

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dickhoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked that all rise for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Jeff Myers, Fire chief Paul Dean, City Librarian Mary Thornton, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Corri Schmid and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

COMMUNICATIONS

Swearing in of Officer Verboomen

Chief Myers introduced Police Officer Verboomen and Mayor Dickhoff swore him in as our newest member of the department.

Taxation

Mr. Bruce Phillips, 1320 Minor Street, asked that the Council look at the taxation rates and charges that the citizens are paying. They are getting very high.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- The City Council Minutes of February 13, 2017;
- The Regulatory Committee Report recommending approval of claim check numbers 86292 through 86489 in the amount of \$365,773.74; EFT and auto Pays numbers 122 through 128 in the amount of \$44,878.75; payroll check numbers 28148 through 28185 in the amount of \$182,571.27; ACH and EFT in the amount of \$297,990.51 and \$183,905.87 respectively;

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Timber Sale Bid 2017-01

Staff provided a written report to the Council regarding the bid opening for Timber Sale 2017-01. Two lump sum bids were received as follows: Sierra Pacific Industries \$315,179 and Quinault Logging \$324,800. Staff recommends that Council award the sale to Quinault Logging as the highest bidder. Councilmember Grun moved to accept the bids and award the sale to Quinault Logging. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion regarding the bid process, passed by voice vote.

Timber Sale Bid 2017-02

Staff provided a written report to the Council regarding the bid opening for Timber Sale 2017-02. Two lump sum bids were received as follows: Sierra Pacific Industries \$1,234,251 and WT Timber \$1,342,380. Councilmember Nelson moved to accept the bids and ward the sale to WT Timber as the apparent high bidder and the motion was seconded. Councilmember Grun expressed concern over the amount of timber we are harvesting and the possible effects to our water. Staff stated that this is in the 10 year plan and was listed in the 2017-2018 rotation. Mr. Shay also spoke briefly about the buffer that is required near the water. Following the discussion, the motion for approval passed by voice vote.

Mayor Dickhoff asked Council President Winkelman to take over the meeting as she was not feeling well.

MAYORS REPORTS

Appointment to Historic Preservation Commission

Council was asked to concur on the appointment of Dave Ward to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilmember Grun moved to accept the appointment and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Beast Elite

Councilmember Winkelman spoke briefly about the public work out event held at the Stadium on Sunday. Several people attended and it went well.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Ordinances

Cabaret Licenses

An Ordinance relating to the licensing of cabarets and public dance establishments; repealing Section 4.08.130 of the Hoquiam Municipal Code; amending Sections 4.08.011, 4.08.061, 4.08.090, 4.08.150 and 4.08.160 of the Hoquiam Municipal code; and adding a new section 4.08.155 to the Hoquiam Municipal Code. Councilmember Grun moved to refer the Ordinance to the Regulatory Committee for their review and recommendation to the Council. There was no second and his motion died. Councilmember Nelson moved to approve the ordinance and his motion was seconded. Mr. Johnson explained the changes to the Ordinance. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Schmid read the ordinance by title a second time after which the motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 1, with Councilmember Grun voting no.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Other – Chehalis Basin Flood Authority Interlocal Agreement

Included in the Council packet was an Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. Mr. Shay provided information on the agreement. The main change is

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that it will now include the City of Hoquiam as a member. Councilmember Nelson moved to accept the agreement and authorize the Mayor or designee to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, passed by voice vote.

Sale of 901 Wheeler

Mr. Shay stated that the Council had previously surplused this piece of property to allow for the City to advertise it for sale. The City received an offer from a person in Oregon for \$50,000. Councilmember Grun moved to accept the offer and authorize the necessary paperwork to be signed. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Clean-up

Mr. Shay stated that the Council had discussed the spring clean-up at the last meeting and staff is seeking direction on what the Council would like to do with the program. Several members of the council spoke in support of the program, but suggested other possible ways that it could be accomplished. Brian Smith, representing Hometown Sanitation, answered questions regarding the program. He stated there were approximately 900 residents that actually used the voucher at approximately \$14 per voucher the last time the program was offered. Councilmember Anderson moved to reinstate the program on a yearly basis and the motion was seconded. Councilmember Grun moved to amend the motion to offer the program every other year. His motion to amend died for lack of a second. The main motion passed by voice vote.

