

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dickhoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Fire Chief Tom Hubbard led the flag salute. A moment of silence was held in honor of past City Councilmember Byron Hyde.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Dickhoff and Councilmembers Anderson, Carlstrom, George, Grun, Hinchey, McMillan, Nelson, Wilson and Winkelman. Absent from the meeting was Councilmember Forkum.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Taxes

Councilmember McMillan moved to open the public hearing on Property Taxes at 7:03 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Ms. Schmid made a presentation on the 2019 Property Tax Revenue and the budget calendar for the remainder of the year. She reviewed how the property taxes are disbursed through the State, County and City as well as the current levy's and bonds that the City has. The City will be requesting a 1% regular levy increase which will generate approximately \$13,650 more in property tax revenue for 2019. Councilmember McMillan moved to close the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ward 3 Council Vacancy

Ms. Shannon Patterson submitted a letter to the City regarding her interest in filling the Ward 3 Council vacancy. This is the only letter that was received.

PUD Annual Report

Ian Cope, representing the Grays Harbor PUD provided the Annual Report of the PUD. He introduced Commissioner Russ Skolrood and PUD General Manager Dave Ward. This Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the PUD will be holding their drive through customer appreciation day and he invited all to attend. Safety and reliability are one of their top priorities. In 2019 they will be working with Port and numerous tribal communities to provide fiber services for better service in Shoalwater, Taholah, etc. They had fewer outages this past year than the previous year, and are also looking at the age of the poles and what will need to be replaced. They recently completed the update to their Strategic Plan, have a new trimming cycle, and received a clean report on accountability and financial statements from Auditors office.

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Letter Supporting Hoquiam Library Ms. Schmid read a letter from Jim Blake regarding the recent discussions and possible closure of the Hoquiam Library.

Timberland Regional Library Cheryl Heywood, TRL Director, spoke to the Council and citizens regarding the recent draft Capital Plan recommendation to close the Hoquiam Library. In the past few weeks she has met with Jim Walsh and Brian Blake. TRL's funding from the State has gone from 6 million in the 90's from timber revenue to now 1.6 to 1.7 million. They are now at a point where tough decisions need to be made. They are looking at a deficit of over \$700,000 in their budget by the end of next year. She reminded Council that the Capital Plan is only a draft proposal; it is not set in stone. The Board of Trustees are the final decision makers. Hoquiam averages 61 borrowers a day; their budget is approximately \$300,000 for salaries and utilities. The Plan was looking at ways to consolidate services but still have them available in other nearby areas. Councilmember McMillan stated that the Hoquiam library is a city owned building. The City is putting over 1 million into the maintenance of the building at the current time. Ms. Heywood stated that the Facilities Committee will be presenting to the overall board in the next several weeks. Mr. Shay stated that in reviewing TRL's budget, the headquarters budget is the same budget as the operating budget for all the 5 county 27 libraries; are you looking at ways to reduce that budget. Ms. Heywood stated that they have not filled several vacancies and are looking at other departments that could be reduced in size. They are currently working on a shoestring budget and are very lean on staff. They are looking at everything right now.

The Board is meeting again Wednesday night at TRL headquarters at 415 Tumwater Blvd., in Tumwater at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Dickhoff said that she learned from a newspaper article that Hoquiam was on the chopping block. The City has spent more money on the library building than any other city building. We need this resource for our community. She believes the City has stepped up and really tried to work together. Councilmember McMillan stated he has served on the library board for 20 years. When TRL said to go out to the voters to become a district, we did. Sending our citizens from here to Aberdeen is not safe and is unacceptable. Why are we on the list? Mayor Dickhoff stated she would be in attendance at the meeting on Wednesday.

Public Comment Library Christine Louder, Hoquiam, hear to speak about the library. It is within walking distance of her home and she lives at the library. Closing this library will be a devastating loss to her family.

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Arnie Martin, Chenault in Hoquiam. He is a member of the Friends of the Library and has volunteered many hours on behalf of the library. One of the reasons they moved here when he retired was the library. He is very pleased with our library. We have great staff, equipment; a meeting room that is an important community service.

