

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

October 13, 2014

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

Absent: Brittany Boothe

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kay Bork, Community Development Director; Shauna Hartz, Finance Director; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; 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 7:07 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Hetrick, P.O. Box 199, Cheshire, OR

Mr. Hetrick owns a small cable company, Country Vision Cable which provides internet, cable TV and voice services to areas around Cheshire. He said he has been talking with Ingham for several months about taking over Charter's franchise with the City to provide high speed internet, cable TV, and phone services to Veneta.

Ingham said Mr. Hetrick's request letter is in tonight's meeting materials. He asked Mr. Hetrick if he would like to stay for the meeting until his agenda item comes up for discussion.

Mr. Hetrick said he would to stay.

Darlene Harris, 25127 Legacy Ct., Veneta, OR

Ms. Harris moved here in mid-June from southern California. She's here because she requested a large pine tree be removed from her neighbor's yard. She said the tree makes a huge mess and drops sap and needles on the mailboxes. She brought in a broken branch that fell on the sidewalk which could have caused a serious injury had it fallen on someone. She said kids play in the area and she would like to see it removed. She would like to know what the process is for getting the tree removed.

Schauer said the tree has been brought to his attention and from what he can tell it is a very large, healthy pine tree. He said he will contact a tree arborist to take a look at the tree to determine if it's healthy or if it's diseased and should be removed. He said at this point, he's not sure how the City will handle the situation.

Pam Key, P.O. Box 836, Veneta, OR

Ms. Key would like to talk about the Broadway property that the City wants to tear down. She said she holds the lien on the property which she is in the process of repossessing both the house and the two story building adjacent to the house. She would like more time to be able to work through getting the property back before the City's abatement process starts. She said she has buyers and she and her attorney are working through the process but she is hoping for more time to do that.

Ingham said Council members will have an opportunity to ask Ms. Key questions during the public comment portion of the upcoming public hearing on this matter.

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.

- a. The consent agenda as approved included Minutes for September 22, 2014, Accounts Paid through October 6, 2014, Accounts Payable through October 9, 2014, Public Works Activity Report for September 2014, and Code Enforcement Report for Third Quarter of 2014.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

- a. Business
None

- b. Councilor/Committee Liaison Reports

Thomas Laing said he attended the last Mid Lane Cares meeting to discuss the Service Center Director's assessment. He said she is doing a great job. He said the Harvest Festival was a great success and the free medical clinic will be at the Fire Station this weekend. He said all in all, things are going well.

Mayor Larson said the school board work session included a very long training session, which she did not attend. On Saturday, October 11th, she attended the Tree City USA celebration which was a very successful event. She said trees were planted at Territorial Park with assistance from the Park Board. She said the West Side Gardeners were there and are good partners to the City.

5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. City Legal Counsel.....Lauren Somers

- (1) Establishing a Tax on the Sale of Recreational Marijuana

- i. Agenda Item Summary

- Ingham said the Council held a work session prior to tonight's meeting to hear from legal counsel, Lauren Sommers, who provided a Measure 91 update. Staff provided Ordinance No. 515 which would allow the City to place a tax on recreational marijuana. He said if the Council chose to approve the ordinance the fee would be imposed sometime in November, after the general election. He said also because the tax would be considered a fee, any ordinance passed will not be enacted for 30 days, even though Ordinance No. 515 is being read tonight for first and second reading by title only.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said if approved by the Council, the tax could be placed on recreational and medical marijuana sales.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 515 for first reading by title only. Thomas Laing seconded motion.

- ii. **Ordinance No. 515 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TAX ON THE SALE OF MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA-INFUSED PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF VENETA**

- iii. Public Comment
None

Ordinance No. 515 was read into the record for first reading by title only.

