



Irrigon City Council Meeting

January 19, 2010

6:00 PM

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Ray called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Mayor Ray led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Council present: Ken Matlack, David Wood, Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns, Eleanor Partridge, Arnold (Joe) Theisen, and David Burns.

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

Audience Present: Maureen Anderson, Gloria Wood, Fern Hendrickson and Amy Sandy.

Comments from Citizens not on the Agenda

There were no comments from the audience.

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2009 Council Meeting

Mayor Ray asked if councilors had read the minutes.

It was moved by Councilor Eleanor Partridge and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns to accept the minutes as presented. Vote was taken by City Manager Gerald Breazeale. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Councilor David Burns reported on an e-mail he had received from Rebecca Sherman of the Oregon Department of Energy stating that he asked her to e-mail Manager Breazeale directly so Irrigon can get in line for any proposals and also the department of energy has a new energy trust of Oregon that offers up to \$3,000.00 in finance assistance for grant writing.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that the City of Umatilla has rescheduled the grand opening of their new city hall and public library for March 20, 2010 and he stated that attendance from the council for this celebration would be appreciated.

A letter from the Knight's Pride Booster Club of the Irrigon Junior Senior High School stated that they are holding their Fourth Annual Dinner and Auction this year on March 13, 2010, they are asking for a donation to go toward the event.

Councilor Arnold Theisen suggested that the donation be kept at a bare minimum. Councilor David Burns stated that he is opposed to giving away the people's money; it should be appropriated by individual decision, that's up to the people to do. Manage Breazeale stated that the city has purchased signs with the city's name before and that can be used as public relations. Councilor David Wood thought it was good public relations to give \$25.00. Councilor Matlack stated that he thought it was good to partnership with the Booster Club.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Wood to support the Booster Club and donate \$25.00 for the annual dinner and auction on March 13, 2010. Motion carried after a vote of Councilor Burns, no; Councilor Theisen, yes; Councilor Partridge, yes; Mayor Pro-Tem John, yes; Councilor Wood, yes; and Councilor Matlack, yes.

United States Census 2010

Mayor James Ray introduced Maureen Anderson from the US Census Bureau; she is a recruiter and a field operations supervisor.

Ms. Anderson stated that as of January 10, 2010, the new area code came about because of a new growth in population in central and southern Oregon. Every 10 years, a census of the population is conducted. The results help determine how federal funds are spent in our community for matters like roads, parks, and other public services, as well as your representation in government. It is most important to make sure that everyone in the community is counted was stated.

Ms. Anderson also stated that the Census Bureau is hiring temporary workers at \$12.00 an hour with reimbursement for mileage. Also the Bureau would be setting up a "questionnaire assistance center" and a "be counted center" in a public school, library or a city hall.

The census questionnaires will be mailed out to all with a physical address, however most residents in eastern Oregon have post office boxes, which means the census worker goes door to door to get the forms filled out in person; the questionnaires can not be left hanging on the door

knob. On March 15, 2010 the questionnaires, which are shorter now with only 10 questions, will be mailed out to everyone in the community. April 1, 2010 is Census Day.

It was the consensus of the council to have the conference room available to the Census Bureau for their use.

Sewer Extension 2009 Phase 1

It was moved by Councilor Ken Matlack and seconded by Councilor Eleanor Partridge to approve JAL Construction pay application no. 1 for \$64,714.13 and no. 2 for \$22,518.51. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that staff recommended change order no. 1 for JAL Construction which will increase the term of the contract to allow an additional 60 days pending inclement weather.

It was moved by Councilor David Burns and seconded by Councilor David Wood to approve change order no. 1. for JAL Construction. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Councilor Eleanor Partridge and seconded by Councilor Arnold Theisen to approve the Tetra Tech invoice for \$2,847.50. Motion carried unanimously.

First and Columbia Pedestrian and Bicycle Project

City Manager Gerald Breazeale reported good progress and work is close to completion on this project. Columbia Lane should be open for travel soon; however, the paving will have to wait until March when the temperatures warm up enough to meet specifications for asphalt temperature.

Councilor Eleanor Partridge asked about the lighting on Columbia Lane. Manager Breazeale stated that the choice was made by the people at the public meetings working on the downtown project and that the lights are the same as the ones at city hall.

LRA Report

Manager Breazeale presented the power point presentation he made to the LRA December 17, 2009.

At the conclusion of the presentation to the LRA a request was made to allow the US Army to provide a letter of support for the City of Irrigon's application to the Connect Oregon III grant project that would connect the track on the army base with the Union Pacific Railroad. The LRA stated that they did not have a copy of the notice of interest. The request for the letter was not approved for the City of Irrigon. The Army had a letter of support prepared which was needed since the Army is the present owner. This action prevents the City of Irrigon from having the required documentation for Connect Oregon III.

The four members of the LRA from Morrow County, Gary Neil, Terry Tallman, Carla McLane and Joe Taylor voted against the LRA approving the Army to submit the letter.

Manager Breazeale stated that several LRA members declined to vote, and three members (one from the Confederated Tribes and two from County of Umatilla) voted for the LRA sending the letter.

Manager Breazeale stated several explanations why the City of Irrigon is a good candidate for attaining property on the Army land including an Industrial site, the rail switch and yard, renewable energy, water and sewer services and use of the igloos.

The City of Irrigon will insist on being able to drive from Division Street through to Interstate 84.

It was stated that Irrigon is the largest block of registered voters in Morrow County.

Councilor David Burns talked about the City of Irrigon having the application submitted and a very good presentation to be voted down by Morrow County.

