



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Irrigon City Council Meeting

January 27, 2009

7:00 PM

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

In Mayor James Ray's absence Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns asked for everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Robert Flournoy, Ken Matlack, Eleanor Partridge and David Burns. Councilor Harold Poeling was not present.

Staff members present: City Manager Gerald Breazeale, Utility Billing Clerk Penny Moore and Public Works Director Keith White.

Citizens present: Dale Beamer, David Wood, Gloria Wood and Amy Sandy.

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

Amy Sandy addressed the council giving an update on Home Depot's donation for the children's park. Home Depot stated that the store would donate a sandbox, four picnic tables, six benches, seed and sod for the landscaping along with material for a barbecue area, installing a car port for cover. Ms Sandy announced that there would be a ground breaking ceremony scheduled for March 26, 2009. Ms Sandy stated that the Hermiston Home Depot along with the Portland and Washington stores were involved with vendors, volunteer's, schools and banks also contributing.

Ms Sandy asked permission to put up a sign stating Future Home of Irrigon Children's Park. Councilor Ken Matlack moved to allow a process sign. Councilor David Burns seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2008 Council Meeting

Councilor Eleanor Partridge moved to accept the minutes. Councilor David Burns seconded the motion. The motion to accept the December 16, 2008 minutes passed unanimously.

4. Correspondence

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that the correspondence from the Irrigon Junior-Senior High School was a request for sponsoring a baseball and/or a softball team which would include a banner to be hung on the outfield fence. The first year start up fee would be \$200 for one team and \$350 for both teams. There would be an annual renewal fee each year. There was a brief discussion on the city's policy of making cash donations. Keith White stated that in the past the city has helped out with lending equipment or doing jobs that did not take away from a business in town. Manager Breazeale suggested that a letter be drafted to state the city's support by loaning equipment or in-kind work. Councilor David Burns suggested that the school have old fashioned pop sales, candy sales, etc to earn money. Councilor Ken Matlack moved to draft a letter to the high school stating that the city would support mutual aid or in-kind exchange, but could not make a cash donation. Councilor Eleanor Partridge seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Breazeale stated that the correspondence from the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department notified the city that we were awarded \$618,770 for the wastewater fund (loan), plus \$100,000 for a local match to extend sewer main lines. The lines would run from N Main to First Street, down to Second, Third, Senior Center and the RV Park and S Fourth, involving a total of 23 homes.

5. Water Improvement Project – Partial Pay Request No. 8

a.) City Manager Gerald Breazeale reported that the amount due is \$52,068.03 for the reservoir which will bring the city current with the work performed last month. The reservoir which holds 1.5 million gallons is complete except for filling with water. Councilor Bob Flournoy moved to approve the partial payment to Swaggart Brothers. Councilor Ken Matlack seconded the motion. The motion to approve partial payment no.8 to the contractors passed unanimously.

b.) Manager Breazeale stated that Councilor David Burns asked to have the change order process on the agenda. The engineers are slow with getting change orders prepared and submitted in a timely manner. Manger Breazeale informed the engineers to have change orders submitted and delivered to city hall before the city council meetings for the council to approve before the extra work is initiated.

6. Purchase of Real Property – Lots 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23 Block 46 Irrigon

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that the title company needs a formal motion to purchase the lots on Seventh Street from Al and LaVelle Parlow giving the city manager authority to sign the purchase.

Councilor Bob Flournoy moved to authorize the city manager to sign the documents to purchase the lots from the Parlow's at the cost of \$18,427, including closing costs. Councilor Eleanor Partridge seconded the motion. The motion to authorize the city manager to sign documents to purchase lots 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and Block 46 in the City of Irrigon passed unanimously.

7. Downtown Planning Project

City Manager Gerald Breazeale reviewed the first public meeting for the Irrigon Downtown Planning Project, stating that approximately 30 people attended, and this project should be very helpful in setting the vision for Highway 730 and the new downtown. He was pleased with the turnout.

8. Small Cities Allotment Grant

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that Public Works Director Keith White was able to secure a grant of \$25,000 for improvements to the intersection of Washington Avenue and Twelfth Street.

Councilor Bob Flournoy moved to accept Special City Allotment agreement # 25,282. Councilor David Burns seconded the motion. The motion to accept Special City Allotment agreement # 25,282 passed unanimously.

9. Adoption of Qwest Settlement Agreement

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that this is for Qwest 's nonpayment of franchise fees collection. This will close the litigation that has been ongoing for several years.

