

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

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

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

Staff present: Teresa Hunt, Bill Potter

Community present: Donna Kavanaugh, Bobbi Jo Medlock, Sherian Asher, Roger Morehead, Karen Masshoff, Sally Potter, Jon Fessler, Anne Mitchell, Trevor Humphreys, June Rollins and Christine Smith.

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

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

## **COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS**

### **BOBBI JO MEDLOCK**

Ms. Medlock proposed to the council to rent or lease the old dump site in order to park her shuttle vehicles so that they are not on the street right-of-ways.

The old dump site is located just north of the County Transfer Station.

A contract will be written and reviewed by the city attorney and then presented to Ms. Medlock. The contract will address liability issues and vegetation control on the property for fire suppression.

### **ANNE MITCHELL – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Would like to put together a group of 20 or so people from each of the 3 communities in the County and develop a 2 year Strategic Plan for Wheeler County.

Ms. Mitchell would like to schedule a preliminary meeting the third week of January, and have 1 or 2 meetings for per month for 6 months to put together a plan.

Judy Fessler will represent Fossil with possibly Angi Humphreys also being involved.

### **CHRISTINE SMITH**

Ms. Smith apologized to the council for a lack of communication on her part with the council on the website that she is developing for the City free of charge.

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In 2011, Christine volunteered to take on the development and maintenance of the neglected City of Fossil website. Her offer was to design a simple site that would give the council and city management a web presence with contact information. A basic 3 page site with a brief history, city contact information, council meeting minutes and city ordinances. This would only require quick monthly updates. This site would be hosted on Ms. Smith's business hosting plan for no charge to the city.

Ms. Smith has been asked and at times she volunteered to make additions that were outside of her original agreement. As a result the site became more and more time consuming and expectations of timely updates went unmet causing frustration on both sides.

Recently it was requested that the site login information be given to Teresa so that she can make updates. Since the site is hosted on Ms. Smith's business site there will be some modifications that need to be made before that can happen. With modifications will come a moderate annual hosting fee of \$48.

Ms. Smith believes it is also prudent that she and Teresa sit down to create a reasonable scope of work for the website design and maintenance that will meet expectations and alleviate frustrations all around.

Ms. Smith and Teresa will meet and outline a scope of work for the website and present it to the council in the near future.

Ms. Smith gave the council a list that states the location and contact person for each of the planters that are located in the downtown area. This list also states which of the planters belong to the Fossil Community Action Group and which ones are privately owned.

Ms. Smith also presented a letter to Teresa to distribute to the council for them to read after the meeting.

**ROGER MOREHEAD**

Mr. Morehead stated he had two questions for the council, and that he did not want comments at this time, just for the council to think about these two questions.

- 1) What have the members of the council done to improve the quality of live for every man, women and child in the City of Fossil?
- 2) Next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for the Wheeler County Fair – What is the Council going to do to fix the Third Street entrance to the Fairgrounds?

Sunday December the 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm will be the Pine Creek School House tree lighting ceremony. There will be cookies and hot cider also.

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There will also be a Christmas Dinner at 1pm on Christmas Day at the Kountry Kafe. Turkey and ham will be provided by June, Painted Hills Natural Beef will be providing roast beef and the rest of the meal will be potluck. Everyone is welcome and there will be movies in the back room for the kids.

June Rollins stated that she wanted to set the record straight about a couple things: number one, She is the one circulating the recall petition for Judy Fessler and Sarah Conaway, **NOT** Candy Thornton or Christine Smith or anyone else, just her; and two, the petition has never been out on the counter June keeps the petition in her bag and approaches people about signing it.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **LIBRARY BOARD**

The council requests that at least twice a year that the Library Board give a report to the council. The report can be in writing and given to Teresa to present to the council.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION LANDMARK COMMISSION**

A meeting is to be scheduled in January.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **OLCC LICENSE RENEWALS**

Sarah Conaway moved, Angi Humphreys seconded: to approve the OLCC license renewals for RJ's Restaurant, the Fossil Mercantile and the Fossil Hardware Store. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Potter stated that the new city pickup should be arriving around the end of the month.

## **MAYOR/COUNCIL**

Councilor Humphreys reported that the senior class will be out singing Christmas Carols on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm at the High School. Anyone that would like to join the senior class to go caroling is welcome.

Councilor Fessler presented a draft instruction sheet for the contest to develop a logo for the City of Fossil. Council will review and make recommendations if there are any.

Councilor Fessler has also been in contact with a realtor out of Hood River for marketing of the Industrial Park.

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Councilor Fessler reported that the Historic Walking Brochure has been distributed around the city and she hopes to get some to Spray and Mitchell for distribution also.

Councilor Fessler requested that the council make the property owners at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets that has the Espresso Stand move it as it is sitting on the city right-of-way.

The property that the Espresso Stand is connected to is for sale and Councilor Fessler wants a contingency in the sale to state that the Espresso Stand has to be moved out of the right-of-way.

The council directed the City Recorder to send a letter to the property owner notifying them that the Espresso Stand needs to be removed from the right-of-way.

Councilor Conaway reported that she had been at the County Court meeting and that the contract between Jim Stephan and the County was approved. This contract is for Jim to have his scrapping items stored at the County Transfer Site and therefore can remove the items from his property that is zoned residential.

Councilor Conaway stated that there is a propane tank located at the back of the Pocket Park and that this propane tank is on city property. This tank supplies the restaurant that is now called Kountry Kafe.

Numerous people stated that this tank has been there for years and actually clear back to when Chica McKay owned the restaurant.

Council instructed Teresa to look into this issue and see if there was an agreement at some point with the city for the propane tank to sit on its property.

Councilor Conaway also made the statement that there seems to be a lot of disdain towards the council from the community for trying to enforce ordinances. So do we as a council draft an ordinance to repeal all ordinances if we are not going to enforce them?

Councilor McNeill stated: "I would like to say something about the ordinances we are working on right now about business in a residential area. These ordinances are not rules, they are not laws, they are not regulations; they are guidelines that we try to follow the best we can, but I am not willing to tell those people that they cannot have a business in a residential area when they might leave town and not spend money in this town. I am just not going to, you have not convinced me and I am not going to tell them they cannot have a business in a residential area". A tentative work session for ordinance enforcement is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Jack Lorts, Mayor

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Teresa Hunt, City Recorder