



## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Irrigon City Council Meeting

May 18, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor James Ray called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and asked the audience to please sign in.

Mayor Ray asked for everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Public Works Director Keith White acting as the city manager in the absence of Gerald Breazeale.

Council Members present: Ken Matlack, Eleanor Partridge, David Burns and newly appointed Amy Sandy. Councilor Arnold (Joe) Theisen was excused. Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Johns had resigned.

Staff present: Public Works Director Keith White and Utility Billing Clerk Penny Moore.

Citizens present: Christine Sorenson, Pastor Rick Yardley, Kari Ray, Jack A Baker, Amy Sandy, Devan Braden, Wayne & Barb Huwe, Erin Mills, Michelle Hagen, Leann Rea, Michelle Luna, and Larry Burns.

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

Public Works Director Keith White stated to the council that he had received an e-mail from David Wood with regret that he had to resign from his council position effective immediately.

Mayor Ray stated that a letter was received from Amy Sandy regarding her interest in the recently resigned position of Jack Johns. Councilor Matlack and Councilor Burn stated their support for Amy Sandy being a city council member.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to appoint Amy Sandy to the current vacancy on the city councilor. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

The Oath of Office was issued and Amy Sandy was sworn in as a councilor. Councilor Sandy took a seat at the council table. Amy Sandy will resign from her position as Chair for the City of Irrigon Planning Commission.

Mayor Ray asked if there were comments from the Citizens. Citizen Barb Huwe asked if Amy Sandy's letter of application could be read to the audience. Mayor Ray asked Councilor Sandy to read her letter.

Pastor Rick Yardley voiced his concern to the street work on NE Third Street. He stated that there are several pot holes that are not being filled in from all the recent sewer work. He said that the new sewer system is a good thing and his property value would go up. He said that he now has an 8 inch cleanout right in the middle of his yard. He said his driveway was paved, however, the workers did not seal it and his concern is that this winter when it freezes the driveway would start cracking. Pastor Rick stated that if you drive down Third, Second or First Street the paving is breaking off everywhere. He is very unhappy about the way the streets are being done. He asked why they are not black topping and finishing the project. This project has been going on since September 2009. Public Works Director Keith White stated that he would give a report on each one of the projects later in the agenda. Mayor Ray stated that the city's hands are tied on most of First Street and Columbia because they are an ARRA project that is federally funded, part of the stimulus fund, the state (ODOT) is in charge of the project. The dead line for the project in June 15, 2010.

Michele Hagen stated that her septic tank is under her driveway. Mr. White stated that Ms. Hagen's situation is in negotiations, one of three change orders that the engineer's have not accepted yet. Mr. White stated that one of the utility workers will be by to check her septic tank Wednesday, May 19.

Jack Baker stated that he is the owner of the Bake's Restaurant and Motel and his business is half of what it was with all of the construction going on.

Barb Huwe stated that she is a property owner in Irrigon and a long time resident and she is proud of the town she lives in. She stated that she has some strong concerns; one is that the city does not have Brandy McNamee as Finance Officer anymore. Mrs. Huwe stated that Mrs. McNamee came into the Finance Officer position and got the books and the laws in order. Mrs. Huwe continued to state her concern that a new person had been hired. She stated that she does not have anything against the new person, she just wants the council and mayor to be aware that it is the council's job to oversee that the new person is doing their job and to make sure no laws are broken and that the finances are what they are supposed to be. Mrs. Huwe asked the council to look into things and make sure that this office is being run in the matter to which it should be because she stated again that she is very concerned about that.

The other concern that Mrs. Huwe stated was the way Mrs. McNamee was dismissed from her job. Mrs. Huwe stated that after reading a copy of the City Charter for the City of Irrigon that it was an antiquated document with no date on it, and needs to be revised. She felt it was written when the city administrator, city recorder, treasurer and mayor were all one person and it gave them too much power. That's the way it is written and that is not the way it should be in 2010. There is way too much power given to the mayor she stated. Mrs. Huwe stated that she understands that the current city charter has been addressed and will be revised in the very near future.

