

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

JEANNE E BURCH BUILDING

MARCH 8, 2016 7:00PM

Mayor MacInnes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Council present: Carol MacInnes, Melanie Sperry, Jerry Beckham, Jonathan Moore and Mary Mountain

Staff present: Deputy Boyd, Teresa Hunt, William Potter

Community present: Terry Ignowski Wheeler County Emergency Management, Herb Winters Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District, Peggy Williams, Kendal Derby, Brenda Snow Potter, and Travis Rutherford.

Councilor Sperry moved to approve the agenda with the addition that might come through. Councilor Mountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilor Sperry moved to approve the minutes from the February 9th council meeting and to approve the payment of the February bills as presented. Councilor Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Derby stated that in the lease agreement under number 3, it states that the “lessee shall use the leased property for the sole purpose of storage of product for his dry kiln business.” Mr. Derby requests that the wording be changed to include milling, storage of product, storage of logs, parking of equipment, temporary shelter for his product, etc.

Mr. Derby will meet with Teresa to change this wording and also to set the monetary consideration for this lease, in order for the lease agreement to be ready for both parties to review and possibly sign by the next council meeting which is April 12th.

Mayor MacInnes stated that she and another council member would be going out to the Industrial Park with Mr. Potter to look at the issue of the fire lane.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor MacInnes introduced Travis Rutherford to the council and stated that Mr. Rutherford had just purchased two homes on “C” Street through a foreclosure process.

Mr. Rutherford had went to city hall and requested to have services put in his name and have the water turned on and was told that there was a lien on each of these homes by the city for unpaid sewer bills and that the liens needed to be paid in full before services would be restored.

Mayor MacInnes stated that there needs to be a better process by the city to inform the people considering purchasing these foreclosure properties of potential liens.

City Recorder will make every effort to attend these foreclosure sales in order to let bidders know of city liens which are on file in city hall which is what the city ordinance states, and the CR will give a list to the Sheriff’s office of properties with liens so that he can state at the foreclosure sales that the city may have a lien on this property for unpaid services.

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Council agreed unanimously to allow Mr. Rutherford to make payments arrangements with the city recorder to pay the utility liens on the two residences that he purchased.

Herb Winters – Wheeler SWCD

Mr. Winters reported to the council that the Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District has acquired funding of about \$240,000 that is to be spent on planning for the whole lower John Day Basin. About \$190,000 of this money is from the Water Resources Department and they are concerned about water quantity and quality with an emphasis on cities.

Mr. Winters stated that there will be a focus on the Butte Creek Water Shed which has an issue with juniper encroachment which is a big water user. Some of the planning ideas at this point are juniper removal, irrigation efficiency, reservoirs in the uplands of the watershed and re-seeding the fields that have been overgrown with medusa head and are not absorbing the rainfall.

Mr. Winters requested a letter of support from the city and a wish list as to what infrastructure the city needs.

Mr. Potter stated that the city needs to concentrate on another water source, repairs to existing reservoirs and more water storage.

Terry Lyn Ignowski – Wheeler County Emergency Management

Wheeler County Sheriff's Office has joined with Gilliam, Sherman and Jefferson Counties to go in with Frontier 911 for an Emergency Alert System. This Emergency Alert System will allow for better coverage for Wheeler County and will also be able to contact individuals by phone.

There will be a website where individuals will be able to go in and register themselves. Individuals will be able to choose how they wish to be contacted in case of an emergency and what kind of alerts they want to receive.

Employee Review

Employee evaluations will be conducted this month and from the evaluations determine merit raise or COLA increase for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Appoint Budget Officer

Councilor Sperry moved to appoint City Recorder Teresa Hunt as the Budget Officer. Councilor Mountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Audit Contract from Oster Professional Group

Councilor Moore moved to accept the Audit Contract from Oster Professional Group for the 2016-16 fiscal year audit. Councilor Mountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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STAFF REPORTS

Deputy Boyd reported that Waste Management in Arlington has agreed to allow us to dump 30 tons of garbage for free. Some of the residents that had received notices have started cleaning up their properties.

Deputy Boyd has contacted two different places that take abandoned/inoperable vehicles, but they are only paying \$15.00 per vehicle delivered to them. So the best option would be to locate somewhere that the vehicles could be stored until you had enough for a truck to come in and get a load at a time and it is viable to actually get rid of them.

Deputy Boyd also stated that on August 21, 2017 there will be a solar eclipse and that Wheeler County, in particular the Painted Hills over by Mitchell is the best place to watch the eclipse. There will be a large influx of people to the county for a couple of days.

Teresa Hunt stated that the Library in Seaside has an outside book drop that they are selling and would like to have permission from the council to try and purchase it for our library.

Council agreed unanimously for Ms. Hunt to try and purchase the book drop.

Mr. Potter reported that he had attended the water/wastewater training at Sunriver last week and that he had also visited with Brad with Anderson and Perry to see where they were on the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Potter also stated that a grant had been applied for through FEMA for the fire department. This grant will include all three cities in Wheeler County and Fossil would be the "Host" city.

Mayor/Council

Mayor MacInnes stated that the Ambulance service has 3 regular EMT's and they are all volunteers and that the ambulance is catching the overflow from the clinic for the clinic not being available after hours.

Mayor MacInnes has asked the clinic and Haven House to develop a list of volunteers that would be available to drive the non-emergencies to the hospital.

Many of these calls are not emergency's. We have received calls for people who just need transported. We need some help here, for someone to drive these non-emergency people, so that the ambulance can still be here in the city and available for an emergency.

Mayor MacInnes is asking for volunteers from the community to help drive these non-emergency people to Madras or The Dalles.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Carol MacInnes, Mayor

Teresa Hunt, City Recorder