

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-tem Winkelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked all to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Ambulance Fee Increase

Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, spoke to the council regarding his concern with the increase in the Ambulance Utility Fee.

Broadway Avenue

Sue Phillips, spoke to the Council regarding the needed repair to Broadway Avenue and issues with run-off water.

Debbie Riley, also spoke to the Council regarding Broadway Avenue and problems with the sewer system in that area of town. She would like to see staff stop and look at the problems they are having.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Grun moved to approve item a, the minutes of February 27, 2017, on the consent agenda as presented and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

Simpson Avenue Utility Crossings Design

Mr. Shay provided a written report to the Council regarding an agreement with Berglund Schmidt for design work on the Simpson Avenue Utility Crossings. Staff recommends that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Berglund Schmidt. Councilmember Pellegrini moved to approve the staff recommendation and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement and the motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve passed by voice vote.

Replacement of Mower –
Community Services
Department

Mr. Shay provided a written report to the council regarding the purchase of a new mower/tractor for lawn care maintenance at Olympic Stadium, Gable Park, and all other city facilities maintained by the Community Services Department. The current primary mower was purchased in 2010 and often requires repairs due to the amount of wear and tear on the machine. Staff would

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retire the backup mower, purchased in 2001 which currently is inoperable. The new mower would be purchased off of the State contract. Councilmember Pellegrini moved to buy a new mower using a supplement budget allocation to utilize general fund reserves. The motion was seconded and following a discussion on the ending fund balance, Councilmember Nelson called for the question and the motion to purchase the mower passed by voice vote.

Athletic/Field Contracts

Staff requested that Council authorize the mayor and staff to negotiate final contract terms with the various organizations that use the City fields and facilities. Councilmember Pellegrini moved to authorize the mayor to negotiate final terms and agreements and the motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion on the various user groups, the motion passed by voice vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Dogs at Large – Beacon Hill

Councilmember Wilson stated that a citizen has complained to him about dogs running loose on Beacon Hill and bothering the deer in that area. He asked if we could put signage up at the reservoir reminding citizens of our leash law.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Ordinances

Ambulance Utility Fee

An Ordinance relating to ambulance service and public utility; increasing the monthly ambulance utility service fee; amending Subsection (2) of Section 1.45.090 of the Hoquiam Municipal Code; and creating an effective date. Councilmember Pellegrini moved to adopt the ordinance and the motion was seconded. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the ending fund balance, and other ways that the deficit could be solved without the increase to the citizens. Councilmember Wilson moved to amend the motion to include a sunset clause of December 31, 2018. The motion was seconded and a voice vote on the amendment was undeterminable. A roll call vote was taken and the amendment passed by a vote of 7 to 3. Staff recommended that council authorize them to proceed with a rate and department study. The cost for this would be approximately \$30,000.00 and could be taken from the general fund reserves. Following further discussion, Ms. Schmid read the Ordinance by title a second time and the main motion as amended, passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 2 with Councilmembers Wilson and Grun voting no.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Resolutions

Personnel Policy change

A Resolution adopting amendments to the City of Hoquiam Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual; amending Section

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11.60, pertaining to the reimbursement for meals. Councilmember Nelson moved to adopt the resolution and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Appreciation
Barbeque

Councilmember Anderson stated that the employee barbeque will be held on Thursday, August 31st. Please let her know if you are available to help with the barbeque.

COMMUNICATION

Rate and Tax Increases

Debbie Riley stated her concern with the increases in rates and taxes to the citizens. She believes there have already been three increases this year and asked the council how many more rate hikes are the citizens going to have.

Cabaret Licenses

Steven Puvogel thanked the Council for reviewing the Ordinance regarding Cabaret Licenses and making the changes that they did.

Sound System and Fee
Increases

Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, stated that the sound system needs to be looked at as it is hard for people in the audience to hear. He also expressed his concern with the ambulance fee increase.

Sound System

Mr. Bill Wieland asked councilmembers to speak into their microphones when discussing items. It will possibly help with the problem of the audience being able to hear.

Introduction of New Firefighter

Chief Dean introduced the newest member of the Fire Department, firefighter Karl Long. He began with the department on March 1st and was previously in Puyallup. Kyle introduced his family and thanked the city for the opportunity to be here.

Excuse Absent Members

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

ADJOURN

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

Ben Winkelman – Mayor Pro-Tem

Tracy Wood – Council Secretary