Mrs. Huwe continued, stating to Mayor Ray that she had a concern about meetings she had attended. She was not pleased with his presentation as the mayor at a LRA meeting in Boardman and she felt that it was unnecessary the way Mayor Ray addressed and talked to Planning Commissioner Carla McLane. Mayor Ray stated that it did not take place at that meeting and that Ms. McLane stated that he had made a statement about the LRA. Mayor Ray stated that he asked Ms. McLane to please tell him the exact words that he said because he had no remembrances of what he said. Mrs. Huwe felt that the council should be addressed about the concerns of the mayor conducting himself with the business of the city and that the mayor should be professional.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2010 Council Meeting

Mayor Ray asked for approval of the minutes. Councilor Sandy stated that there was a typo with a name in attendance of the April meeting, should be Jerry not Jenny.

It was moved by Councilor Burns and seconded by Councilor Partridge to accept the amended minutes for April 20, 2010. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence

Mayor Ray read Jack Johns' resignation.

The ZeaChem Inc sent an invitation for the ground breaking. Public Works Director Keith White explained that the company is in the Port of Morrow, biorefinery which is turned into a fuel product.

A letter was received from the Wildhorse Foundation denying the city's request for a grant for the Riverfront Park planning effort.

A letter was received from the Secretary of State regarding the last audit. Mr. White stated that City Manager Gerald Breazeale had asked for more information on this and it should be available that at the next meeting.

5. Sewer Extension Project

Mr. White stated that this pay application number 6 is for \$28,671.72 to JAL Construction for the current sewer project and ready for approval by the city council.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Sandy to approve and pay application number 6 for \$28,671.72. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. White stated that change order number 3 was not ready, and would be ready at next month meeting.

Mr. White stated that the Tetra Tech invoice for \$3,360.00 to finish the construction management issues is ready for approval by the council.

It was moved by Councilor Sandy and seconded by Councilor Matlack to pay Tetra Tech \$3,360.00. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Water Improvement Project

Public Works Director Keith White gave a report on the water project, stating that the project is going well. All of the mainline has been installed and they are working on the tie-ins and service hookups. The paving schedule has been delayed due to weather and budget constraints.

Mr. White stated that there are issues with the lift station on Tumbleweed Blvd. Mr. White stated that in order to convert the sewer system over to the conventional system there would be some difficult decisions since there is approximately 13 feet between two houses and in order to go 6 feet deep it would be very costly. There could be liability issues with the possibility of the concrete cracking. The budget plays a big part in determining what would be done. Mr. White stated that he would like to see the Tumbleweed matter resolved. The property owner does not want to give the city easement rights. There is an old photo that

does not show a house at that location, therefore the contractor is saying that he did not know a house was there.

Christine Sorenson asked why problems keep coming up with the city's contractors and engineers. Pastor Yardley stated that he was concerned about the resealing of his driveway.

Councilor Burns addressed the audience after citizens asked questions of the contractors and engineers. Councilor Burns stated that at every meeting the council has to go through this dilemma of what are the contractors doing; what did the contractors do and why are the contractors submitting these change orders and why are they into the contingency fund? Councilor Burns continued with one invoice that he discovered were charges from Tetra Tech of over \$100.00 an hour to make copies. He stated that it takes an accountant or an attorney to understand some of these invoices. Councilor Burns stated that "we" are spending your money, and these contractors and engineers are professionals on the contingency fund. Councilor Burns stated that he feels that the contractors and engineers bid low so they can make it up with the contingency fund.

There was a discussion on the paving of Second Street with a full overlay. Councilor Matlack stated that he thought that Third Street was much more used, and asked why Third Street was not the priority. Mr. White stated that Third Street has an existing surface. First and Second Street are in the budget to pave half of each street. Mr. White stated that the council and the citizens could change the priority street to Third Street if that was what they wanted to do.

There was a brief discussion on street assessment. Mrs. Huwe stated that there are organizations for property owners that put them on a 20 year contract to pay minimal amounts every year to have their street improved. Mr. White stated that he is working on a Local Improvement District (LID) for East California Street; this would solve the street situation.

Councilor Burns stated that he would like to see the citizens of Irrigon show up more often and voice their opinions. He would like to hear what is going on before the meetings and not have issues sugar coated. He would like the "staff" to tell it like it is, if there is a problem we should hear about council meetings.

It was moved by Councilor Burns and seconded by Councilor Partridge to approve payment to Tetra Tech for \$732.00 on the highway project. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

7. First Street and Columbia Lane Pedestrian and Bicycle Project

Public Works Director Keith White talked about First Street and Utah Avenue concerns, that he has to figure out how to proceed with the turning radius and width of the lane, explaining that he can not compromise the ADA (disability act) and the school route.

