

CITY OF FOSSIL
COUNCIL MEETING
FAMILY SERVICES BUILDING
MARCH 12, 2013

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

Council present: Jack Lorts, Angi Humphreys, Tom McNeill, Sarah Conaway and Anne Mitchell

Staff present: Teresa Hunt, Bill Potter

Community present: Christine Smith, Larry Kennedy, Alisha Solem, JT & Susan Wimer, Sally Potter, Donna Kavanaugh, Bill MacInnes, Sr., John and Midge Geer, Marybeth Jaeger, Melanie Robinson and Karen Masshoff.

Tom McNeill moved, Sarah Conaway seconded: to approve the minutes from the February meeting as written with a spelling correction. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS

Bill MacInnes stated that certain individual properties in the City of Fossil have fallen into very poor condition with the accumulation of household garbage accumulating in the yards and overflowing from garages and sheds on the properties; abandoned/inoperable vehicles overflowing properties, overgrown vegetation, etc..

Mr. MacInnes made the statements but was speaking for a large majority of the community who would like to see something done about these issues.

These issues are not only an eye sore, but also a health issue with the rats and mice accumulating in the vehicles and garbage and rodents carry disease.

Then we have at least two individuals who are “junkies” or “scrappers”; and these individuals accumulate junk that is overflowing their yards out into the city right-of-ways and are not only an eye sore but also a safety issue for other drivers and an environmental hazard from the oils and other fluids in the vehicles that are dismantled, and they are operating their scrapping business in residential areas.

The general consensus is that the “scrappers” need to find somewhere to do their “business” that is not in a residential area which means it would have to be outside of the city limits due to no commercial property being available.

The Council will look into these issues and start issuing notices to these individuals along with notices to residents who have items on the city right-of-ways.

Councilor Conaway stated that she is working on having a city wide clean up day scheduled for April 26 & 27th. Yard debris that is burnable will be able to be taken to the dump and a dumpster from Waste Management will be available for other items. This dumpster is not for household garbage.

The Fossil Community Action Group stated that they are working on a “adopt a block” program. The idea is for residents to take pride in the block they live on and to help keep it cleaned up and respectable.

Christine Smith stated that OPLI will have an open house in April and will be opening in May.

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Ms. Smith also stated that she would be offering "Banner Ads" for local merchants on the Fossil website for a nominal fee.

At the February Council meeting, Councilor Conaway stated that the City of Fossil should have a yearly business license fee that every business in town would pay. This includes the home based businesses, peddlers and the shuttle service businesses.

There were at least seven (7) different business owners at this meeting that were opposed to a yearly business license fee.

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to not move forward on instituting a yearly business license fee. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote; Sarah Conaway "nay", Tom McNeill "aye", Anne Mitchell "aye", and Angi Humphreys "aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Museum

Councilor Conaway met with Jerry Healy of Columbia Basin Electric to do an Energy Assessment at the Museum to try and find a cheaper alternative heat source.

NEW BUSINESS

Tourism Kiosk

Anne Mitchell moved, Sarah Conaway seconded: to place the Tourism Kiosk at the intersection of Broadway and Main Streets, next to the Fossil Kiosk that is already there.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Tom McNeill moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to adopt the agreement between ODOT and the City for Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Staff Reports

Ms. Hunt reported that Judy Fessler has three of the six garbage cans painted and stenciled and ready to place and that so far 72 dogs have been registered at city hall.

Mr. Potter reported that as he has time he has been cleaning up the debris that had been dumped at the Industrial Park so that vegetation maintenance will be easier to accomplish in the future.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

Sarah Conaway moved, Anne Mitchell seconded: to increase Mr. Potter's salary by \$200.00 per month for enforcing the Nuisance and Dog Ordinances. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Potter was also authorized to purchase a dog catching noose stick.

Mayor Lorts reported that he spent the day at the State Capitol for City Hall Day on February 27th.

Mayor Lorts also reported that on Tuesday March 5th he held his first "Coffee with the Mayor".

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Mutual agreement by all councilors that the sign at the Focal Point at the intersection of First and Main Streets needs to be updated.

Councilor Humphreys stated that the city needed to have an "Appreciation" barbeque for all of the volunteers in the community.

Councilor Conaway stated she would like to have Waite Street between "A" Street and "B" Street improved with base rock and gravel.

Councilor Conaway also reported that the culvert at the bottom of the dump hill needs to be extended so that the street is wider at that point.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Jack Lorts, Mayor

Teresa Hunt, City Recorder