

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dickhoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Secretary Wood led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Dickhoff and Councilmembers Grun, Livingston, Nelson, Pellegrini, Pennant, Swope, Wilson and Winkelman. Absent from the meeting were Councilmembers Anderson, Carlstrom, Simer and Forkum.

Staff in attendance were Deputy Chief Don Wertanen, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, City Librarian Mary Thornton, Finance Director Corrie Schmid and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

PROCLAMATIONS

Domestic Violence Month

Finance Director Schmid read a Proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Hoquiam.

Fire Prevention Week

Finance Director Schmid read a Proclamation declaring the week of October 9th as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Hoquiam.

COMMUNICATIONS

Demonstration Shared Waters
Shared Values

Arnie Martin, 600 Chenault Avenue, Hoquiam, provided disks of the rally/demonstration that was held on July 8, 2016 to the Council members. He asked that the city and Council weigh the welfare of the importance of the shorelines in Grays Harbor. Clean industry is necessary for our City.

Queen Avenue – Pedestrian
Safety

Robin Moore, 1019 Monroe Street, reminded everyone that there will be a candidate forum at Hoquiam High School for the 24th District Candidates from 6:00 to 9:00 tomorrow evening (September 27th). Also, the League of Women’s voters will be holding a forum on October 4th.

Oil Terminals/Westway
Expansion

Tammy Dimeke, 923 Bluff Avenue, Hoquiam, presented the council with a “no oil” petition that has been signed by over 8,000 people and also pictures drawn by local children in opposition to oil in Grays harbor.

Becky Walsh, I Street, Aberdeen, spoke in opposition to oil shipments and storage in Grays Harbor. She stated many medical reasons from her knowledge as a nurse as to why she opposes oil, as well as the damage and pollution to our environment.

Dianne Wolfe, 309 Beacon Hill Drive, spoke about a town in California whose council voted to not allow expansion of Vellaro. She also summarized many Court cases which she believes would give the City the right to say no to the Westway Expansion.

Zolton Grossman, Professor at Evergreen College, spoke about a college project that was held in Grays harbor this past year and came up with other economic alternatives besides the oil terminals. Project was part of an envisioning process that would not damage local resources. Looked at many different economic possibilities which are summarized in an 85 page report.

Eric Sangren, 821 N. Thornton St., Aberdeen, urged council to consider the value of the special estuary above and beyond the boundaries of Hoquiam. The risks associated with oil are enormous.

Paul McCloud, Hoquiam, asked the council to do what is right. If the railroad ruins our environment they cannot even begin to cover the costs of the damage. When Fawn Sharpe spoke at the last meeting, she urged that DOE and the City choose the no action alternative. And he hopes that is what the city will do.

Carina Johnson, 1024 Lincoln Street, Hoquiam, many Indian tribes are standing together in the Dakotas to stand against oil. She read a prayer written by an individual in the Dakotas to the council.

Tammy Ramsey, 38 Broadway, Hoquiam, asked Council to represent the people that are here and not the corporations. Asked that Hoquiam stands with the other cities to deny oil. If we stand together we can divert it. Look at other industries such as hemp that will not damage the environment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Grun moved to approve consent 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 September 12, 2016;
- The Regulatory Committee report recommending approval and payment of claim check numbers 85307 through 85514 in the amount of \$438,324.24; Auto Pays and EFTS #95-96 in the amount of \$21,401.26; payroll check numbers 279971 through 28009 in the amount of \$182,794.26; and ACH and EFT deposits in the amount of \$431,555.74 and \$181,677.48 respectively.

The motion for approval passed by voice vote.

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OFFICER REPORTS

GH Community Foundation
Grant

Chief Myers provided a written report to the Council regarding the award of a grant from the Community Foundation to the Hoquiam Police Department in the amount of \$7,500 for the purchase of new radios. He asked for council approval to accept the grant and approval to purchase the radios. Councilmember Livingston moved to approve the staff recommendation and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Seabrook Foundation and
Safeco Insurance

Chief Dean provided a written report to the Council regarding the award of a grant from the Seabrook Foundation for \$3,500 and a grant from Safeco Insurance for \$2,000 to the Hoquiam Fire Department for the purchase of new radios. He asked for council approval to accept the grants and approval to purchase the radios. Councilmember Livingston moved to approve the staff recommendation and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

MAYORS REPORTS

Consolidation Efforts – Cities
of Hoquiam, Aberdeen and
Cosmopolis

Mayor Dickhoff spoke briefly regarding discussions with the cities of Aberdeen and Cosmopolis on possible consolidation efforts. She asked for Council concurrence to proceed with this effort. Councilmember Grun moved for approval to proceed with these discussions and the motion was seconded. Mayor Dickhoff stated that they have formed work groups comprised of employees, staff members and community members. Councilmembers Pellegrini and Livingston have been working on the consolidation task force as well as other officials from the other cities. Following further discussion, the motion for approval to proceed passed by voice vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Public Meetings for
Levee/Flood Control
Improvements

Councilmember Pellegrini stated he attended the North Shore Levee public meeting last week. The consultants walked through the projected plan and where it would begin and where it would end. The proposed levee would not go beyond 16th Street. He does not think the proposal would substantially increase or decrease the risk of flooding in the Woodlawn area or North End.

