



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Irrigon City Council Meeting

April 8, 2008

7:00 PM

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Chuck Neumann called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Neumann. Roll was called; Councilors present were Ken Matlack, James Ray, Laura Clark, and Jack Johns. Councilor Bob Flournoy arrived at 7:20 p.m.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale; Public Works Director Keith White; Finance Officer Brandy Adams and Utility Billing Clerk Penny Moore were present.

In the audience: Brad Baird; Dave Wildman; Dennis Baker; Arnold Theisen; Martin Brown Jr.; Amy Sandy; Irene Fetsch; Richard & Eleanor Partridge.

2. Introductions & Announcements

City Manager Gerald Breazeale introduced Brad Baird and Dave Wildman from Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc. here to talk about the water improvement project bid award.

3. Water Improvement Project – Bid Tabulation and Award

Brad Baird gave an account of the bids for the water system improvement project; he stated an unusual amount of bidders, eleven in all. Mr. Baird explained the process and recommended award to a contractor. The available construction funds in the project budget are sufficient to allow award of the total base bid plus bid option A, which is the larger 1,500,00-gallon reservoir. A copy of the bid results were provided to the council members for review and consideration. The low bidder for the project was Swaggart Brothers, Inc. of Hermiston, Oregon.

Mr. Baird stated that Anderson-Perry have checked closely into the qualifications and experience of the Swaggart Brothers and see no reason why they would not be qualified to perform the work called for in the Contract Documents.

Councilor Ken Matlack asked about looking at a company with specific experience for a municipal entity. Mr. Baird stated that they have worked with many of the subcontractors that will be constructing the reservoir, pump stations, chlorination systems, electrical and system controls and they feel confident. There will be project reps on the job overseeing the pipe laying, building of the tower, etc.

The key is to stay on top of production. Councilor Laura Clark commented on the good reputation of the Swaggart Brothers.

Councilor James Ray made the motion to accept the bid of the Swaggart Brothers for \$2,939,888 subject to approval of Rural Development. Councilor Jack Johns seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

Mr. Baird continued to say that the entire project would take approximately one year, with emphasis on trying to get nitrate free water by summer.

4. Comments from Citizens not on the Agenda

Joe Theisen thanked the council members for the opportunity to service on the council. Mr. Theisen resigned April 1, 2008.

Councilor James Ray asked if Mr. Theisen would be willing to continue with presenting reports on the financials. The council was in consensus with Mr. Theisen continuing with the financial updates.

5. Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2008 Council Meeting

Mayor Chuck Neumann asked if the council had a chance to review the minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Laura Clark seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

6. Correspondence

There were letters of resignation from Councilor, Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Theisen; and Planning Commissioner, Secretary Linda Neumann prompted by the reporting requirement of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission as expressed in ORS 244.050. Planning Commissioner, Chairperson Glenna Hoffman and Planning Commissioner Tiffany La Hue submitted resignation letters also.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale requested the council to allow a single City or Planning official to sign off on zoning applications until new Planning Commission member(s) can be appointed. Councilor Ken Matlack made the motion to allow one signer from the City for zoning application. Councilor Laura Clark seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

Gerald Breazeale stated that council action was required to elect a new Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Neumann asked who was interested to service as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilors James Ray and Laura Clark acknowledged interest. Vote was taken for Councilor Clark. The vote was Councilor Jack Johns, no; Bob Flournoy, yes; James Ray, no; and Ken Matlack, no. Vote was taken for Councilor James Ray. The vote was Councilor Johns, yes; Councilor Matlack, yes, Councilor Flournoy, no; Councilor Clark, yes. James Ray was elected new Mayor Pro-Tem.

Other correspondence was from Umatilla Electric Cooperative in reference to payment of 12th and 730 lift station being withheld until credits are issued on the security lights on Wyoming Avenue. There was a reminder from Morrow County Emergency Management of May 5, 6 and 7 Table Top Exercise (TTX).

Also a memo from the Oregon Department of Energy regarding the ruling for the Business Energy Tax Credit.

7. Public Hearing

Mayor Chuck Neumann opened the public hearing for Resolution No. 08-06, A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for FY 2007-3008.

There was discussion of the budget, some funds were drawn down excessively and others were not drawn down enough. The appropriate adjustments have been made to better reflect their individual cash positions. The reserve fund has a surplus at this time. Councilor James Ray commented on the fact that we are paying for personnel services that were not paid during the 2006-2007 year.

