

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dickhoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Finance Director Schmid led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PROCLAMATION

Special Olympics

Mayor Dickhoff issued a proclamation declaring Saturday March 10, 2018, as Grays Harbor Hawks Day in the City of Hoquiam and recognizing the importance of the Special Olympics program.

COMMUNICATIONS

My Town Coalition

Darci Jewitt, representing the My Town Coalition recognized Tracy Wood as the Hometown Hero chosen for this month by the organization.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Grun moved to approve Consent Agenda item A and his motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the consent agenda were as follows:

- The City Council Minutes of February 26, 2018;

Councilmember Grun moved to correct the minutes to reflect that he made the motion to refer the speed limit issue to the Public Safety Committee and his motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. The main motion passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Utilities Committee –
Capital Facility Charges

The Public Utilities Committee made a recommendation that the current draft ordinance related to capital facilities be amended as follows:

Meter Size	Water C F Charge	Sewer C F Charge
5/8" x 3/4"	\$200	\$1500
3/4" x 3/4"	\$400	\$1500
1"	\$600	\$2000

Councilmember Wilson moved to approve the committee report and his motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion regarding the two ordinances that will appear before the council

later in the meeting, the motion to approve the committee report passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

DTF Vehicle

Staff requested Council approval to authorize purchase of a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado which was seized during the "Green Jade" DTF operation. Wells Fargo has a lien on the vehicle and this lien must be satisfied in the amount of \$15,377.85. DTF suspense funds have been disbursed to the Hoquiam Police Department and can be used to satisfy the lien. Councilmember McMillan moved to authorize the purchase of the vehicle and his motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion on use of vehicle and how the distribution of funds from these raids will be handled, the council passed the motion to authorize the purchase by voice vote.

Completion of Work – Ramer Street Storm Pump Station

Included in the packet was a Notice of Completion of the Public Works Project and a Request for Approval of Acceptance and Release of Retainage and Bonds for the Ramer Street Storm Pump Station. Staff recommends that the project be accepted as complete and that Finance release any retainage and/or performance bonds after releases are received from L&I. Councilmember McMillan moved to release the funds and the motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion on the current status of the other pump stations and needed improvements for those, as well as a new station being needed by Riverside Bridge, the motion to approve passed by voice vote.

MAYOR REPORTS

Board Appointments

Mayor Dickhoff asked for Council concurrence on the following board appointments:

Historic Preservation Commission

Nikki Gallagher (2 yr. term)

Al Gozart (2 yr. term)

Alissa Shay (2 yr. term)

Urban Forestry Board

Annette Moir (4 yr. term)

Kurt Estes (4 yr. term)

Councilmember McMillan moved to concur with these appointments and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Grant Funding

Mayor Dickhoff recognized Mr. Shay for the recent work on getting grant funding from the legislature for the Timberworks project. She thanked everyone involved in these efforts.

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Mayor Dickhoff spoke regarding her experience with coaching the Grays harbor Hawks at the Special Olympics game on Saturday and thanked all of the Councilmembers who were in attendance.

Sr. Center Events

Mayor Dickhoff reviewed upcoming events at the Sr. Center. Connie Parsons representing the Sr. Center stated that they have unfortunately had to cancel one of the events but it will be rescheduled at a later date.

St. Patrick's Day Fun Run

The St. Patrick's Day race will be on Saturday, march 17th. Registration is at 9:00 with the races beginning at 10:00.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Special Olympics

It was noted that the Hoquiam Cheerleaders and band attended the Special Olympics event on Saturday and Council thanked them for their support of the Grays Harbor Hawks.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Ordinances

Capital Facility Charges

Mr. Shay explained two Ordinances are before the Council regarding the Capital Facility Charges. He explained the differences between Draft A and Draft B. Ms. Schmid read the ordinance by title after which Councilmember McMillan moved to approve draft B. His motion was seconded. Councilmember Wilson stated there were more language differences in B than Mr. Shay had explained. Mr. Shay explained that the language he is referring to is already in the code, and the portion underlined is what was added. Councilmember Anderson stated that she has purchased a lot and at some time in the future this ordinance could affect her if she decided to build on that lot. She wanted to make council aware of this.

Councilmember Forkum moved to amend the motion to state these fees could not be changed arbitrarily and that they would be reviewed every three years, motion was seconded. After a discussion on not being able to bind future councils and the difference between a Sunset Clause and a policy that it would be reevaluated, Councilmember Forkum restated her motion that the fees would be reevaluated in 3 years. The motion to amend passed by voice vote. Councilmember Grun reviewed the past rate study from 2005 at which time these fees were set from that study. The city spent close to \$58,000 for a consultant to look at our rates and fees. We currently have approximately \$112,000 set aside in a capital facilities fund from the fees that have been charged since that time. He cannot justify reducing these rates. The utility rates in our town are probably the highest in the county. Mayor Dickhoff stated that Mr. Vellani stated he felt the she had a bias,

the reason we changed the rate structure was to help those funds support themselves rather than supplement them from the Watershed. At that time we could not pay for the system and could not qualify for the grants needed for improvement. The Council was given 3 different options, on how they could set the fees/rates. That is what was done. Let's say we have a fire in the watershed, we have insurance but the difference between that and future sales is not close. She is not against growth, we have changed our permit structure to try and bring in new business and new jobs and people. We have gotten funding for the Timberworks; replaced lines, etc., but we need to be sure the rates are set up to make sure the fund is sustainable. She does not believe we are looking at how everything connects. The changes that are made need to cover the costs of the maintenance and upkeep.