VOTE: 4-0.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 515 for second reading by title only. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinance No. 515 was read into the record for second reading by title only.

b. **PUBLIC HEARING** – To Determine Dangerous Building and Abatement

(1) Mayor Larson Opened the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

(2) Staff Report

Bork said this matter was brought to Council's attention after an inventory of several "blighted" properties. At that time Council gave direction to investigate buildings for potential nuisances. She said the Tootle building and the accessory structure were investigated by the City Building Inspector. His report was provided at the September 8th Council meeting when the building was declared a nuisance. Bork said tonight's public hearing is necessary to receive public comment from not only the property owner but the public as well and also to establish whether or not the City wants to take special measures to make the building safe or recommend demolition. She said if Council members recommend demolition, then a time of not less than 10 days from today would be set for demolition. Bork reviewed the materials in the packet and asked the Council if they had any questions. She said David Mortier, the City Building Inspector is attending tonight's meeting.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Mr. Mortier said there is no foundation under the small building, which he declared a dangerous building.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Mr. Mortier said he hasn't been inside the building but he thinks it can likely be made safe. He said the underfloor needs to be sealed to keep rodents and feral cats out of the building. Mr. Mortier also said the building is leaning somewhat and he said the roof may be leaking.

Ms. Key said there's power to the building.

(3) Questions from Council

Victoria Hedenstrom said she is concerned about open areas in the rear of the building.

(4) Public Comment

Ms. Key said she sold the house 14 years ago when it was a very cute cottage and everything was new. She said the buyers haven't taken care of it and now it's going into foreclosure. She said she's working on getting the building back and was told by the City that if the building can be fixed it can be saved. She said she's working with a potential buyer and her attorney to reclaim the property but she can't do anything in 10 days. Ms. Key said the building has swayed since it was built and she doesn't think putting a foundation under it will fix that. She said she hopes to save it because it's the last historical building in Veneta.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ms. Key said her realtor is working with the first buyers to reassign the building back to her and her attorney is working on the foreclosure. She said there are also some people interested in saving the house. She said they know the house cannot be lived in but it can be used for retail space. She said she would like to pass it on to someone who will save it.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ms. Key said the potential buyer is interested in both buildings but she has only known about the abatement for two weeks. She said she has lowered the price and has everything in place but it depends on when everyone gets back to her. She said it could be done in 60 days but it could take longer if people drag their feet.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ms. Key said she found out about the fate of the house about two weeks ago.

Bork said Ms. Key was contacted four or five days after the letter was sent to the owner of record.

Ms. Key said it's been for sale for about four months and the potential buyers are people that are interested in fixing historical buildings.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ms. Key said she's not sure when the last time the house was occupied. She said she sold it about 14 years ago and the buyers lived in a 5th wheel behind the house while they remodeled it. She said the large building is in pretty good shape.

(5) Council Deliberation

Mayor Larson said there's no question that the building needs some attention but we don't necessarily have to demolish it.

Thomas Cotter said he is willing to make a motion to give Ms. Key 60 days to provide the Council with information that the building will be sold or that she can make the building safe.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to give Ms. Key 60 days to provide staff with proof that the building will be made safe.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter withdrew his previous motion.

Ingham said if the property is going through foreclosure, we should engage legal counsel for advisement on what our next action would be. He said he would prefer delaying any action for 60 days and bring back a packet of information to the Council at the time to proceed with the appropriate action.

Bork agreed and said it makes sense to do it that way.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ms. Key said the current owners live in Washington. She said she is in contact with the owners and will hear back from her soon.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to postpone the public hearing for 60 days in order for Ms. Key to have adequate time to provide proof of ownership of the building. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(6) Mayor Larson closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Mortier said both buildings are viable and can be saved.

c. Finance Director.....Shauna Hartz

(1) Appropriating HEAL City Grant Funds

i. Agenda Item Summary

Hartz said Oregon budget law allows appropriations to be made by resolution after the budget has been adopted. She said Resolution No. 1158 allows the City to accept the HEAL grant funds and appropriate the funds into the street fund to be used for the conceptual design and feasibility study for the multi-use path to Elmira. Hartz said a condition of the grant is that if the funds are not used by March 2015, then the remaining funds must be returned by April 30, 2015 to Oregon Public Health Institute, a partner of HEAL Cities.