OLD BUSINESS

Terminal Expansion/Oil by Rail

Councilmember Wilson stated he thinks the citizens have a right to know where we stand on the question of oil. Mr. Shay stated that the Council voted to change zoning code but the permits and applications for Westway were submitted before that happened. The administrative authority for their application is the State.

Councilmember Pennant stated that when the original permits were applied for it the dangers of this type of thing were not common knowledge, now we don't have any way to stop it as we

don't have the authority. Allowing oil into Grays Harbor is wrong. It puts everything at risk, the lives of everyone and their children, our environment. When the initial permits were granted, it was before the rolling bombs started killing people, most of the knowledge we have now has come to light since then.

Mayor Dickhoff stated that the City does not have authority over the rails, it is procedural. Council does not have the authority as there are several bodies of Government above us. There are county, state and federal laws and each of those has authority over certain aspects.

COMMUNICATIONS

Westway Terminal/Oil by Rail

Greg Shumler, 300 Cedar Mill Lane, showed a short film that his friend put together about the many resources of Grays Harbor and what can be destroyed if this is approved. There are other things that can create jobs and business without destroying the environment.

Library Project

Mary Thornton, Hoquiam, stated that the tiles are coming off the library roof today. The garage and parking lot are closed at this time. Ms. Thornton also spoke regarding the oil project and transportation. She stated that she takes offense to the citizens coming in and blaming staff as if they have some kind of hidden agenda – this is their job and they need to follow proper procedure and the laws.

Westway Permits/Oil by Rail

Ron Barnes, Elma, Washington, asked how these permits got through without public knowledge. Is it possible to put a clause into something so that these types of permits would not be allowed? Mr. Shay stated that there were several public hearings held where citizens could make their comments on these permits and the possible expansion.

Westway Permits/Oil by Rail

Robin Moore 1019 Monroe, stated that when these permits are denied it will free the City of Hoquiam from being tied to a dying industry.

Westway Permits/Oil by Rail

Judy Shurtoff, Karr Avenue, Hoquiam, stated that the Council needs to consider the health and wellbeing of the citizens who voted them into office.

Westway Permits/Oil by Rail

Paul McCloud stated that this decision will not only affect us, but will affect generations to come. Council and the City should take the no action alternative as suggested by several. Staff stated that the final EIS review will be issued by the Department of Ecology

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on September 29th and all of the information, every document will be published on the DOE website. No decision can be made for at least 20 days. If the majority of the council agrees to issue a statement that they oppose this, it can be used by anyone down the road.

Westway Permits/Oil by Rail

Eddy Gofforth, 125 Spencer, Hoquiam, stated that he has 3 daughters that go to school here and he has lived here for 30 years. The rails have infrastructure problems and the possibility of dumping oil into water, derailments, etc., are high. Oil does not sink it stays on the surface and kills marine life, wildlife, and the natural resources that are around us. He said he has supported many of the members of the council, and that they need stop this.

Westway Permits and Oil

Arthur Grenenbaum, Aberdeen, SEPA allows the City to not issue a permit at all. If there are too many issues with a project that cannot be mitigated, the City has the authority to not issue the permit to begin with. There is no reason at that point to go further as SEPA allows you to say no.

Westway Permits and Oil

Linda Chappel, Hoquiam, was here a few weeks ago speaking in opposition to this proposal. She recently attended a conference at Evergreen State College regarding what happens when these types of disasters happen. First responders could not do anything in Canada. Look at the closeness of all of us, we are all in the blast zone. Deny the permits. We need to stand with the Quinault Nation and fight this.

Westway Permits and Oil

Tammy Ramsey, 38 Broadway, Hoquiam, stated she is a firm believer in solutions. Someone mentioned cases in California earlier that stopped these types of permits. Get someone in legislature to mimic the language that California has so that we can stop the oil here.

Westway Permits and Oil

Tanya Donham, 411 L Street, Hoquiam, stated she has lived in Hoquiam for 25 years. She is also a 10 year survivor of cancer. If we have a disaster here, no one will be able to live here. The population will become zero.

Excuse Absent Members

Councilmember Nelson moved to excuse the absent members and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Councilmember Pellegrini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40

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ADJOURN

p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Jasmine Dickhoff – Mayor

Tracy Wood – Council Secretary