Ambulance budget and
Alternative Working Models

Ms. Schmid provided information to the Council regarding the Ambulance Budget and Alternative Working Models for the fire and ambulance. Council had requested information at the meeting of December 12th. Staff had recommended that the ambulance utility fee be raised by \$9.18 per month but council opted to only increase it by \$4.09. As such, the needed revenue for the ambulance budget shortfall was not met. Staff and the department have made several cuts from the budget, but each month that we continue to operate it is going another \$11,000 in the red. Staff recommends \$2.76 in additional fees to the \$15.92 currently being collected. For each month that it is not increased, the additional charge will need to go higher. Further discussion was held regarding the fire district contracts and what is collected on the Medicaid and Medicare billings which constitute 80% of our call volume. The City is only allowed to charge them a certain dollar amount, culminating in a 60% write off of what can actually be billed to Medicaid and Medicare. Further discussion

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was held on what other cities are charging. Ms. Schmid explained that some of those cities can charge a lesser amount because their property valuations are higher and they have more income from larger businesses to help supplement their budgets. Unfortunately, Hoquiam needs to charge more for the rates because we do not have higher valuations on our properties and fewer and smaller businesses, so we cannot supplement the budget with those dollars. Councilmember Winkelman stated that we don't have other alternatives – the bulk of the expense as Mr. Shay has explained is in salaries and benefits, if we do layoffs then we need to pay more in overtime.

City Owned Property

Councilmember Grun asked what the status was with possible sale of other city owned property. Mr. Shay explained that we have some vacant lots that we have been trying to sell, and will continue to try to find buyers for the properties.

NEW BUSINESS

Parking Regulations

Councilmember Wilson asked what the current regulations are on parking on city streets. He has had concerns raised by some citizens. Chief Myers stated that the city regulations state vehicles must be moved every 72 hours and they must be licensed and operable.

Excuse Absent Members

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

Councilmember Winkelman asked staff if they could set up a tour of the plant and watershed for the newer members of the council.

COMMUNICATION

8th Street Traffic

Mr. Bill Wieland, 600 Washington Court, expressed his concern with the amount of traffic and the speed of the truck traffic on 8th Street. He believes it is posing a risk to the people getting out of their parked vehicles and to those trying to cross the street. He asked if the city could look at lowering the speed limit or possibly putting in a lighted pedestrian crossing. Mr. Wieland also stated that he understands the concerns with paying higher rates, but our Public Safety departments are first rate.

Contanda (Westway) Expansion Application

Mr. Paul McCloud, 2115 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, asked if the city would submit a formal request to Contanda to submit any necessary paperwork if they plan to move forward with the application for permits to expand.

Spring Clean-up

Robin Moore, Monroe Street, said she appreciates the spring clean-up and suggested that the city could look at giving out blue

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bags for those who have no vehicles to participate in the voucher program.

Costs for Citizens In Hoquiam Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, asked if there is any kind of comparative schedule as to what it costs to live in Hoquiam vs. what it costs to live in other areas of the county. The costs to the citizens are getting pretty high for the elderly and those living on a limited income.

Fire and Ambulance Andy Polmateer, Union President for the Firefighters Union, encouraged council to fully fund the budget for the department. They have worked with Administration to make ever possible cut and as with other departments, they are doing more with less. They need the five firefighters on duty for safety.

Oil by Rail and Contanda Permits Tammy Domike, 823 Bluff, Hoquiam, presented letters to the council that have been submitted to the paper opposing oil and trains.

Traffic Speed – Queen and Minor Ed Jurin 1425 Minor Street, stated he has been before the council several times asking for something to be done to slow traffic in the area of Queen and Minor. He thought that signs would be put up but has not seen anything being done. He also stated his support of spring clean-up.

ADJOURN Councilmember Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Jasmine Dickhoff – Mayor

Tracy Wood – Council Secretary