



## City Council Meeting

Irrigon City Council Meeting

September 21, 2010

6:00 PM

Irrigon City Hall

500 NE Main Avenue

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor David Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Roll call was taken by City Manager Gerald Breazeale.

Council Members present: Ken Matlack, Linda Skendzel, Arnold (Joe) Theisen, Eleanor Partridge, and Laura Clark. Councilor Kathy Simonis was excused from the meeting.

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

Citizens present: Christine Sorenson, Bill Kelly, Irene Fetsch, Dean Kegler, Art Kegler, Pastor Rick Yardley, Marissa Turner, Jeff Wise, Andrea Fletcher, Michael Blanco, John Carter, Barb Huwe, Barbara Phillips, Wayne Huwe, Linda Anderson, and Stanley Anderson.

### 2. Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2010 Council Meeting

It was moved by Councilor Theisen and seconded by Councilor Matlack to accept the August 17, 2010 meeting minutes. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Burns reported on a meeting with ODOT officials from La Grande, Oregon and City Manager Breazeale concerning the safety corridor on Highway 730. Mayor Burns stated the dangers of the Highway 730 corridor are with the 90 outlets between Irrigon and Umatilla. Scheduled for 2012 is a new highway and a frontage road from ODOT.

Mayor Burns was also concerned about regulating agricultural farm equipment that slows down the travel on Highway 730. Nothing can be done about farming equipment traveling the highway, the equipment is exempt.

Mayor Burns met with Irrigon High School Coach David Baker regarding funding for a new track which is in bad condition.

Mayor Burns asked the council if there was any interest in having an incentive for a lottery or a random draw for a discount of \$25 or \$50 each month on resident utility bills. After a brief discussion a statement was made that residents should not be rewarded for paying their bill on time. There was no motion made.

Mayor Burns announced that he would be attending the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference in Eugene. It was asked if any other councilors would like to attend this year's annual conference. No one responded.

Mayor Burns read a suggested message for a care card program (Your City Cares) that he would like the Irrigon City Council to use for citizens that have a long sickness, auto accidents, injuries, cancer and so forth. Any one in the community could send in a name and address and the council would sign a card to be sent to the citizen in need. It was suggested that the staff would like to be added to the Your City Cares program.

It was moved by Councilor Partridge and seconded by Councilor Matlack to initiate the Your City Cares program. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Burns talked to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) director about the odor problem from the Port of Morrow (POM) that Irrigon has in the fall and early spring. The Port of Morrow is aware of Irrigon's concern about the odor. It was suggested that anytime anyone in the community smells' this odor they should call the Port of Morrow. The DEQ checks with POM to see how many calls have come in on the odor problem. Mayor Burns stated that he received a letter from POM stating that there are other elements regarding the odor that POM are not responsible for. To contact POM call 541-481-7678 or their e-mail is [port@portofmorrow.com](mailto:port@portofmorrow.com).

At that time Mayor Burns introduced Art Kegler and his son Dean Kegler whom want to sell the old Kegler's market at 240 S First Street.

Dean Kegler stated that in 1997 they invested about 1 million dollars to have a grocery store in Irrigon and after one year there where financial difficulties with the opening of the Super Wal-Mart which occurred after extensive upgrades of new electrical, plumbing, lighting, tile floors and paint, to the store.

Mr. Kegler stated that there are great potentials for any number of possibilities, one of which could be an event center or a community center and he asked to work with the mayor, city manager and the council for help and support to develop a center or anything they could can come up with. The store has a new sewer, water, new street; the property is listed at \$325,000 with 10,000 square feet and over two acres. Councilor Partridge raised the question asking if they were competing with the Senior Citizens Center. Mr. Kegler stated that this building has a much bigger venue.

Mayor Burns asked for a committee to be formed. Councilor Matlack asked if the city manager could address the potential for the old Kegler's Market and do some research. Councilor Theisen asked how the city would finance this and what would be the return on their investment. Councilor Clark asked if there were any grants or anything available that would not obligate the city. City Manager Breazeale asked the council for direction on investigating funding.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Clark to authorize City Manager Gerald Breazeale to research the vacation of the old Kegler's Market. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Burns introduced Andrea Fletcher from the Morrow County Health District Community Health Improvement Partnership. Ms. Fletcher explained the benefits to forming a partnership in the community by involving Morrow County residents in developing ways to improve local health care. Morrow County and the Office of Rural Health are sponsoring a health improvement project to find what's important to those it would serve. The commitment would be two meetings, 1.5 hours each plus one training meeting for 4 hours. Ms. Fletcher stated that there would be no cost to the City of Irrigon if they participated. There is no cost to the participant, the only purpose is to gather information for the community.