Manager Breazeale stated three options that Irrigon has, 1) to walk away from further seeking the Army land; 2) try to negotiate some concessions; or 3) pursue the entire plan. Irrigon has the right and to bid for the property. Councilor Arnold Theisen recommended to keep Irrigon's chances alive.

Manager Breazeale stated that he had a call from a mushroom grower this date who was interested in the igloos. Also calls have come in from others outside of Irrigon from people who are interested in Irrigon's plan. Councilor David Wood asked how this plan would be paid for. Manger Breazeale stated cost sharing, grants, and lease financing. Councilor David Burns stated that Irrigon needs to continue to go forward with the plan.

It was stated that the LRA's core mission and purpose is economic development for the region. Manager Breazeale stated that the biggest problem has come from the Morrow County representatives. Apparently none of the cities in the area had a say in who sat on the LRA board. The City of Irrigon was never asked. The same people have been on the LRA for the last twenty years.

It was moved by Councilor David Wood and seconded Councilor Eleanor Partridge to continue negotiations and try to get the Army property. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Breazeale asked the council for permission to post the presentation report by Brian Jackson on the website. It was the consensus of the council to post the presentation report on the City of Irrigon's website.

Children's Playground Presentation

Out of the five responses received, Cascadian Landscapers design proposal had the most points

and was chosen. Amy Sandy stated that Cascadian Landscapers was the closest fit to the community's needs.

The City of Irrigon will be asking for a more personalized park area with more disabled features. Amy Sandy asked the council for approval to accept Cascadian Landscapers with provisions and within budget.

It was moved by Councilor Arnold Theisen and seconded by Councilor David Wood to accept Cascadian Landscapers with the provisions that they make the requested changes and stay within Irrigon's budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Improvement Project

It was moved by Councilor Ken Matlack and seconded by Councilor Eleanor Partridge to approve payment to Tetra Tech invoice 50322824 for \$7,768.06. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a re-bid advertisement notice for Highway 730. The highway portion of the project should be going out for bid soon.

Veteran's Services Office Request

Veteran's Services of Morrow County are looking to move the office out of town because the present office is not adequate. Linda Skendzel of Veteran's Services came to City Manager Gerald Breazeale seeking to rent or lease a secure office at city hall for a reasonable fee and to keep a business in city limits. Mayor James Ray stated that he could make his office available as it is not used very often. Staff is recommending council to approve the idea.

Mayor Ray suggested moving the Chamber office into his office and letting the Veteran's Services have the office that the Chamber now has. Amy Sandy did not think that would be a problem as the Chamber is hardly ever here. Councilor Arnold Theisen asked if this would be short term and easily broken if the office was needed for the city. Manager Breazeale stated that a 30 day notice could be given.

It was the consensus of the council to approve the idea of the Veteran's Services renting the office with the understanding that it was short term and a 30 day notice could be given.

IMAC Property Donation

City Manager Gerald Breazeale stated that IMAC (Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center) has been dealing with high cost insurance for the empty building. John Sebastian who is on the IMAC board would like to apply for grants and lease out the rooms. Morrow County School District has agreed to donate the school property surrounding the IMAC building (old city hall) along with a portion of the parking lot south of Main Avenue.

IMAC is asking the City of Irrigon to donate that portion of the parking lot that lies on city property north of the existing landscaped greenway along the highway which would have a reverter clause that would return the property back to the city if IMAC disbanded or the property became a problem, the land would come back to the city. It was stated that the property needs to be appraised before the council could make a discussion.

Report from Morrow County Sheriff

It was moved by Councilor Eleanor Partridge and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns to accept the Sheriff's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Matlack stated that a lot of hay and fuel thief had taken place. Sheriff Matlack spoke briefly on the gang force in Hermiston and a short report on the Fourteenth Street project where approximately 40 letters were delivered to area residents notifying them of the issue of stop signs verses a one way street.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Keith White explained the copy of the Waste Water Emergency Response Plan in the council's packets. Tom Roberts is the emergency coordinator for the Army Depot, and in his schooling had a requirement to do community service work toward a civic project. Between Mr. White and Mr. Roberts they came up with this emergency response plan document that is required by the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) and any funding agency that the city works with. After the council asked questions, Mr. White expressed that changes and additions can be made to make the plan better.

It was moved by Councilor David Burns and seconded by Councilor David Wood to adopt the Wastewater Emergency Response Plan as written provided the appendix is provided. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Councilor Eleanor Partridge and seconded by Councilor David Wood to accept all the staff reports. Motion carried unanimously.

Accounts Payable

It was moved by Councilor Ken Matlack and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns to approve and pay the accounts payable.

Additional Discussion

Councilor Ken Matlack stated that there was old business that is incomplete; there had been talk about installing a buzzer for the door. Councilor Matlack would like to have the installation done. Public Works Director Keith White stated that he would get estimates.

It was moved by Councilor Ken Matlack and seconded by Councilor Eleanor Partridge to authority staff to get estimate and have the buzzer installed by the next council meeting. City Manager Gerald Breazeale discussed the possibility of going to a paperless system for doing the packets for the council, stating that there is a huge volume of paper and copying and fitting the papers in an envelope to be mailed, which is also costly. The packet could be e-mailed and the city could provide lap tops for all the councilors. With the staff time and paper involved Manager Breazeale stated that in the long term the savings would be worth the effort.

Councilor David Wood stated that the packet could be posted on the website. Manager Breazeale asked that the council give some thought to the issue of going paperless and discussion at a later date.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned. It was moved by Councilor David Burns and seconded by Councilor Ken Matlack to adjourn at 8:55.

Submitted by/
Penny Moore
Utility Billing Clerk

Next Regular Meeting Date – February 16, 2010

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

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

James Ray, Mayor

Gerald W. Breazeale, City Manager