

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JEANNE E. BURCH BUILDING
October 9, 2018

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

Council Present: Carol MacInnes, Jerry Beckham, Julie Knox-Lyon, Melanie Sperry, Cindy Burlingame
Staff Present: Teresa Aldrich

Community Present: Chris Jones, Colleen Jones, Anne Mitchell, Mike Smith, Cathy Goldsmith, Elaine Bray, Steve Bray

Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2018 council meeting. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilor Beckham moved to approve the September 11, 2018 to October 9, 2018 bills as presented. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried, with Councilor Burlingame abstaining and declaring a conflict of interest.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor MacInnes ready a letter from the Fossil Museum. The Museum is closed for the winter, but will continue to offer tours upon request. Roy Carlson has made the necessary repairs on the old outhouse at the Pine creek School. The plan is to continue to work on updating the museum, sheep herders wagon and school house this winter.

Mayor MacInnes read a thank you note from the Senior Meal site, expressing thanks for the volunteer plaque presented to the site for their service to our community. Council Beckham attended the senior meal on September 26 and presented the plaque.

OLD BUSINESS

Anderson Perry

The Mayor and council discussed if we had heard any news from Brad Baird regarding the One Stop funding meeting in Salem. Council requested Teresa follow up with Brad and check on the progress.

Butte Creek Studios

Teresa reported that the computer maintenance contract has been received back from Paul Sumner. Paul requested a few minor changes and had no issue with the city (on behalf of the library) enter into the computer maintenance contract with Butte Creek Studios. Butte Creek Studios made the changes and the contract is ready for signatures. Councilor Burlingame move to accept the computer

maintenance contract with Butte Creek Studios. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Wheeler County Economic Development

Tami Stockton was unable to attend the meeting this evening and had asked Teresa to give a brief update. All the cities in Wheeler County have signed the MOU agreement and a kick off meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, October 10 at the Jeanne Burch Building. Teresa will be attending the meeting in Bill Potters absence. Councilor Burlingame expressed concern about not knowing about the meeting as she is on the planning commission. In the future Councilor Burlingame will be included in all the correspondence regarding these meetings.

City Property

Currently Paul Sumner is working on gathering all the documents needed for a presentation at City Council for the plans for the Steiwer Property. There is also a survey scheduled for November. Paul is working on an intergovernmental agreement between the city and the fairboard for use of the property for the week of fair and rodeo. The Mayor also said that the fair and rodeo will continue in the same manner as years past and the fairgrounds will still be available for the people to use throughout the year.

Employee Cell Phones

Teresa reported that Bill had done some research on the plans available for two city cell phones with Verizon. Teresa presented some costs to the council and asked the council how they would like to proceed. The Mayor started a discussion regarding the data, making sure Bill has enough to perform his duties. It was decided by council to purchased the phones outright and avoid monthly installments.

Thrift Store

Teresa reported that she spoke with Debby Woody in regards to her request for a thrift store in a residential area. Debby said she is no longer pursuing this and thanked the council for their time and consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Frontier Telenet- Mike Smith

Mike Smith gave an overview of Frontier Telenet. Frontier Telenet is owned by Wheeler, Sherman and Gilliam counties and is the "communication department" for the three counties. Frontier Telenet has been providing communications for fire, police, ambulance for the last 17 years. Mike also explained the forethought seventeen years ago from the counties to add internet to the communications. Seventeen years ago, the internet was so new and no one knew where it would be going. Currently, Frontier Telenet provides internet to the schools in the three counties. Frontier Telenet provides bandwidth to other business so that they can provide internet to customers. Mike explained that it is always a struggle to find ISP companies to provide internet to rural communities. All three counties have made huge strides over the last few years with fiber projects. Mike explained that there is plenty of bandwidth available to provide better internet to the communities, but the struggle remains with

getting the ISP companies to pass it down the line. Frontier Telenet has been trying to encourage the ISP companies to get the faster speeds to customers with incentives but still the struggle remains. Mike did acknowledge that there are challenges to the ISP companies to provide high speed internet to rural areas. There was a discussion on the problem's city hall has been experiencing with their current internet provider and the lack of customer service they have received. Mike said that Frontier Telenet has been contacted by Judge Morley to provide internet to all the City Halls. Mike explained they are working with a company who is willing to start in Fossil with a trial hybrid internet service. Mike said they gave the current provider a deadline, 90 days, to switch over to their equipment to provide faster internet. They are now finally getting a reaction from the ISP companies. The Mayor thanked Mike for the update and asked what can they do for the city right now. Currently City Hall is not receiving the internet speeds, solutions or customer service needed from the current provider. Mayor MacInnes explained that Frontier Telenet provided a faster internet service to Wright Chevrolet which is required for the business to operate efficiently and reported that it is working great. Mike said Frontier Telenet is currently working with Day Wireless to get internet service to city hall within approximately 30 days. Council discussed entering into an agreement with Frontier Telenet to place equipment on city hall and provide internet to city hall. Council agreed to enter into an agreement with Frontier Telenet after Paul Sumner reviews the agreement and approves the agreement. Councilor Sperry moved to enter into the agreement upon pending approval from Paul Sumner with Frontier Telenet, Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Rural Development Initiative, Inc