ii. **Resolution No. 1158 - A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A SPECIFIC PURPOSE GRANT AND APPROPRIATING EXPENDITURES**

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1158. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

- (2) Financial Report on Fund Balances through First Quarter
 Hartz said this financial report on fund balances through September 30, 2014. She said the report reflects typical activity and balances for this time of year. She said the City doesn't have a lot of income but property tax funds should start coming in November and December. She said she was able to record almost all of the transfers included in the budget so they will show 100% received or 100% expended. She said as far as percentages go, we're in pretty good shape. She said we're about 25% through the fiscal year so the regular operating expenses shouldn't be exceeding that and if they do, one reason would be because in July or August we pay professional dues, liability and workers compensation insurance, and software maintenance for the entire year so that kicks up those percentages.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Hartz said she allows a little bit extra in the budget for the Debt Service/Municipal Water fund because we will need to accrue some interest at year end.

d. Public Works Director..... Kyle Schauer

(1) Proposal for Street Assessment by Pavement Services, Inc.

- i. Agenda Item Summary
- ii. Scope of Work, Cost Estimates, Standard Engineering Rates

During the last goal setting session a street assessment was identified in the transportation category as a number one priority. Schauer contacted Pavement Services, Inc. to conduct a pavement condition survey and assessment of all City streets and sidewalks. Schauer said the survey and assessment will include a visual inspection and testing on asphalt sections to determine structural integrity of the asphalt and road base. He said a final report of the current pavement conditions will be submitted. The report will include GIS maps showing all street inventory and condition, a detailed listing of identified problem areas, and a recommended five year maintenance and repair plan. Schauer said Pavement Service, Inc. will also complete the inventory and review the maintenance proposal and prioritize the work to give us the biggest bang for our buck in order to bring our City streets up to the industry standard. He said this is the first time we've ever done this. Schauer is requesting the Council approve staff entering into the agreement with Pavement Services, Inc. to provide the above services at a not to exceed amount of \$37,798.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Schauer said he did some research and determined that our public works crew doesn't have the time or the resources to do this project properly.

Ingham said we could have done the rating system but not having the software, the prioritizing abilities, and the knowledge to provide the level of detail Pavement Services, Inc. can provide, it didn't make sense to try to do this project in house.

Schauer said their assessment will go way beyond what the public works crew could do. He said they will assess the street core to determine if the road base is adequate to be restored. He said the project must be done when the pavement is dry.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Schauer said he typically request a 5% contingency on all construction contracts but they will bill us for time on the ground.

Schauer said he would like to change the amount of the request to a not to exceed amount of \$38,000.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Schauer said cracks in the pavement are more visible when the pavement is dry plus the boring requires the pavement be dry to make sure the compaction is solid.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Schauer said with the typical October weather, they should still be able to complete the project soon. He said they only need 4 to 5 days to complete the entire City. He said a couple of teams of people can complete about eight miles of roadway a day.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Pavement Services, Inc. to conduct a Pavement Condition Survey/Evaluation of the City of Veneta street system for an amount not to exceed \$38,000. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(2) Proposal for Engineering Services for Air Piping and Efficiency Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant

- i. Agenda Item Summary
- ii. Scope of Work

Schauer said the wastewater treatment plant uses air to treat wastewater but several gaskets on the piping are leaking making the system inefficient. Staff requested Civil West Engineering Services prepare a proposal for design, bidding, and construction services to replace and expand the air delivery system. He said the public works crew has made several repairs but the aerators are working twice as hard with a 50% air loss. He said the largest leak is under the building. Schauer said with all the repairs needed and since the entire system should be expanded in the next five to 10 years, he suggested the City rebuild it now to accommodate future expansion. He said starting the expansion now would take care of the problem as well as improve additional efficiencies in the system. He said Civil West's pre-design report was completed in September 2014 which outlined their recommendations. He said now we'd like to move forward with the design, bidding and construction services of this project. He said the construction phase of the expansion would be included in next year's budget.

