



**CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes**

November 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Durney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember McMillan led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Durney and Councilmembers Swope, Dickhoff, Wiedl, Hyde, McMillan, Moir, Nelson, Grun, Pellegrini, Winkelman and Carlstrom. Absent from the meeting was Councilmember Diehm.

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Jeff Myers, Fire Chief Ray Pumphrey, City Librarian Mary Thornton, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Mike Folkers and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

COMMUNICATIONS

**Hoquiam Business
Association**

Mr. Greg McHugh, speaking on behalf of the Hoquiam Business Association, provided an update to the council of the HBA's accomplishments since last July. Mr. McHugh provided background information on the Business Association and commended the City for the improvements to the downtown area and other projects that have been undertaken over the past year. Social media is being used to promote businesses and events throughout the city. Haunted Hoquiam was a great success and Ho Ho Hoquiam is coming up on December 3rd. Crossing Bridges will be held in the next few months and the association hopes to continue the joint auction with the Hoquiam Development Association. In the next biennium budget HBA will accept any cuts that need to be made and offer their assistance in any help they can give to continue their relationship with the City. Mayor Durney thanked HBA for all they have done to recognize the goals of Hometown Hoquiam.

Fortera

Mr. Jim Eddy, 700 Beacon Hill Drive, Hoquiam, came to the council several months ago to speak on behalf of Cascade Land Conservatory to ask for city support in obtaining a grant. They did not get the large grant they had applied for but they were awarded a smaller grant that they can use for planning. He also wanted to make the city aware that they have changed their name to Fortera. He thanked the city for their support.

Wild Olympics Meeting

Mr. Al Carter, 315 Lawrence Drive, informed the council that there would be a meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at Central Elementary School regarding the Wild Olympics Campaign. The workshop is being sponsored by Senator Murray's and Congressman Norm Dicks' office. Mr. Carter invited the council and Mayor to attend.



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Tax Increases and Council Size

Ms. Judy Reames, 163 Prospect Avenue, Hoquiam, stated she attended the meeting this evening because she was under the impression the 2012 budget would be discussed. Staff informed Ms. Reames that the ad valorem tax ordinance would be discussed later in the meeting. She stated that she hopes the city will not increase taxes to the citizens again this year. The library has been annexed so that will be more money to the homeowner and people cannot afford increases in the tax. The county is proposing increases to the property tax, the state is proposing increases to tax and she hopes the council will look at these increases while making their decisions. Mrs. Reames referenced the article in the paper where Finance Director Folkers listed several items that benefit the citizens from these taxes. She said that currently citizens pay franchise fees, utility fees, 911 fees, etc. and she also believes that the city employees should be paying a percentage of their medical premiums. There should be other things that can be done to reduce expenses instead of raising the taxes to the citizens. She also presented the council with a petition signed by 107 individuals that are in support of reducing the size of the city council.

Councilmember Hyde

Mr. Dave Wilson, C Street, Hoquiam, thanked Councilmember Hyde for his service. He also stated that he appreciates the service that the other councilmembers provide. Increasing taxes is tough in this economy. He hopes the Council will review the possibility of a reduction of the size of the council - during these times every dollar should count.

Opposition of Reduction in Council Size

Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, stated he is opposed to the reduction of the council size. The citizens are provided good representation by having two individuals from each ward. He doesn't understand the logic in downsizing the council. He is not in support and does not believe now is the time to address something like this.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Hyde moved for the adoption of agenda items a and b as presented and the motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the consent agenda were as follows:

- The City Council minutes of November 14, 2011;
- The Regulatory Committee report recommending approval and payment of claim check numbers 73464 through 73626 in the amount of \$247,713.23.



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Councilmember Grun referred to the minutes regarding the Mayor's report that was given at the last meeting on property liens and the county charging interest. Mayor Durney stated that staff is currently working on getting clarification on this issue.

Following no further discussion, the motion for approval passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

**Set Public Hearing Date –
Assessment of Abatement
Costs 1220 Washington**

Staff requested that the Council set a Public Hearing date to assess abatement costs for work done at 1220 Washington. Councilmember Moir moved to set a hearing date of January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**Set Public Hearing Date –
Assessment of Abatement
Costs 3123 Sumner Avenue**

Staff requested that the Council set a Public Hearing date to assess abatement costs for work done at 3123 Sumner Avenue. Councilmember Moir moved to set a hearing date of January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**Lease/Purchase Option for
City Property by the Port
of Grays harbor**

Mr. Shay provided a written report regarding recent discussions with the Port of Grays Harbor for lease with an option to purchase, a piece of City property along Moon Island Road. Councilmember Moir moved for the approval to enter into a lease/option to purchase agreement with the Port. The motion was seconded. A brief discussion followed on the lease purchase option after which Councilmember Grun moved to offer a friendly amendment to change this agreement to a lease only. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. The main motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

MAYOR'S REPORTS

**Transportation Funding –
Repairs to 16th Street**

Mayor Durney stated that the city was notified that we will receive \$221,000 in transportation improvement funding to help with repairs to 16th Street. The City will be required to provide a match of \$11,000. We were also notified that we were awarded a joint grant with the City of Aberdeen for widening of Myrtle Street and sidewalk installation. Mr. Shay provided information on specifics for this project.