Councilmember Grun expressed his concern about the amount of timber that is being harvested. He believes we are cutting too much and we need to stop doing that. We need to quit having the watershed support the rates. Councilmember Wilson said he believes the Forester will do his due diligence in the oversight and sales of the Watershed. Councilmember Grun moved to amend the Ordinance to return the meters of 1" or bigger back to the original amounts. His motion was seconded. A lengthy discussion followed wherein Councilmember Winkelman stated that we have talked about how people are not going to be able to afford to live here, about what would happen if there was a fire at the watershed, no one can know what will happen in the future and he believe that is just demagoguery – we are putting the fear out there – making it sound scary. Mayor Dickhoff stated that she understands he is trying to diminish her point, but if anyone thinks it is unlikely that it could happen – there is a reason we pay for the roads out there, we patrol the area, etc., we want to make sure we can protect the watershed for the future. There could be a fire, it would be millions of dollars of loss to the city and would take a generation to grow back. Councilmember McMillan called for the vote on the amendment. The motion to amend failed by voice vote.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Nelson called for the vote on the main motion as amended. Mayor Dickhoff stated she is in charge of the meeting and if people want to ask questions on something this important she is going to allow that. Councilmember Wilson reiterated that this is not being done on behalf of one person, these fees were being reviewed a year ago. We want to encourage development. Following this discussion, the Ordinance was read by title a second time and the motion as

amended passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 2, with Councilmembers Anderson and Grun voting no.

Mayor Dickhoff stated that she is obligated to veto this as she said she would. She finds it repugnant that any person would sit in a meeting with one particular group and the basis for a formula to change fees is done by saying "how much would you pay". That is disgusting and the level of integrity is just so far to the ground that she cannot believe this council would even consider it. She has gotten more feedback from the community on this issue completely against doing this than any other issue during her time being involved with the city. So, she doesn't know who people are speaking for but it certainly is not the citizens in Hoquiam. You do not, you do not sit in a room with people and say how much would you pay. You don't do it and she finds it absolutely disgusting. She has given her entire adult life to the city of Hoquiam and there is nothing the council can do or say that any benefit outweighs the principal of that. It's abhorrent. This is not the city that she knows; this is not anything that she has seen in her time. She asked if anyone had reached out to staff – by a raise of hands had anyone talked to Lonnie, Mo? How about Corri or Brian or Steve. The lack of involvement or willingness to educate yourselves about the broader discussion on this topic is embarrassing. It is your job and if you don't want to do your job and you just want to vote based on something that you think is going to be good is pathetic. That is all she had to say on the matter and she stated she was sure her veto will be out voted, but she sincerely hopes not. She believes the city can come up with something and a formula that can actually calculate needs and not just pull it out of a back pocket.

Mr. Johnson reviewed instructions for a veto and stated that the Ordinance would come back before the council at the next meeting if the Mayor choses to veto.

Councilmember George stated that a rate study from 2005 keeps being brought up but the Public Utilities Committee did not have the opportunity to review that study. Ms. Schmid stated that they recently located the study and she can provide copies to the council. Councilmember Forkum stated that it was important information and she puts that on the City staff that council did not have the information. Mr. Shay stated that this is the first time anyone from the Council has requested it.

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LEGAL BUSINESS

Other

Grays Harbor Baseball
Contract

A rental agreement between the City and Grays Harbor College was presented to the Council regarding use of Olympic Stadium. Ms. Schmid stated that the fees in the agreement are based on our fee resolution. Councilmember McMillan moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the college. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Retreat

Councilmember McMillan reminded Council that the Council retreat is scheduled for next Monday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m. Staff will attend for the first hour if you have any questions for them.

Potholes

Councilmember Forkum brought up the issue of potholes which she has brought to the council at previous meetings. She understands that there are some staffing shortages right now and that things are being prioritized. Mr. Shay stated that Council can refer any calls they have regarding maintenance to the appropriate staff person or to the Mayor. He also provided an update on the Simpson waterline project and stated that the repaving will be moved to next year due to DOT federal funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Boat

Councilmember Grun spoke briefly about the boat that sank on Hoquiam river. Mr. Shay stated that the river is under the jurisdiction of DOE and the Coast Guard.

Lights on Simpson

A brief discussion was held regarding the lights on Simpson. Mr. shay stated that staff is currently looking at the replacement costs for some of the poles and that they are working to fix the lighting.

Public Utilities Committee

Councilmember Wilson stated that he wanted to clarify that it was not a committee member that asked the question of "how much would you pay" when the committee discussed the Capital Facility Charges. He wanted to make sure that this was made clear.

Excuse Absent Members

Councilmember McMillan moved to excuse the absent members and the motion was seconded. Mayor Dickhoff stated that she received a message from Councilmember Simera stating that she has relocated and is no longer living in her ward so she has submitted her resignation. Staff will advertise for the vacant Ward 6 position. The motion to excuse the absent member passed by voice vote.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Boat on River

Bill Weiland, 600 Washington Court, stated his concern about the Hoquiam River. He believes there have been 4 boats that have sank there which are full of fuel and chemical which is leaking into the water. Mr. Shay stated that the city doesn't have authority over the River and that we will need to bet the Coast Guard or DOE to take some action.

Waterfowl Ordinance

Mr. Elijah Meinser 233 ½ Chenault, spoke to the Council regarding recent fines he received for having domestic fowl inside city limits. He has ducks and a goose. He moved here to get away from big city and has now received 2 citations for his animals. He would like to know why the ordinance limits waterfowl.

Adjourn

Councilmember Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Jasmine Dickhoff - Mayor

Tracy Wood – Council Secretary