In response to questions from Victoria Hedenstrom, Schauer said \$55,558 covers all bidding and engineering costs for the project for both budget years. He said currently we have \$275,000 budgeted for this project for engineering and construction.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Schauer said we don't know what the actual project costs will be until after the design and bidding processes are completed.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Schauer said there will be a separate contract for the construction. He said this proposal is just for design, bidding, engineering and construction services.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said this is a very small project compared to what our CIP covers over the next five years.

Schauer said we have the ability to do it now and get ready for the expansion.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Schauer said the current system is all underground and un-accessible so it's very difficult to repair. He said the expansion will call for everything to be above ground so we can access it. He said because the air temperature runs about 200 degrees, the gaskets did not last.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Civil West Engineering, Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$55,558 for engineering services related to the air piping and efficiency improvements project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

e. City Administrator.....Ric Ingham

(1) Cable Franchise Request from Country Vision Cable, Inc.

Ingham said we have a couple of tele-communication related items. He said the Council heard from Mr. Hetrick earlier in the meeting and he is still in attendance to answer any questions the Council may have. Ingham said he has been talking with Mr. Hetrick for many months about providing "triple play" service, which is cable television, broadband internet, and telephone service in the City of Veneta. Ingham said Charter Communications has been hesitant to offer "triple play" services to Veneta. He said Mr. Hetrick expressed to Charter Communication his desire to purchase the Veneta franchise to bring Veneta into the 21st century but the acquisition between Comcast and Charter has stalled those negotiations. He said Mr. Hetrick is looking for a way to leverage future conversations and he and his partners are wanting to move forward with a wireless system to deliver data, an alternative internet provider, and also open the door to get a cable franchise underway. Ingham said Mr. Hetrick is asking the Council to direct staff to develop these franchises. He said we need to get legal counsel's opinion on whether or not we can enter into a franchise agreement with an entity that is not currently or can't show they can deliver the product. However, if legal gives us the go ahead, and based on direction from the Council, staff will follow up accordingly.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said Milo Mecham at LCOG would prefer to write a single franchise agreement that would include both the wireless system and provide an opportunity for a cable franchise to take place.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Mr. Hetrick said the term "voice" refers to telephone service.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Mr. Hetrick said the end desire is to purchase the cable system that provides services to Veneta, parts of Noti, Elmira, and as far north as Clear Lake Rd. He said the cable would not just include Veneta.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Mr. Hetrick said the wireless service would be high density and he and his partners are hoping to reach as many people as possible but it depends on where the transmitters are located.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Mr. Hetrick said his company just signed a contract for 300 megabits which would send a beam from Blanton Heights in southwest Eugene possibly to the water tower on Bolton Hill. He said it depends on what kind of subscribership they get.

Nolan Shine said he is Mr. Hetrick's partner. He said he and his son focus on the wireless side. He said the technology is blossoming every day. He said the transmitters developed three months ago have even more capability now and a niche has opened up for wireless internet service providers. He said by connecting to the tower on Blanton Heights, they can light up the City in a way that a year ago people only dreamed of.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to direct staff to develop a franchise agreement for Country Vision Cable. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

