

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Swope led the flag salute and Mayor Pro-tem Dickhoff called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Councilmembers Anderson, Dickhoff, Diehm, Grun, McMillan, Moir, Nelson, Pellegrini, Simera and Swope. Absent from the meeting were Councilmember Winkelman and Pennant and Mayor Durney.

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Jeff Myers, City Attorney Steve Johnson, Fire Captain Tim Smith, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Mike Folkers and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

PROCLAMATION

Small Business Saturday

Mr. Folkers read a Proclamation declaring Saturday November 29th as Small Business Saturday in the City of Hoquiam.

COMMUNICATIONS

Utility Tax

Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, spoke to the Council regarding the proposed raises to the utility tax. Mr. Folkers explained that the information provided in the previous packet was incorrect from a previous year. Mr. Forbes asked what the alternatives would be if the increases are not approved. He feels the people in Hoquiam are being impacted by a lot of different things such as flood insurance and taxes. The city needs to look at the impact it is making on the citizens. He asked that council postpone voting on the budget.

Water Bill Increases

Tamara Dudley spoke to the council regarding the increase on her utility bill. She is paying almost \$200 a month and lives in a one bedroom apartment. She also stated that she has paid over \$180.00 ambulance tax over the past year and the way she understood the tax was that it was supposed to have a 15 year window and it is still in being charged 40 years later.

Police Union

Officer Aaron Hergert, President of the Police Association, City of Hoquiam spoke to the council regarding the police department. The Department and the City are doing great things. The budgets are tight but the City has great management and the jail is back open.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember McMillan moved to approve items consent agenda items a and b as presented and the motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the consent agenda were as follows:

- The Council Minutes of October 27, 2014;
- The Regulatory Committee report recommending

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approval and payment of claim check numbers 80923 through 80930 in the amount of \$18,433.19; payroll check numbers 27203 through 27232 in the amount of \$168,228.17; and ACH and EFT deposits in the amount of \$355,048.30 and \$187,685.17 respectively.

The motion for approval of the consent agenda passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

Transient Accommodations

Mr. Johnson provided a written report to the council explaining the State law's on Transient Accommodations. The action that the City took at a previous meeting was to bring our regulations in line with the State law.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Ordinances

Utility Tax

An Ordinance relating to Utility Taxes; amending Section 4.88.010 of the Hoquiam Municipal Code; and creating an effective date. Councilmember McMillan moved for adoption of the ordinance and the motion was seconded. A lengthy discussion followed after which Councilmember McMillan moved to amend the ordinance to increase the utility tax by an additional 2%. The additional revenue could be used to make maintenance repairs, etc., to City buildings. The motion to amend was seconded but failed by voice vote. Councilmember Moir moved to postpone voting on the ordinance until the next meeting and further moved that Council set a workshop for November 17th to discuss the budget. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, the motion to postpone passed by voice vote.

2015-2016 Budget

This ordinance will come back before the council after the budget workshop scheduled for November 17th.

Ambulance Non-transport Fees

An Ordinance relating to charges for Ambulance service; amending Subsection (6) of Section 1.45.080 of the Hoquiam Municipal Code; and creating an effective date. Councilmember Dickhoff moved for adoption of the Ordinance and the motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Folkers read the Ordinance by title a seconded time after which the motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 2 with Councilmembers Anderson and Grun voting no.

OTHER LEGAL

IAFF Labor Agreement

Councilmember McMillan moved to approve the IAFF Labor Agreement and the motion was seconded. Council was presented with a summary of the agreement. Following a discussion

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regarding the terms, the motion to approve failed by a tie vote with Councilmembers Simera, Swope, Anderson, McMillan and Nelson voting yes.

NEW BUSINESS

James R. McQuade

Councilmember McMillan recommended that the City consider naming the 24th and 25th block of Queets as James R. McQuade Way. He asked that this request be forwarded to the appropriate committee for consideration.

Excuse Absent Members

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Budget

Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Ave., thanked the council for postponing the budget, It gives council and citizens more time to review.

Fire Labor Agreement and Oil Transport

Mr. Dennis Gregory, 711 Spruce, stated that he opposed the vote on the Fire Agreement. This was agreed to in labor negotiations and they bargained fairly with the city. He also stated his opposition to the oil.

Fire Labor Agreement

Mr. Bill Whelan, 600 Washington Court, also spoke regarding the Fire Labor Agreement.

Fire Labor Agreement

Mr. Doug Stankavich, President of the Firefighters Union, spoke on his disappointment with the vote.

Recess

Councilmember McMillan moved to recess for 5 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Back to Order

The meeting was called back to order at 8:24 p.m. Councilmember McMillan moved to reconsider the Labor Agreement with IAFF. The motion was seconded and the motion to approve the agreement passed by a vote of 7 to 3 with Councilmembers Moir, Anderson and Dickhoff voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Moir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

JACK DURNEY – Mayor

TRACY WOOD – Council Secretary