Anne Mitchell started by introducing herself and her role in Rural Development Initiative. She is currently in charge of a program called First Impression. The First Impressions Program provides a community with an objective assessment of its downtown's true first impression to newcomers or visitors. The knowledge gained from the assessment can be used as catalyst for positive and effective community involvement, action, and change. Anne explained that she currently has a \$15,000 grant for the program and wanted to offer it to Fossil. The program is a 4-6-month project, they come into the communities and make an assessment and offer opportunities for collaboration and improvement. The program pairs the city with another city and gathers volunteers from each community, trains them to make the assessments. After the community assessments are made, Anne evaluates the information and has a community meeting with the program findings, priority projects, etc. After the program is completed it gives the city a report to find grant funding to complete some of the project findings. Anne explained she has money to do this project in 2018 and 2019 and asked the council to consider participating in either year. There is a 10% cash match (\$750) to participate, some of the match can be in kind. Council Knox-Lyon asked Anne what other cities has she completed this program and what types of improvements were made. She had worked more on the other side of the mountain, but has completed this program in Dayville. In Dayville the city worked on empty store fronts, signage, way finding and customer service training. She is hoping to pair Fossil with Arlington. Councilor Knox-Lyon asked Anne how they choose the people for the committee? Anne explained she recruits community leaders and business owners to be on the committee. The Mayor and Council discussed the program and the Mayor asked for a little more time and suggested a work session to discuss further. Anne asked the council to have a decision to her by next council meeting.

Scarecrow Contest

Mayor MacInnes explained that the owner of Shear Beauty Salon, Alex Logan has relocated her business to First Street. Shear Beauty has a real boutique feel and is having an Open House on October 13. Alex

also spoke with the Mayor about the businesses participating in a scarecrow contest and presented her with an entry form. Any and all businesses are encouraged to participate and a voting box will be placed at the Merc. Jen Homer is making a map of all the scarecrows, so get out and take a look and vote today! The Mayor asked Teresa to put the contest up on the website. Councilor Sperry commented that there are already scarecrows popping up around town. The Mayor added it is great to see community involvement.

REPORTS

Councilor Knox-Lyon: Dog registration no update. Library- Cathy Goldsmith reported she has turned in the grant application for the Ready to Read program for next summer. Fossil Library has made the first cut and is now waiting to see if the grant will be awarded. The library has received two more cartons of books from the Library of Congress. Again, special thanks to Senator Wyden. With school back in session, the teachers have been bringing their classes to tour the library. Thursday the 3-4 graders will be visiting the library, they all have library cards and will hopefully be checking out books. The library has new days of operation. They are now open Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Councilor Sperry said if Cathy gave her a flyer she would pass it along to the teachers, encouraging the students to visit the library on Fridays.

Councilor Sperry: Parks no update. Ambulance-Councilor Sperry reported that the State Oregon Health Authority presented the Fossil Volunteer Ambulance, Bill MacInnes, Jr., Carol MacInnes, and Mike Craig with a unit citation for the Memorial Day weekend accident. The award was in recognition of the department's organization and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Councilor Beckham: Sewer no updates.

Councilor Burlingame: Streets-A Street project is complete, looks great, quality work. Planning-reported there was a meeting to process a couple of applications. Mayor MacInnes asked if a permit was needed to alter the inside of a building. Council and community discussed the question, it was decided that if the footprint of the building does not change, you may not need a permit. But more research is needed.

Mayor MacInnes: Mayor reported that it is election time and reminded all present that political signs are allowed 30 days prior to the election and are to be removed within 30 days after the election. The Mayor informed everyone that she is accepting recommendations for Citizens of the Year. This was not done last year, but the Mayor would like to start this up again. She would like to present the award at the December meeting.

City Recorder: Teresa reported that the computer, copier, scanner updates have been completed at City Hall. The paperwork for reimbursement for the special city allotment for the paving of A street has been submitted and approved by ODOT. The volunteer thank you dinner on September 25 was attended by approximately 40 volunteers. City Hall has received positive feedback on the thank you dinner. Teresa will be attending the MOU kick off meeting tomorrow at the Burch Building.

Public Works: The burn ban has lifted and Bill has hung the amenities signs that Lee Bouchard had donated to the city.

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Steve Bray reminded all present that there are two vacancies for the planning commission. Please spread the word! Councilor Knox-Lyon requested the planning commission vacancies be posted on the website.

ADJOURNED 8:13 pm

Approved: _____

Carol E. MacInnes, Mayor

Teresa Aldrich, City Recorder