Mayor Chuck Neumann closed the public hearing.

8. Council action

Councilor James Ray made the motion to adopt the supplemental budget Resolution No. 08-06. Councilor Laura Clark seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

9. Proposal for Transient Room Tax – John Sebastian

John Sebastian addressed the council requesting a proposal for consideration to institute a transient room tax to help support future development of RV Parks, motels and hotels. There was a consensus of support from the council.

10. Appointment of Budget Committee Members

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that Finance Officer Brandy Adams had attended a workshop on Local Budget Law put on by the State of Oregon noting that we must appoint new members of the budget committee. By law, budget committee members not on the city council may only serve three years. Finance Officer Brandy Adam stated that most of our members have served that long. A list of applicants who have volunteered to serve were provided to the council and three applicants were in the audience; Eleanor Partridge, Martin Brown, and Dennis Baker. Applicants not present were Yvette Whitbeck, Roberta Hewitt, Marisol Valencia and Barb Huwe. Mr. Breazeale stated that the first budget meeting would be May 20, 2008.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to adopt the 2008-2009 Budget Committee Applicants. Councilor Jack Johns seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

11. Community Cleanup

At this time the voucher for the Cleanup Day was discussed. City limit customers will pick up a voucher at City Hall to go with their receipt of payment or post card bill to take to the Morrow County transfer station to dispose of materials. The voucher will allow a free of charge to dump at the station. The Morrow County personnel will be collecting the vouchers. The City will be charged. No hazardous waste, tires or batteries. Recycling bins are available for metals disposal.

12. Acceptance of the June 30, 2007 Audit Report

Audit reports were provided to the council members in their packet. City Manager Gerald Breazeale announced to the council members that we have made corrections and we are 100% in compliant.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to accept the audit report. Councilor James Ray seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

13. Required Filing of Statement of Economic Interest Forms

There was a brief discussion on Planning Commission and City Councilor members resigning due to the recent Oregon Revised Statutes Amendments. There was mention of the Planning Commission members not receiving the official forms as to date. The requirement is intrusive, invasive and unnecessary.

At this time City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated the need for a new signature card removing Joe Theisen and adding new signer. Jack Johns indicated that he was willing to be a signer. Mayor Pro-Tem James Ray made the motion to accept Joe Theisen's resignation. Councilor Ken Matlack seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

Councilor Ken Matlack made the motion to replace Joe Theisen as signer on the Irrigon accounts with Jack Johns. Mayor Pro-Tem James Ray seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

14. Report from the Morrow County Sheriff

There was a brief discussion on the amended contract between the City of Irrigon and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Councilor Ken Matlack explained how they arrived at the increase figure of \$3,102.58 and what was done to reduce the contract this year. The total contract is \$72,162.58 for the 2008-2009 period. City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that we have three options; stay with the contract, cut hours or have our own police force. Councilor Laura Clark made the motion to accept the amended contract amount of \$3,102.58. Councilor Jack Johns seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

15. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Keith White discussed the recent low bid for the recycle depot and how long the contract is in effect. The city has a grant to move the recycle depot before August 2008. There was a brief discussion on where to place the depot. The fence bid is \$50,000 and the grant is for \$75,000. After a brief discussion of a location Mayor Chuck Neumann stated that there needs to be another public hearing to hear from the residents.

Mr. White reported on the nitrates levels up from 6 to 7.9; however they are under 10 which is good. Mayor Chuck Neumann asked if there were any questions on the report from the Finance Officer. There were no questions.

Mayor Neumann asked if there were any questions on the report from the City Manager. There were no questions.

16. Accounts Payable

Mayor Neumann questioned the finance charge from the Morrow County Grain Growers of Lexington. The Mayor asked that this be looked into. Finance Officer Brandy Adams stated that she would call and find out the answer.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to pay the accounts payables. Councilor Laura Clark seconded the motion. Vote was taken, vote carried unanimously.

17. Additional Discussion

Mayor Chuck Neumann asked if new customers to the city could be informed of who is responsible for what with their septic tank. This would eliminate emergency pumping from an outside source that is not reimbursable to customers.

At this time Mayor Chuck Neumann handed out a letter of resignation to the council members and the representative from the East Oregonian which is effective as of April 9, 2008.

Adjournment was at 8:45 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date – April 22, 2008

If you would like to attend and need assistance, please call Irrigon City Hall at 1.541.922.3047 or TTY relay 1.800.735.2900

Mayor James Ray

Attest