify what our obligation and responsibilities are and let Sgt. Halvorson know that residents are disappointed. She said she, Ingham, and Sgt. Halvorson will meet before the public meeting giving residents another opportunity to be heard. She said in order to serve our residents, we need to know what our contract says and what our police intend to do. Mayor Larson said forming a public safety committee needs to happen but not before the meeting.

Ingham provided graphs which came directly out of the 2014-15 budget. He said in comparison to the ranking that Sgt. Halvorson spoke about, he asked LCOG to do a break down. He said it was very obvious that person didn't do the math; it was .4% rather than the 4% they listed. He said cities or communities never do a ranking against other communities because the data can be skewed. He said many people with Veneta addresses live outside City limits. He said there's a lot of talk about number of calls verses number of cases. He said if the Council would like, we could contract with Susan at LCOG to look at that information.

Ingham said staff will be reviewing the work plan more and provide updates to the Council. He would like to see the public safety meeting take place before October 13th. He felt our crime situation isn't any worse than many other cities but we do have 15 residents that are very concerned and we need to address those concerns.

6. OTHER

Ingham said Bork is scheduled the joint meetings of the Economic Opportunity Analysis (EOA) Committee (City Council and Planning Commission and others) for Tuesday, October 7th, Wednesday October 29th, Monday, November 17th, and Monday, December 8th.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said its legal counsel's view that it's clear we will not be able to impose a tax on medical marijuana.

Thomas Cotter said from what he's heard from other cities, if we wait until January, it's too late, but if we have something in place, we may benefit greatly.

Ingham said we would need to act fast and get an ordinance passed before the November election or before the legislation becomes effective.

Mayor Larson said she's not comfortable imposing another tax.

Ingham said if there's a majority, we need to act very quickly so staff can get started on an ordinance for first reading at the October 13th meeting or it could be passed by emergency at one of the two October meetings so it's enacted before the November election.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said the tax would be 5% of the gross revenue.

Thomas Cotter, Thomas Laing and Victoria Hedenstrom agreed to direct staff to draft an ordinance allowing the City to tax recreational marijuana. Mayor Larson voted no.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Mayor Larson said according to the legislation we're not likely to ever collect anything.

Ingham said he invited Jason Alansky from Siuslaw Bank and Joan Mariner to join the EOA committee. He hasn't heard from Herb Vloedman and suggested Charles Ruff from Oregon Country Fair could also participate as well as someone from the Chamber.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 9:42 p.m.


Sandra Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:


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