Councilor Eleanor Partridge moved to accept the Qwest settlement. Councilor Bob Flournoy seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Qwest settlement passed unanimously.

10. Appointment of Morrow County Cities Representative to GEODC Board

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that after the Mayors/Managers meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009, Dave De Mayo, City Manager of Heppner volunteered to represent Morrow County Cities to the GEODC Board.

Councilor David Burns moved to accept Dave De Mayo to serve on the GEODC Board. Councilor Ken Matlack seconded the motion. The motion to accept Dave De Mayo to serve on the GEODC Board passed unanimously.

11. Report from the Morrow County Sheriff

Councilor Eleanor Partridge asked Sheriff Matlack what happened to the animals once they were picked up. Sheriff Matlack gave a brief description of the process once the animal is picked up. First, trying to locate the owner of the animal and return it to the home, if unable to find the owner of the animal, the animal is taken to pet rescue or if injured taken to the vet. If the animal is unlicensed, the owner will need to show proof of rabies vaccination and obtain a current pet license.

12. Staff Reports

a.) Keith White Public Works Director addressed the council for a bid for the recycle center and recommended the proposal for the low quote for the surface work of \$5,760. The low bid is from Wise Excavating in Irrigon.

Councilor David Burns moved to approve the low quote of \$5,760. Councilor Bob Flournoy seconded the motion. The motion to approve the low quote of \$5,760 passed unanimously.

Mr. White asked the council to approve the lowest proposal of \$17,699 for the standby generator. Councilor David Burns asked if there was money available for the generator, Mr. White stated that there was money in the sewer equipment reserve fund for the generator. The low bid is from Shelco Electric in Hermiston.

Councilor Bob Flourney moved to approve the lowest proposal of \$17,699. Councilor Eleanor Partridge seconded the motion. The motion to approve the lowest proposal of \$17,699 passed unanimously.

Mr. White stated to the council that a collapsed septic tank on West Oregon needs to be removed and replaced and to be back in operation in one working day to maintain sewer service. At this time the public works crew would not be able to complete the job in one day. Mr. White asked for the work to be done by Wise Excavating for the lowest bid of \$4,566.

Councilor Bob Flourney moved to approve for the lowest bid of \$4,566 to remove and install a septic tank on West Oregon Avenue. Councilor David Burns seconded the motion. The motion to approve the lowest bid of \$4,566 passed unanimously.

Councilor David Burns asked Keith White Public Works Director to report on the 2008 mileage report that was enclosed in the packet. Mr. White explained that the new report for ODOT has some changes in the unimproved line because this year alleyways were reported.

b.) City Manager Gerald Breazeale commented on the finance officer staff report regarding the adjusted water rates. Manager Breazeale stated that the increase in water rates could be attained by user fees (water rates) and/or property taxes or the combination of both. The water rates could also be raised an additional \$1.00 or \$2.00 a month on the base fee (minimum usage). This could be done in increments yearly at the council's discretion. Discussion regarding the relative merits of user fees versus property taxes resulted in council consensus to use water rates to meet expenses.

c.) There were no questions on the city manager's report.

13. Position Paper Regarding County Taxes of City Residents

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that at the Mayors/Managers meeting they asked not to present paper reports at the meeting. The discussion at the Mayors/Managers meeting January 22, 2009 centered on the need to work collaboratively and cooperatively with the Morrow County Commission. The hope is to have the commissioners think differently about city issues and to understand that the cities are part of Morrow County and people living in the cities are paying Morrow County taxes. This issue was tabled until the next city council meeting.

14. Accounts Payable

There was a discussion on the approval of the accounts payable after Councilor Bob Flourney stated the responsibility of approving the accounts payable. The charter states that the council accepts the approval and paying of the bills. There was a brief discussion for a finance committee. No decision was reached.

Councilor Ken Matlack moved to approve and pay the accounts payable bills. Councilor Bob Flourney seconded the motion. The motion to approve and pay the accounts payable bills passed unanimously.

15. Additional Discussion

Councilor David Burns stated that he had talked to the owner of Bakes regarding an ordinance to allow poker playing. There was a discussion on whether or not the city can adopt an ordinance to regulate what

business' to allow. City Manager Gerald Breazeale requested to table this issue until the next meeting after he talks with the city attorney. Councilor David Burns stated that this is a chance to promote business in Irrigon.

Councilor Ken Matlack asked that consideration of the upcoming budget be advised that the renewal contract for the Sheriff's Department would increase up to \$16,000.

Adjournment - There being no further business before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date – February 17, 2009

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