Councilor Theisen stated that he was not sure this would be the best place to find support.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Matlack to participate with the Morrow County Health district Community Health Improvement Partnership organization to better service the community. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Mayor Burns asked the council if he could be the voting delegate at the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference on behalf of the City of Irrigon.

It was moved by Councilor Theisen and seconded by Councilor Skendzel to send Mayor David Burns to the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference September 25, 2010 as the voting delegate for the City of Irrigon. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was received from the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) congratulating Darlene Gilroy on placing third in the state out of thirty nine entries for the 2010 "If I Were Mayor, I Would," power point entry, representing the City of Irrigon.

6. Water Improvement Project

City Manager Breazeale stated that Big D's Construction of Tri-Cities has not submitted the final pay application or any change orders.

There was a brief discussion on the asphalt patch paving by Granite Northwest and that the paving cost stayed within the approved patching area.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Partridge to approve the payment of \$31,780 to Granite Northwest. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

At that time Barb Phillips (Irrigon Park & Recreation District board member) asked to return the city ordinance to allow alcohol in the Irrigon Marina Park. The City of Irrigon City Ordinance does not allow alcohol in a public city park or right of way. Barb Huwe stated that the softball tournament needed the revenue that would be generated by allowing alcohol for the tournaments. New batting cages, equipment, dugouts, and many other materials are needed for the ball fields. Pastor Yardley asked how many kids under 21 years of age play in the tournaments? It was stated that only a few are under 21 and that there is no drinking allowed in the dugouts or on the field. Christine Sorenson suggested a permit to be issued for certain events. To modify the ordinance, there would need to be a public meeting to amend the current ordinance. Councilor Clark asked how the city of Boardman handled alcohol in their marina park.

The Council indicated that the Irrigon Park & Recreation District should review the ordinance and come back with proposed language.

7. First Street and Columbia Lane Pedestrian and Bicycle Project

City Manager Gerald Breazeale reported one problem area remained on the east side of First Street just north of California Avenue.

There are additional funds available to finish the project through ODOT. The remaining work to be done is the slope easement on South First Street.

8. LRA Report

City Manager Breazeale gave a brief report on the meeting of the LRA earlier in the day (September 21, 2010). Grants were mentioned for the future use by the LRA. Most of the grants were looking for alternative energy and energy conservation included, which are things the city proposed. Manager Breazeale stated that the city is still being considered for the public benefit conveyance.

9. Trevor Fox Memorial Children's Park

There has been no pay application submitted at this time due to the park not being completed. The installation of a swing harness is needed to complete the project.

Manager Breazeale acknowledged that a sign image was created to the city's specifications (paper was passed out to the council) in an arch that stated the park hours; no glass containers, and no use of tobacco products permitted within the playground area. After discussion it was suggested that additional wording be added to the sign, no alcohol; no skateboards; no bicycles; no pets.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Partridge to accept the park sign with the additions of, no alcohol; no skateboards; no bicycles; no pets. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

10. California, Tenth, Thomas and Thirteenth Street LID

City Manager Breazeale reported on a meeting held August 24, 2010 at Stokes Landing Senior and Community Center regarding the proposed Local Improvement District (LID). Manager Breazeale stated that there was a good turn out of interested property owner and the majority of the audience expressed support for the paving of the streets and for forming a LID.

Manager Breazeale stated that he needed to declare a conflict of interest. Manager Breazeale continued, stating that one of the property owners that could not attend the LID meeting called city hall and said that the assessment for the street paving would be more than the property was worth. In the conversation with Manger Breazeale the owner of the property said he would sell the property for the assessment amount and asked Manager Breazeale if he wanted to buy the property. Manager Breazeale flippantly replied yes, for that price.