Ho Ho Hoquiam

Mayor Durney reminded the Council and citizens that Ho Ho Hoquiam will be on Saturday, December 3rd. He thanked the sponsors of the Ho Ho Hoquiam Fun Run and provided information on the event activities. .



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COUNCIL REPORTS

911

Councilmember McMillan reported that our 911 fees will be going down by approximately \$3,900.

College Presentation

Councilmember Dickhoff spoke at the college last week. She stated that there were over 200 students in attendance.

**LEGAL BUSINESS
ORDINANCES**

**Water and Sewer Revenue
Bond, 2011**

An Ordinance of the City of Hoquiam, Washington, authorizing the issuance of a water and sewer revenue bond of the City in the principal amount of \$7,132,000 to finance the cost of certain improvements to the City's sewage treatment facilities; authorizing the form and covenants for the bond; reserving the City's right to issue future revenue obligations on a parity with the bond upon compliance with certain conditions; and providing for sale of the bond to the United States of America, acting through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service. Councilmember McMillan moved for the adoption of the ordinance and the motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Folkers read the ordinance by title a second time after which the motion for adoption passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Ad Valorem Tax

An Ordinance relating to ad valorem tax; setting and levying the ad valorem tax levies for the General Fund and the Ambulance Fund of the City of Hoquiam for fiscal year 2012. Councilmember Moir moved for adoption of the ordinance. The motion was seconded. Councilmember Grun moved to amend the ordinance to change the tax from 1% to 0% increase. The motion was seconded but failed by voice vote. Mr. Folkers read the ordinance by title a second time after which the motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 3, with Councilmembers Carlstrom, Hyde and Grun voting no.

Ward Boundaries

RESOLUTIONS

Increase in Tax

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hoquiam, Washington, determining that the City of Hoquiam requires an increase in property tax revenue from the previous year and further requiring a majority vote by the City Council of Hoquiam. Councilmember McMillan moved for approval of the resolution and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

EMS Levy

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hoquiam, Washington, determining that the City of Hoquiam requires an



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increase in property tax revenue for emergency medical services from the previous year and further requiring a majority vote by the City Council of Hoquiam. Councilmember McMillan moved for adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

USDA Loan Resolution

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hoquiam, authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and/or extending its wastewater treatment facilities to serve an area lawfully within its jurisdiction to serve. Councilmember Moir moved for adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Furlough Days and Council Size

Councilmember Hyde asked that staff look at what the cost saving would be for staff to take a furlough day once per month. He also stated he believes a committee should be formed regarding the reduction in size of the Council. Councilmember Moir volunteered to head this committee and Councilmembers Pellegrini, McMillan, Dickhoff and Carlstrom will also serve as members. Councilmember Moir suggested that Councilmember Hyde could serve as the citizen representative on the committee which will meet in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Honoring Loggers Playday Parade Committee member Butch Bridges

Councilmember Carlstrom stated that the Loggers Playday committee will be honoring logger's committee member Butch Bridges for his heroic efforts this past Loggers Playday. Mr. Bridges provided CPR and life saving procedures until paramedics could arrive when Ms. Boerner collapsed from a possible heart attack. The dinner and ceremony will be on December 6, 2011, at the Hoquiam Elks. Dinner is at 6:00 with the award ceremony following at 6:30.

Ho Ho Hoquiam

Council was again reminded of the Ho Ho Hoquiam activities being sponsored by the City and the Hoquiam Business Association. The run is at 10:00 a.m., Tully's will be hosting the cocoa stroll and participants can pick up their ballots, a cup of cocoa and stroll around to the various businesses participating in the Christmas tree decorating competition. There will be a tree lighting at 7:00 at timberland bank with National Lampoons Christmas Vacation being shown at 7:30 at the 7th St. Theatre.



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- Christmas Lights** Mayor Durney thanked Mr. Shay getting the Christmas lights up in town before Thanksgiving.
- Library Book Sale
7th Street Theatre** The Friends of the Library will be hosting their annual book sale on Saturday, December 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Business Association** Mayor Durney spoke regarding our Business Association. Several cities have expressed how successful this organization is in working with the city and for the benefit of the city.
- Haunted Hoquiam** Councilmember Hyde stated that Haunted Hoquiam was a great success. The Emerson Manor had over 1,000 visitors that day. He also recognized past Councilmember Tibbetts who was in the audience.
- Excuse Absent Members** Councilmember Moir moved to excuse the absent member. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.
- ADJOURNMENT** Councilmember Hyde moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

JACK DURNEY – Mayor

TRACY WOOD – Council Secretary