Connie Parsons, 703 Simpson, stated that she spends a lot of time at the library as do many others from Emerson Manor. It is within walking distance of their building. She is a local amateur historian and considers herself to be in good health. She can't imagine driving to Aberdeen and going to that library. They have a lot of residents at their building who don't drive and many Seniors do not use computers. They depend on this library.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Grun moved for the approval of consent Agenda item a as presented. His motion was seconded. Item a consisted of the City Council meeting minutes of September 24, 2018. The motion for approval of the consent agenda passed by voice vote.

MAYOR REPORTS

Mayor Dickhoff stated that the Celebration of Life for past Councilmember Hyde will be held on Sunday, October 14th at 1:00 at the Senior Center. Byron's wishes were that he be placed in a City shirt and she thanked Tracy for getting that taken care of. He was a great person and dedicated many years to the citizens of Hoquiam. He would be proud of us for standing up for the library. He served this community well and will be missed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Watershed Tour

Councilmember Carlstrom thanked Councilmember Grun and staff for putting together the recent Watershed tour. She learned so much from attending and would highly recommend other councilmembers try to attend one of these tours.

My Town Coalition

My Town Coalition is holding their Key Leader dinner on October 17th at the Hoquiam Elks. It starts at 5:30 p.m.

Sidewalk by Library

Councilmember Carlstrom stated that the markings on the sidewalk on 7th Street in front of the Library are covered in leaves. It is dangerous for those who are not familiar with the problem there and asked if staff could take care of the leaves. Mr. Shay stated staff will take care of this.

OLD BUSINESS

**Parking Zone in front of
Clevengers**

Councilmember McMillan stated that at the last meeting, a request from Clevenger's for a 2 hour parking zone in front of their building was referred to the Public Safety Committee. He asked if

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Councilmember Nelson could set a meeting to consider this request. The Public Safety Committee will meet on October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Hoquiam Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Vacant Ward 3 Council
Position

Councilmember Nelson moved to appoint Shannon Patterson to fill the vacant Council position in the third ward. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Mayor Dickhoff issued the oath of office to Ms. Patterson and she took her seat as the new Ward 3 Councilmember.

Offer for Purchase of
Property

Councilmember George suggested that the City write a letter to the TRL Board opposing the closure of the Hoquiam Library. Mayor Dickhoff stated that she will be attending the meeting in Tumwater on Wednesday. Councilmember McMillan moved to have the Mayor or staff prepare a strongly worded letter that the council, mayor and citizens want their library to stay in Hoquiam. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Councilmember Grun stated that he would like to see staff work closely with TRL to see if we can help in anyway with their budget situation.

Watershed Meeting

Councilmember Grun announced that there will be a Watershed Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 22nd in the Mayor's office.

Council Meeting of
November 12, 2018

Staff has requested that Council move the regular meeting of November 12th to November 13th due to the holiday. Councilmember McMillan moved to set November 13th as a regular council meeting date. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Fire Chief Hubbard

Chief Hubbard was introduced by Mayor Dickhoff. He stated he has been working with staff since September and things are going well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Issue with Tree's on Hyde
Park Drive

Mr. Bill Wieland, 600 Washington Court, stated that Mr. Shay spoke to the property owners where the tree's on Hyde Park were hanging over the roadway and the problem was taken care of.

Library Construction Closure

Mary Thornton, City Librarian, reminded everyone that the library will be closing temporarily on Thursday October 11th for approximately 6 weeks to allow for the completion of the construction/renovation. The library staff will be working at other libraries during the closure. Also – the Children Story Time will be held in the City Council chambers on Friday mornings during the closure and Channel Point and Polson Museum are also allowing

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other library programs to be held at their buildings during the temporary closure.

Byron Hyde

Connie Parsons, 703 Simpson, shared her experiences while serving on the Sr. Center Board with Mr. Hyde. He was a great person to work with and dedicated many hours to our community in many different ways.

Excuse Absent Member

Councilmember McMillan moved to excuse the absent member and his motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

JASMINE DICKHOFF – Mayor

TRACY WOOD – City Council Secretary