(2) Licensing for Communication Providers

i. Agenda Item Summary

Ingham said Ordinance No. 516 amends Ordinance No. 482 passed in 2008 adopting a telecommunication license fee which is administered by LCOG. He said mobile phone carriers need a license based on their gross revenue sales. He said the City receives about 5% of those gross revenues. He said about 50% of all phone companies actually pay that fee. He said LCOG recommended that if Comcast comes in and they start delivering more than just cable, data, internet, etc. that we should update the franchise agreement to include a 5% fee on all of services provided. Ingham said by reading Ordinance No. 516 for first and second reading, we can include Country Vision and Hunter Communications to ensure they are conforming to the broader ordinance. He said we may still pursue franchise agreements but it will require payment on all services provided.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said the original ordinance was passed to cover the mobile phone carriers that weren't entering into a traditional franchise agreement because they weren't operating in our right of way. They were going to the SBA tower who allowed them to hang a dish to provide services. He said this is the only way we could charge a fee on their gross revenues for all the services they provide. He said providers like Hunter, LS Networks, and other providers will choose to deploy some of their infrastructure in our right of way so the franchise fee is still an appropriate tool for that.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said SBA subleases the tower sites to T-Mobile, etc. but Verizon has its own tower which they sublease as well. He said the current agreement doesn't require Verizon to declare who they sublease to. All carriers will need to conform to a franchise agreement or Ordinance No. 516.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said we can't double tax them. We can't collect from Ordinance No. 516 and a franchise agreement. He said with regard to mobile phone carriers, the FCC language says we can only collect that fee if they're being billed within the City of Veneta.

- ii. **Ordinance No. 516** – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 482, PROVIDING FOR LICENSING OF COMMUNICATION PROVIDERS, IMPOSING A LICENSE FEE AND RELATED CHARGES UPON UTILITIES DOING BUSINESS OR OTHERWISE PROVIDING SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF VENETA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 516 for first reading by title only. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinance No. 516 was read for first reading by title only.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. ⁵¹⁶~~515~~ for second reading by title only. Victoria Hedenstrom seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

- iii. Public Comment
None

(3) Hunter Communications, Inc. Franchise Agreement

i. Agenda Item Summary

Ingham said in August 2014 Hunter Communications contacted the City requesting we draft a franchise agreement so they could deliver internet and data services over the fiber that

LCOG deployed through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) fiber optics network. He said a total of 24 strands of fiber were installed as part of that project. LCOG retained 12 strands to deliver services but they cannot light it so they contracted with Hunter to light the fiber and deliver services. He said those 12 strands were used to anchor offices in the City, (City Hall, Lane Fire Authority, Fern Ridge Library, Veneta Elementary, medical offices, etc.) He said Hunter retained the remaining 12 strands and now they want to enter into a franchise agreement so they can light them.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said Hunter will shop around town to see if local businesses want the fiber service. He said there's not many left that don't already have it but it's good that Hunter wants to start marketing their strands.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said Hunter Communications is located south of Roseburg.

Ingham said based on the adoption of Ordinance No. 516 this is the first franchise agreement requiring the provider pay the 5% fee on gross revenues for data and internet services they provide.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said this wouldn't interfere with lighting the fiber. He said LCOG is still collecting fees on gross revenue sales so we should still be seeing those revenues coming in from LCOG. He said Hunter only deployed the fiber about six to seven months so he's not sure if we've received any fees to date.

Ingham said the City has a franchise fee that we charge utility companies, Sanipac, etc. even when we are securing services, we are paying the franchise fee that eventually comes back to us.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said the City of Eugene won a significant lawsuit. The courts found in favor of the City of Eugene that they should be collecting the fee so we're basing our position on those recent court rulings.

In response to a question from Herb Vloedman, Ingham said it would be the end user so the language here is the financial responsibility is still passed down to that retail seller of that service.

- ii. **Ordinance No. 517** – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VENETA, OREGON, GOVERNING THE USE AND OCCUPATION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BY HUNTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ESTABLISHING A PROCESS, FEES AND TERMS FOR SUCH USE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 517 for first reading by title only. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinance No. 517 was read for first reading by title only.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 517 for first reading by title only. Thomas Laing seconded motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinance No. 517 was read for second reading by title only, for final enactment and declaring an emergency.

