



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Irrigon City Council Meeting

May 13, 2008

7:00 PM

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor James Ray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ray. Roll was called; Councilors present were Ken Matlack, Bob Flournoy, Jack Johns, Laura Clark, and Jesse Pena.

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

In the audience: Gary Propheter, Meredith DeHaven, Jennifer Smith, and Mildred Shade.

2. Comments from Citizens not on the Agenda – Max. 5 Minutes/person

Mayor James Ray gave a report on the April 24, 2008 Mayors/Manager meeting in Heppner regarding the tippage fees. After the Mayor/Managers meeting Mayor Ray went to the County budget committee board meeting. The county budget committee decided to split the \$500,000 among the Cities. The City Council will need to decide how to designate the funds which will be without restrictions.

Mayor Ray stated that the State of Oregon is taking the ethics law under review.

Citizen Jennifer Smith was inquiring about having a plant sale for the high school graduating class on the east end of the City Park. Mayor James Ray asked the Council if they were in consensus for the plant sale, all Councilor's were in agreement to allow the plant sale at the park.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2008 Council Meeting

There was one correction to be made to the minutes, page 3, number 11, paragraph 2, strike second *asked* in first sentence.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Councilor Laura Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence

GEODC memo was received to establish the Morrow County Advisory Committee. This committee advises on uses to disburse tippage fees. Each community is responsible for appointing one interested person.

Mayor James Ray noted that Joe Theisen and Bill Cooley were interested in being on the advisory committee. Councilor Bob Flournoy stated that this issue needs to be publicized in the newspaper and be placed on the agenda for the next meeting with persons of interest present. There was a consensus from the Council to table the issue until the next meeting, May 27, 2008.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that the correspondence from the State of Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit memo was informational only.

5. Revision of Bank Accounts - Designated Signers

City Manager Breazeale introduced Gary Propheter from the Bank of Eastern Oregon to talk about updating our current bank accounts. Mr. Propheter was recommending a money market account that would sweep funds in and out of the general account, which would become an analysis account, any time funds exceeded \$10,000 and sweep funds back into the general checking account when funds dropped below \$10,000. This would allow the city to net more profit and the transfer of funds would be automatic.

Councilor Laura Clark made the motion to accept the interest bearing money market account that would sweep funds to and from the general account. Councilor Ken Matlack seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated the need for one more councilor as a signer on the City bank accounts. At this time the signers are one staff member, Gerald Breazeale; and two councilors, James Ray and Jack Johns. Councilor Laura Clark offered to be an authorized signer.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to add Laura Clark as an authorized signer. Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Exploring Main Street Program

City Manager Gerald Breazeale announced that the City has been accepted into the Exploring Main Street Program and the City planned to take part in the program. There will be a workshop on May 30, 2008 in La Grande that Gerald Breazeale and Mayor James Ray will be attending. Councilor Laura Clark stated that she was interested in attending the workshop.

7. Veterans Memorial Monument

There was discussion on the wording of the front top of the memorial monument; comments from some of the council and audience did not like the words that were used. Councilor Bob Flournoy questioned the design of the flags on the monument. It was stated that the flags on the monument looked like they are cut out; however, City Manager Gerald Breazeale will contact Sandy Henry to found out how the monument in fact will look. It was established that the Oregon Veteran's Motor Cycle Association received the grant from the Oregon State

Parks. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is sponsoring this monument. The Veterans would like to dedicate the memorial monument during the Watermelon Festival July 26, 2008. It was noted that it would be nice to have Commander Robert Stein of the US Army Umatilla Chemical Depot to do the dedication.

Councilor Bob Flournoy made the motion to accept the memorial monument as proposed from the Veterans and War Memorials Grant Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Statement of Economic Interest Filing Requirements

Mayor James Ray stated that this letter from the Ethics Reform Review Team is an opportunity to send our input to the Ethic Committee and/or the Governor.

Councilor Bob Flournoy suggested that four times a year to fill out their forms are too extensive and also the reporting of relatives is unnecessary. Councilor Laura Clark stated that the elected officials are not paid. Councilor Ken Matlack stated that the State had overreacted and that the State could have hired an investigator when complaints of suspicious activity had come in. There was a consensus from the City Council for City Manager Gerald Breazeale to prepare comments from the City Council in a letter to the State.

9. Report from the Morrow County Sheriff

Councilor Ken Matlack stated that the new Code Enforcement Officer would be starting here at the end of May.

There was a brief discussion on the behavior of the kids at the Skate Park. Councilor Matlack suggested a way to supervise kids by having an ordinance that parents be responsible for them. There would be a warning first, then a possible ticket and fine for the kids and the parents also.

10. Staff Reports

- a) Report from the Public Works Director – Keith White commented on item D. of his report stating a moisture problem affecting the lift station “M”, which continues to have a moisture issue at this time. Public Works are in the process of fixing the problem.

Mr. White talked about purchasing a new truck with two different payment options; one would be a municipal lease which allows the City to keep money in the reserve account and make an annual payment, or an outright purchase. Mr. White will have purchase prices at the next meeting of the council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns had a concern on the playground that would be located next to the restrooms at the Skate Park, being next to the highway. Mr. White stated that the play area would have a four foot fence around it, with one way in and one way out to keep children secure in the park.

Councilor Bob Flournoy questioned the removal of the barriers next to the Skate Park on Division. Mr. White responded by saying that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are to remove the street, however if the street is not removed in a timely matter, jersey barriers could be put up in place of the orange barriers that are on Division Street now.

- b) Report from the Finance Officer – There were no questions.

- c) Report from the City Manager - City Manager Gerald Breazeale told the council about the visit from the high school students with teacher Heather Miller on a water field trip. Mr. Breazeale stated that it was a positive experience.

At this time Councilor Ken Matlack talked about community service and the work experience program, and his idea of having a weed eater being operated by community service persons to be used on the City's right of ways.

Councilor Matlack asked if the work crews from this program are paid by the City. Mr. White stated that Umatilla-Morrow County Corrections is paid through the City. Mr. White would be interested in Councilor Matlack's idea of the weed eater suggestion.

Councilor Laura Clark questioned the financial status and the budget report with the need to raise the sewer rate in the near future. Gerald Breazeale stated that there are 50 inactive accounts and if we had 60 more active accounts we would not have to raise sewer rates.

11. Accounts Payable

Gerald Breazeale answered the question from the previous meeting regarding why the Budget dollar figure and Year to date (YTD) balance is not on the Payroll approval report. Mr. Breazeale explained that those figures are liabilities and not expenses.

Councilor Laura Clark made the motion to accept and pay the payables. Councilor Ken Matlack seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Additional Discussion – There was no additional discussion.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Councilor Bob Flounoy made the motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns seconded the motion.

Next Regular Meeting Date – May 27, 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