

**CITY OF FOSSIL
COUNCIL MEETING
JEANNE E BURCH BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

Mayor Lorts called the meeting to order at 7pm

Council present: Tom McNeill, Jack Lorts, Sarah Conaway and Judy Fessler

Absent: Angi Humphreys

Staff present: Teresa Hunt, William Potter

Community present: Roger Morehead, Sherian Asher, Lee Bouchard, Marilyn Garcia, Linda Dunn, Gene Mortimore, Christine Smith, Sally Potter, Anne Mitchell and Jon Fessler.

Tom McNeill moved, Sarah Conaway seconded: to approve the minutes from the August meeting as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS

Gene Mortimore presented \$955 to the council for the Fossil Volunteer Ambulance Service from ABATE. ABATE has been coming to Wheeler County for 36 years.

Christine Smith did a presentation to the council on the City of Fossil website.

Christine has been working on developing the city website and the council and audience made a few suggestions on what they would like to see on the website.

Ms. Smith is developing the website for free.

Lee Bouchard discussed the Paleo Lands Center.

The Paleo Lands Center here in Fossil offers educational materials of our Natural History. They provide information to learn more about how our planet was formed and early prehistorical life going back millions of years throughout the John Day River Basin.

Sherian Asher reminded everyone of the City Wide Yard Sale this Saturday the 14th and also that the Senior Meal Site has their monthly meeting the last Friday of the month starting at 11am at the Jeanne E Burch Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Museum

Marilyn Garcia asked the council if they wanted to have the water turned off to the upstairs of the Museum for the winter. The upstairs would not require heating if the water was off for the winter, but, in the past when the water has been shut off and then turned back on there have been issues with leaks starting because the gaskets in the old lines are dry.

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Mr. Potter will check into this issue and advise the council at the next meeting as to his recommendations.

Historic Preservation Landmark Commission

Bob Cramer is overseeing the restoration work at the Grade School Gym. The old asbestos siding has been removed and the lead paint removed. The existing old siding has been painted and looks fantastic. The new windows for the gym should be arriving around the 23rd of September and will need to be installed.

Shuttle Service Parking Issues

The council has met with the Shuttle Service owners and tried to come up with an alternative place for them to park the vehicles so they would not be on the city right-of-ways causing congestion issues and also so they would not be parked on private property in residential areas.

The council had offered a lot at the Industrial Park for parking the cars for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per day per vehicle. The Shuttle Service owners refused this offer.

Judy Fessler moved, Sarah Conaway seconded: to send letters to the Shuttle Service owners stating that: “the council offered you an alternative for parking your cars at the Industrial Park for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per day per vehicle and you declined. You will not be allowed to park the shuttle vehicles on the city right-of-ways because of the congestion and safety issues it causes. In addition you will not be allowed to park shuttle vehicles on private property in residential zoned areas as this in violation of our Zoning Ordinance.” Motion carried by 2 to 1 vote. Judy voting “aye”; Sarah voting “aye”; Tom voting “nay”.

Other Business

A Town Hall Meeting will be held Tuesday September 24th at the Jeanne E Burch building at 7pm. Jessica Bates will be the facilitator for this town hall.

Surveys are due in to City Hall by Friday September 20th.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of Ordinance No. 442: An Ordinance Establishing a Transient Lodging Tax in the City of Fossil.

Ann Mitchell states that she is not in favor of this lodging tax ordinance as this would be a hardship on her business at the Fossil Motel at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Potter requests to take September 30th thru October 6th off for vacation.

The Council unanimously approved this vacation time for Mr. Potter.

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Mr. Potter also reported that he has received two quotes on a replacement vehicle for the 1999 Chevy pickup that we now use for the Public Works vehicle. He is waiting for one more quote before proceeding with council approval on one of the vehicles.

We have been awarded a \$16,000 dollar grant from Homeland Security which will be retained by Oregon Emergency Management to develop an Emergency Operations Plan for Fossil.

The hydrant by clinic will be going in on Friday. This hydrant is for the purpose of hosing down the Life Flight landing pad prior to the helicopter needing to land.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

Mayor Lorts reminded everyone that Senator Merkley will be here in Fossil this Saturday the 14th at the Jeanne E Burch Building at 12:30pm for a meet and greet and then from 1 to 2:30pm for a town hall.

Councilor Fessler reports that the Walking Tour Brochure has gone to press. The Walking Tour Brochure was made possible by a grant from the Cultural Heritage Coalition.

Councilor Fessler also stated that she had been in touch with Windermere Realty in The Dalles to discuss marketing of the Industrial Park.

Councilor McNeill thanks Bill for putting up the speed signs on Main and First Streets.

Councilor Conaway stated that City Hall is need of an updated computer. The computer now in use is about nine years old and having issues which she witnessed first hand when in the office the other day.

Council directed the City Recorder to look into purchasing a new computer and having this information at the next council meeting.

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

Jack Lorts, Mayor

Teresa Hunt, City Recorder