(4) Draft Public Safety Town Hall Agenda

Ingham provided a draft agenda for Sgt. Halvorson's review but as of tonight's meeting, Ingham had not heard if Sgt. Halvorson had any changes. He said Mayor Larson and he made a couple of changes. He said the agenda covers a recap of the concerns residents brought up at the September 22nd meeting, and a section of what the contract covers, costs, and clarification on how and what calls are responded to. He said the agenda will also cover how calls outside City limits are handled. He said another agenda item will to be reiterate that most of the crimes still being committed are crimes of convenience; leaving cars unlocked or leaving valuables in vehicles. He said LCSO has started a neighborhood watch program and a deputy or public safety officer will be attending the meetings.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said once neighborhood watch groups are formed, the public safety officer will arrange separate meetings with each group and take residents through the training.

Ingham said as a part of establishment of the public safety strategic plan, Sgt. Halvorson and he have created a timeline: 1) monthly meetings with Sgt. Halvorson, 2) monthly meeting with the deputies and those ward groups 3) weekly follow up to public safety enhancements 4) put in motion a drafting of the strategic plan and provide residents an opportunity to comment on it; and 5) let residents know that if they want to expand coverage, a request needs to be brought to the Council and more importantly, prior to the budget process.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said the meeting will be set up as a Town Hall meeting and not a Council meeting. If the Council wants to be there, we'll have to advertise it accordingly and record the meeting but it will flow and be structured differently.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she will be attending.

Ingham said we will proceed with the meeting on October 22nd and circulate the agenda. He said a public service announcement will be published in the Wednesday, October 22, 2014 edition of the Fern Ridge Review and staff will notify by email, those residents who provided contact information.

(5) Questions from Councilors

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Schauer said the island across from Veneta Elementary is maintained by ODOT. He said the ODOT supervisor he spoke with last week gave Schauer permission to remove the weeds from the island.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said he would have public works take care of the sticker on the light pole at the chiropractor's office that reads "this neighborhood is patrolled by armed citizens".

6. OTHER

Victoria Hedenstrom said last Sunday morning a constantly vacant and troublesome home went up in flames. She said she's frustrated that we have so many vacant homes and there have been squatters turned out of that property over and over by the City and neighbors.

Ingham said Teresa does a good job of tracking down the banks of the foreclosed properties. He said with regard to this particular property, the last time the City was contacted was in 2012.

Victoria Hedenstrom said several neighbors have been trying to police the house. She said she is concerned about all the blighted and dangerous properties around town which need addressing. She said the banks should be checking on these properties to prevent squatting. She would like to get a

consensus of the Council to direct staff to research City code to grant the City some teeth to address community safety with regard to vacant homes in the City.

Ingham said after speaking with the fire marshal and the arson investigator from LCSO, he was informed that the investigation could take up to a week so staff cannot do anything until that time. He said Teresa indicated the property is bank owned and Cornerstone Preservation is the property manager. He said once the investigation has been completed and depending on the extent of the damage, the home will either be leveled or cleaned up to sell.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said neighbors have not contacted the City to complain about this vacant home nor has anyone informed the City that people are coming and going from the home. He said any home can be broken into and until that happens, a home is considered secure. He said normally Teresa has to ride high herd to get banks to keep the grass cut but since a neighbor was cutting the grass at this particular home, the property hasn't been on Teresa's or Lane County's radar.

Bork said there have been a few properties that Teresa responds to that have been broken into which City code requires they be secured and boarded up.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said it could be that if we instill these public safety enhancement efforts, LCSO will touch base with the neighborhood coordinator to provide the City with a list of abandoned homes. Deputies could then do a walk about. He said all we can do is provide that suggestion to Sgt. Halvorson.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said once the fire marshal and LCSO complete the investigation, and we hear from the property manager, neighbors can contact Kay or Teresa if they have any questions. He said if it seems that the process is taking longer than it should the City may start the abatement process.

Mayor Larson said having the meetings and neighborhood wards is a good idea.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said there was some vandalism in the Perkins Country Estates about a year ago. He said if squatters unintentionally start a fire its considered arson.