Mr. White talked about the paving delay and schedule of Granite NW and that there would be no more extension of time.

8. LRA Report

There was a letter in the council packets from the LRA Chairman, Bill Hansell responding to the letter sent by City Manager Gerald Breazeale on April 20, 2010. The City of Irrigon was commended for continued participation in the process to develop a plan for the reuse of the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Mr. Hansell stated that he believes that the final version of the Preferred Alternative would successfully insure that all of the city's interests would be met.

Mr. Hansell stated that he believes that the existing LRA members would accept that the City of Irrigon would have a seat on the committee.

Councilor Burns feels that Irrigon, more than any other city deserves a spot in the 22,000 acres at the Depot. Irrigon submitted a professional bid to the LRA only to be turned down. Irrigon continued to lobby to find out why all the cities that applied got turned down. POM (Port of Morrow) has been against Irrigon from the beginning, Councilor Burns stated.

9. Children's Playground Project – Status Report

Public Works Director Keith White reported that the city was awarded \$191,000 for the playground park. The city's portion is about \$49,000. Ground was broken Tuesday, May 11, 2010. West Extension Irrigation District donated all the excavation done at no charge to the project. Wayne Huwe and other volunteers did some of the ground work with labor and equipment. The park will be 13,000 square feet. Head Start has donated a small toddler piece. A lot of people are volunteering time. Granite Northwest has donated a backhoe and rock. Wes Wise donated his dump truck, rocks, gravel and boulders. Williams Natural Gas Inc. is donating \$5,000 thanks to Von Studer of Irrigon. The Public Works Department crew has put in a lot of extra work.

Councilor Matlack asked about a donor wall. Michelle Luna asked what the city wants in the way of donations towards the Trevor Fox Memorial. Mr. White stated that he was sure that something would be done to acknowledge all the donations.

10. Transportation Enhancement Program – Approve City Manager to Submit Notice of Intent to Apply

This item is to develop the highway enhancement project that City Manager Gerald Breazeale is working on. Now that the city has a Downtown Development Plan and US 730 Streetscape Plan, staff would like the council's direction for submitting a grant application. Local match will be at a required 10%.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to approve the city manager to submit notice of intent to apply for the Transportation Enhancement Program. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Hurd's Turkey Run Addition – Acceptance of Paving of Charity Loop

Mayor Ray asked the council if they had driven by Charity Loop. Mr. White stated that Don Hurd had made huge efforts to get everything in order. Mr. Hurd is asking that the city sign off on the paving portion so he would be able to sell the lots. A letter from Tetra Tech stated that the asphalt work was complete for Charity Loop. Tetra Tech recommends that the City of Irrigon release Don Hurd and close the project.

It was moved by Councilor Burns and seconded by Councilor Matlack to approve the Turkey Run addition roadway that would allow Don Hurd to sell lots. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report from the Morrow County Sheriff

It was moved by Councilor Partridge and seconded by Councilor Burns to accept the Morrow County Sheriff's report. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Staff Reports

It was moved by Councilor Burns and seconded by Councilor Matlack to accept the reports from the Public Works Director and the City Manager. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Accounts Payable

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Burns to accept and pay the accounts payable. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Additional Discussion

Councilor Sandy announced that the Irrigon Lions Club is going to host a skate board tournament Saturday, June 26, 2010. The insurance will be covered by the Lions Club. The entry fees are \$15.00 for each person. First place will receive 15% of the total entry fee.

It was moved by Councilor Burns and seconded by Councilor Partridge to approve the Lions Club skate board tournament on June 26, 2010.

Mayor James Ray announced that he was resigning from the Irrigon City Council. A letter was submitted to the council members. Councilor Burns thanked the mayor for his service.

Councilor Burns stated that Councilor Theisen and he would like to suggest that the council start working on a revision for the city charter. A committee would need to be formed.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to approve that Councilor's Burns and Council Theisen start the process of the possible revision for the city charter. The mayor stated that any change on the charter would require a vote of the public. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Burns for Councilor Joe Theisen to fill the position of mayor pro tem. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date – June 15, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Burns, Mayor

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Gerald W. Breazeale, City Manager

May 18, 2010

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