

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JEANNE E. BURCH BUILDING
November 13, 2018

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

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

Community Present: Anne Mitchell, Mollie Carter, Marsha Holly

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

Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2018 council meeting. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilor Beckham moved to approve the October 10, 2018 to November 13, 2018 bills as presented. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE None

OLD BUSINESS

Anderson Perry-Facilities Plan – One Stop Meeting

Council President Sperry, Councilor Knox-Lyon, Bill Potter and Brad Baird all attended the One Stop Funding meeting on November 13, 2018 at the Jeanne Burch Building in Fossil. Also, present were representatives from Business Oregon, DEQ and USDA. Councilor Sperry reported that the meeting was very interesting and went well, with all three agencies willing to loan the city money for the Wastewater Facilities Plan. At this time all three agencies will be putting offers together and emailing them within a couple of weeks. After the city receives the offers, council will evaluate the offers with the guidance of Brad Baird and choose the best option. Councilor Sperry reported that the wastewater rates will need to be increased again so the city can meet the loan margins, to receive funding at a lower interest rate. Councilor Knox-Lyon pointed out that USDA offers a 40-year loan and has grant money available, the loan also has no pre-payment penalties. Councilor Sperry explained that the loan process will take from 6 – 12 months. USDA accepts loan applications during the months of December, April and August. Councilor Knox-Lyon reported that Brad Baird went on recorded stating he did not agree with the PSU population study that reported negative growth for Fossil. Councilor Knox-Lyon stated that there were many positives that come out of the meeting, such as the agencies appreciated that we are being proactive and planning improvements before we are completely out of compliance. Mayor MacInnes asked the council to entertain a motion to raise the wastewater rates January 1, 2019. Councilor Sperry and Knox-Lyon both agreed that there needs to be an increase or there could be a problem with funding. There was a discussion of continuing to move forward with the project in hopes that when the citizens see the progress they will be more understanding about the increases. Councilor Sperry moved to raise the wastewater rates effective January 1, 2019 by \$2.00, Councilor Beckham seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote. The Mayor expressed that she is excited to move forward with the project and thanked both Councilor Sperry and Knox-Lyon for attending the meeting.

Rural Development Initiative, Inc – Anne Mitchell

Anne Mitchell was present and asked the council if they had made a decision to participate in the First Impressions Program. Anne also explained to the council, that funding has been extended to the beginning of March. If the council would like to participate, she would need to get started in December and hold a community meeting in January. She added that many surrounding communities have signed up, Arlington, Heppner, Maupin and Moro. Councilor Knox-Lyon moved that the city proceed with the First Impressions program with RDI. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Property

The Mayor gave an update on the city property, Steiwer Park. She spoke with Judge Morley, who reported the survey should be completed by the end of November. Once the survey is completed it will be added to the agreement that Paul Sumner has been working on and presented to council at the December meeting. Council will then decide what type of agreement they would like to present to the county. Councilor Sperry wanted to make sure the public knows the property, arena, etc. will still be open for the public to use, just the process to reserve will change.

Frontier Telenet

Teresa reported that she has followed up with Mike Smith regarding installing and the equipment agreement he spoke of at the October 9 council meeting. Mike Smith said we were on the schedule and he would get the city the paperwork. At the time of this meeting, nothing has been received or installed. There was then a discussion of the possibility of Columbia Basin bringing in fiber optics to their existing customers. The Mayor reported that Tom Wolf has been in contact with her and she has encouraged him to come and present at a council meeting.

Employee Cell Phones

Teresa reported that the new phones have not been purchased at this time. The office is working on it and hopes to get to Verizon in December.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer

The Mayor reported that the under sheriff is on board with providing the city with ordinance enforcement. Teresa has sent the under sheriff the contract that has been used in the past for him to read and sign. At this time the plan is, after the deputy's return from academy, they will be starting on the ordinance enforcement.

Senior Meal Site

The Mayor would like to thank the Senior Meal site for honoring the Veterans at the meal on November 7, 2018. It is very important to thank those who served and who are serving.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Results

The Mayor reported that Council Beckham, Councilor Sperry and Mayor MacInnes were all re-elected to their positions. Congratulations!