There was a discussion on a potential conflict of interest issue arising from the circumstances of the agreement while the city manager was working in his official capacity regarding the LID when the offer to sell was made. Therefore Manager Breazeale offered the property to the city as advised from the city attorney and if the city does not want to purchase the property at the agreed price, then could he be cleared to purchase it himself.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Theisen to allow Gerald Breazeale to purchase the property for himself. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

The council addressed whether to go forward with the LID and if so to direct the mayor to have a preliminary improvement and assessment report prepared and to have all the property owners contacted again.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Theisen to authorize the mayor to direct the city staff to proceed with the next step in the process of the LID. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Resolution No. 10-07, A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for Transportation Enhancement Funds for Irrigon Multimodal Improvements 2010

It was moved by Councilor Theisen and seconded by Councilor Matlack to accept resolution no. 10-07 authorizing the city manager to apply for transportation enhancement funds for the Irrigon Multimodal Improvements 2010.

Councilor Skendzel asked about applying for two different funding sources to match each other. The local match proposed to come from a Bike and Pedestrian Grant applied for earlier would be \$900,000. Council Clark stated that she would like to see that a project manger was included to oversee any project. It was stated that resolution 10-07 would include a project manager.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Partridge to amend resolution no. 10-07 authorizing the city manager to apply for transportation enhancement funds for the Irrigon Multimodal Improvements 2010 and that would include a project manager. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Resolution No. 10-08, A Resolution Documenting City Policy Regarding Certification Incentives

There was a discussion on formally documenting the city policies and describe the potential certificates that could be required of the city employees, the cost and advancing to the next level, and who would pay for the classroom time.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Clark to approve resolution 10-08 documenting city policy regarding certification incentives.

There was an amendment to increase CDL to \$100.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Clark to amended resolution 10-08 documenting city policy regarding certification incentives to include the CDL to increase from \$50 to \$100. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

13. City Charter Revision

Councilor Theisen discussed the September 21, 2010 revised second draft of the city charter. Councilor Theisen continued stating that on page 6, section 33b of the city charter, requirements for the selection of the city manager, changing the second sentence to read, the appointment must be made without regard to political consideration on the bases of education and experience in competencies and practices of local government management and other pertinent factor.

14. Report from the Morrow County Sheriff

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

15. Declaration and disposition of Surplus Property

There was a discussion about the surplus of file cabinets, tables and chairs acquired from Pendleton. The city has two conference tables and some of the chairs in use at the city hall. A lot of the file cabinets are being used at city hall, however, there are still some not being used along with some chairs. The Friends of the Irrigon Library has asked to require a least four of the file cabinets to for the library.

To declare to a non-profit like the Friends of the Irrigon Library it was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to have the Oregon Trail Library District and the Friends select the declared surplus they would like to have at the waster water treatment plant. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Citizen Irene Fetsch addressed the council about “our” beautiful downtown area and asked when the residents were going to beautify their property, especially between California Avenue and Division Street where there are junk vehicles and yards that have not been maintained.

There was a discussion on volunteers working as a community to clean up the yards with the code enforcement officer issuing code violations.

17. Staff Reports

Keith White, Public Works Director addressed the council stating a possible need for a temporary hire for two or three weeks while Chuck Osgood recovers from surgery.

It was moved by Councilor Clark and seconded by Councilor Theisen to approve a temporary hire if necessary while Chuck Osgood recovered from surgery. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Breazeale stated that there was a meeting with Bob Edward and Ed Sherrell, residents of Tumbleweed Blvd. about getting the lift station out of the way and a need for a better plan.

It was moved by Councilor Partridge and seconded by Councilor Skendzel to accept the Public Works Directors report. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Clark asked about the Finance Officers report on page 2 stating, that the general fund account had an interest rate of 0.10%. It was stated that with the economy at rock bottom there are no higher interest rates for this kind of account.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to accept the Finance Officers report. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Breazeale stated to the council that the final adoption of the Downtown Development Plan and US 730 Streetscape Plan from December 2009 was available to the council if they did not have a copy.

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Partridge to accept the City Manager’s report. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Accounts Payable

It was moved by Councilor Matlack and seconded by Councilor Theisen to approve and pay the accounts payables. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

19. Additional Discussion

The Mayor announced that Mike Poe and his office staff have completed the audit for the city for the fiscal year 2009-2010 and the report should be ready in two months.

There being no further business the meeting went into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

20. Executive Session Under ORS 192.660(2)(h)(consultation with legal counsel)

Adjournment – 10:50 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date – October 19, 2010

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

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

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David Burns, Mayor

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Gerald W. Breazeale, City Manager