

**Fossil City Council Meeting
Jeanne E Burch Building
March 11, 2014**

Mayor Lorts called the meeting to order at 7pm

Council present: Jack Lorts, Tom McNeill and Angi Humphreys

Staff present: Teresa Hunt, William Potter

Community present: Sherian Asher, Roger Morehead, Ree Ann Strepp, Mary Mountain, Linda Philbrick, Peggy Williams, Dan Loftis, Brenda Snow, Christine Smith, Paula Rosch owner of Garden Planning Services, LLC; John Moore, Barb Sitton, Alena Brown, Sally Potter, Berry (Joe) and Rhonda Morrow.

Pledge

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to approve the minutes from the February meeting as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Angi Humphreys moved, Tom McNeill seconded: to approve the payment of the January bills as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to approve the payment of the February bills as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPOINT 2 COUNCILORS

The council received letters of interest for the two vacant council positions from Mary Mountain and Jonathan Moore.

Mayor Lorts stated that both of the vacant council positions #3 and #4, have 3 years left on the term, so the end of terms will be the end December 2016.

The letters of interest were read and then the council asked questions of Ms. Mountain and Mr. Moore.

Angi Humphreys moved, Tom McNeill second: to accept Mary Mountain and Jonathan Moore as candidates for the two vacant council positions. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to appoint Mary Mountain to Council Position #3. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Mountain was given the Oath of Office and seated at the council table.

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to appoint Jonathan Moore to Council Position #4. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Moore was given the Oath of Office and seated at the council table.

Mayor Lorts opened the floor for Community Issues and Concerns, there being none the council moved on to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Humphreys stated that there was a meeting for the Historical Preservation Landmark Committee scheduled for next Tuesday the 18th at 4:00pm at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Loftis presented to the council and members of the community a power point presentation of an idea for developing the residential ground that sits just south of the Industrial Park commonly known as "Fossil Heights".

Mr. Loftis proposes to place a Bed and Breakfast in this newly developed community which would address some of the concern of limited places to stay here in Fossil to keep tourist here for a day or two, rather than folks coming here to explore and then not being able to find a place to stay and so they move on to another community when if they could find somewhere to stay the night they might stay around for a day or two and spend money here at our businesses.

Mr. Loftis would like to:

- 1) strategically place each residence on the site so that each residence will be able to experience the natural world around them;
- 2) limit the residential footprint and blend each residence into an enhanced eco-system while providing the resident with the natural beauty which has attracted visitors for more than a century;
- 3) minimize the non-pervious surfaces to the main arterials; and
- 4) Establish nature friendly environments to connect the residences of the neighborhood that attract the birds, animals and other living creatures providing great interaction between owners, neighbors and nature.

The Council received an offer from Painted Hills Natural Beef for Lot #15 which is the lot just south of the lot that PHNB now owns and has their office on.

PHNB offered \$10,000 for Lot # 15.

The council appreciates the interest from PHNB for the lot, and after discussion counter offer Lot #15 to PHNB for \$16,000.

A letter with the counter offer will be drafted and sent to PHNB.

STAFF REPORTS

Teresa presented the Engagement Letter from Oster Professional Group, CPA's for the 2014 Audit for the City of Fossil. Oster Professional Group propose to do the audit for a total of \$10,250, this amount is unchanged from last year.

Mary Mountain moved, Tom McNeill seconded: to contract with Oster Professional Group to do the 2014 Audit for the City of Fossil. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

William Potter presented the council with a picture of the proposed logo for the sides of the public works pickup and the logo's for the fire department vehicles.

The council unanimously approved the logo's.

Mr. Potter also stated that the city water has been murky for the last month, but the water has been tested and is perfectly safe to drink. Test results are at city hall if anyone ever wants to look at them.

Mr. Potter reported to the council that Kendall Derby still has logs, lumber and vehicles on the street in the Industrial Park and on some of the other lots. It is impossible to go to the end of the cul-de-sac in the Industrial Park and turn around because of Mr. Derby's items completely congesting that area.

The concern is that damage is going to be done to the pavement from the logs and equipment and Mr. Derby has also fenced in the Fire Lane and the Utility Easement Lane that runs from the cul-de-sac up to Eight Street. It is also impossible for the public works to be able to contain the weeds along the street because of Mr. Derby's items being stacked and parked all over.

Mr. Potter has tried to talk to Mr. Derby about this issue before, but Mr. Derby has not complied with the request to keep his property on his property.

This Fire Lane has to be kept open for exactly that, a "Fire Lane" exit or access to the residential ground that sits south of the Industrial Park.

Mayor Lorts and Councilor McNeill will go and talk to Mr. Derby and explain the situation and that he will need to contain his items on the lot that he owns and not be spilling over onto the pavement, the "fire lane" nor any of the other lots.

Mr. Potter also reported that the volunteer fire department is continuing training and the Spokane Fire Department and the Antelope Volunteer Fire Department are donating some gear that is needed.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

Councilor Humphreys stated that a work session needs to be held to discuss the options that was suggested by the City Attorney to deal with Ordinance Enforcement. A work session was schedule for Thursday March 27th at 5pm at City Hall.

The council also requested the ad to go to the Times Journal for the Parks Maintenance position.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Lorts, Mayor

Teresa Hunt, City Recorder