Scarecrow Contest Winners

The Mayor reported that she has been wanting to start a scarecrow contest for years and was very excited when Alex Logan of Shear Beauty Salon came to her with the idea. There were 22 entries this year, with first place going to Fossil Fill Up, second place Bank of Eastern Oregon and third place the Merc. There was a discussion on how grateful the council was to Alex Logan and Jen Homer for taking on this project! Some of the businesses in town would like to get start a business organization and the Mayor encouraged them, but asked them to come to council and share their ideas. After discussing the scarecrow contest, that led into the Christmas Lighting Contest. Council discussed that they will be putting on the Christmas Lighting Contest again this year, but with a few changes. After the wonderful participation at last years contest, council would like to add additional prizes. This year there will be a both commercial and residential contest, with first, second and third places. There will also be people's choice award, the ballot box will be placed at The Merc. Judging will be held December 21. Teresa will put up something on the city website, around town and in the Times Journal.

Annual Employee Reviews

The Mayor stated that it is time for the annual reviews for the two city employees, Teresa and Bill. Councilor Sperry and Councilor Knox-Lyon will be evaluating Teresa with Councilor Beckham and Councilor Burlingame evaluating Bill.

REPORTS

Councilor Knox-Lyon: Dog registration: Teresa has been working on organizing the dog registration, created a spreadsheet and is still encouraging residents to register their dog(s). Library update: Councilor Knox-Lyon reported that she has resigned as the library board president, but will still serve on the board. The new library board president is Mollie Carter, who was present at the council meeting. Kathy has applied for the 2019 ready to read grant and should hear back soon. Kathy has also started a ready to read program weekly at the library for children 0-4 years. Mollie Carter reported that she has taken her classes to visit the library along with some other teachers. Kathy is working very hard to make sure all the community can experience the library. The Mayor mentioned she liked the library announcements being shared on Facebook. The library will be selling raffle tickets for a basket full of reading goodies. Raffle tickets will be available at the library soon and also at the Fossil Holiday Bazaar.

Councilor Sperry: Parks no update. Ambulance: Councilor Sperry had received two letters. One from Carol MacInnes and one from Mike Craig. Councilor Sperry read both letters. Carol MacInnes stated she will be retiring from her position as EMT Chief as of December 30, 2018, but will remain on as ambulance coordinator for approximately a year or until someone has been trained. The letter from Mike Craig stated he will be retiring from the volunteer ambulance effective December 31, 2018. There was then a discussion of what a hug loss this will be for the community and ambulance. Bill Potter,

Susan Moore and Gretchen Ladd are still volunteer for the ambulance. Carol and Mike are planning a training for drivers and hoping to recruit current EMR's to volunteer. There were many thanks and a suggestion of a recognition reception for Carol and Mike in the next few months coming from people in attendance.

Councilor Beckham: Sewer no updates. Councilor Beckham reported that the Amateur Radio office will be moving. At this time, he does not know where they will move, but acknowledged that they do need a quieter space. Mayor MacInnes suggested that perhaps they could move to the vacant Century Tel building on First Street. The Mayor said she would suggest this to the undersheriff.

Councilor Burlingame: Streets, planning: Nothing to report, councilor absent this meeting.

Mayor MacInnes: The Mayor would like a holiday reception at the December meeting for all who attend. Please attend the Christmas Bazaar December 1 in Fossil at the Isobel Edwards Hall.

City Recorder: Teresa reported that the reimbursement from ODOT for the street paving project has been received. Teresa has also been working on being able to accept utility payments through our website with Govteller. Govteller is also synchronized with JayHawk our utility software, which is a positive. Teresa has also been working on refunding water deposits and will be taking a webinar on December 4 hosted by the IRS and SSA. Teresa will be on vacation December 11-19. Teresa asked the council to close city hall on December 24. Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to have the city hall closed on December 24, 2018. Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Works: Nothing to report, absent this meeting.

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Mollie Carter reported that the garbage can at the tennis courts is overflowing.

ADJOURNED 8:04 pm

Approved: _____

Carol E. MacInnes, Mayor

Teresa Aldrich, City Recorder