Ingham said the City received information late in the afternoon that we can apply for grant funding through the Fiber Consortium that LCOG organized about 15 years ago to assist with building out fiber through a three county area. He said it's called the Southern Fiber Consortium and they've done so well with the project that they now have their own grant program. He provided the grant criteria and said two weeks ago we received the final preliminary engineering report to deploy fiber to the Veneta Business Park. He said a cost estimate would be about \$35,000 to connect a LS Network fiber line to the business park. He said the fiber would not be lit until a business was there to hook up to. He said we are requesting \$25,000 from the Consortium and Lane County is offering matching funds of \$6500. He is proposing the City bring in \$3500 to match the \$6500 for a total of \$10,000 which would allow us to market all properties in the Veneta Business Park as having fiber to them.

Staff is asking for authorization to submit the grant, and use \$3500 as matching funds to Lane County. He said if we're selected, staff will bring back a request for authorization of the \$3500 match.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to direct staff to proceed with the grant application to LCOG for dark fiber to Veneta Business Park. Thomas Laing seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 4-0.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said LS Network has an overhead line to Luther Lane then they bored under Highway 126. He said once the line gets to Cornerstone, it will be placed in the existing underground conduit.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said the City is really the only proponent for marketing Veneta Business Park. He said we provide that information to Lane Metro and the Lane Economic Development Committee, as well as all the other partners being contacted about start-up businesses.

Bork reminded the Council of the October 15th meeting Chief Ney will have with the Baker St. residents regarding the renaming of Baker St.

Ingham said the next joint work session of the City Council and Planning Commission will be October 29th – two days after the City Council meeting on the 27th. Depending on how full the agenda is, Mayor Larson is contemplating cancelling the October 27th meeting.

Bork said Bob Parker requesting changing the third joint meeting from November 17th to November 19th. Once she has confirmed with Mr. Parker she will inform the Council and Commission of that meeting change.

Ingham said Lane County Board of Commissioners (LCBC) would like to meet with the Council at the December 8th meeting about partnering with Lane County on the vehicle registration fee. He said he committed the Council to that meeting. He said December 8th is the fourth and final joint meeting of the Council and Commission regarding the EOA. He said it may work out that the Council will meet with LCBC after that joint meeting on the 8th and have only one regular Council meeting on December 15th.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said the Chamber of Commerce is the lead on the Tree Lighting which will be at the West Lane Shopping Center fountain on December 4th and the parade will be on December 11th. He said Schauer will be representing the City at the Tree Lighting meeting.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said there was talk about moving the Tree Lighting to Veneta Elementary but he never heard back from Olivia Johnson. He said the Chamber wanted to keep the event at the fountain plaza.

In response to a question from Victoria Hedenstrom, Ingham said he will contact her tomorrow morning regarding tomorrow's chamber meeting.

Schauer said with great sadness he accepted Chris Meddings letter of resignation. He said Chris accepted a position at Springfield Utility Board (SUB) and his last day with the City will be October 24th. Staff will wish him well at the October 21st, 8:00 a.m. staff meeting.

Ingham said it's the City's policy to host some kind of reception for employees who have been with the City five years or more. He said Chris has been with the City six years and staff would like to recognize him at the morning all-City staff meeting. He said staff will be present a gift as part of the policy.

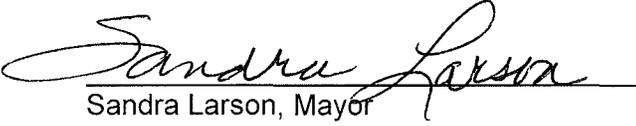
Schauer said Chris has constructed several projects for the City; the storage building behind the Service Center and the foot bridge in Trinity Terrace are among many other projects Chris has completed for the City.

Ingham said Babits has been working with Schauer and Stacy Cornelius on the pool recap report. He said the communications committee meets tomorrow at City Hall.

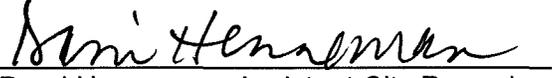
Mayor Larson said she attended the Elmira High School Leadership Class to promote the "If I were Mayor" contest and they watched the 2014 high school winning video.

ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 9:28 p.m.


Sandra Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:


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