

City of Creswell
Council Minutes
Public Hearing on Gas Tax Measure
July 7, 2008

Council Present:

Bill McCoy
David Case
Jack Gradle

Robert Millam
Bob Hooker

Staff Present:

Mark Shrives
Roberta Tharp
Roy Sprout
Layli Nichols

City Administrator
City Recorder
Public Works
Finance Director

Council Absent 0

Press: 2

Audience: 14

1. Citizen Input on Proposed Gas Tax Measure:

Acting Mayor Bob Hooker opened the Public Hearing, to receive public comment on the proposed Gas Tax Measure to be placed on the November 2008 General Election Ballot.

City Administrator Mark Shrives said the public hearing tonight is to allow the Council to receive public comment on the proposed local gas tax. The local gas tax is being considered due to the loss of Secure Rural School dollars which filtered down to Creswell via the City County Road Partnership Agreement which made up 1/3 of the State Highway Street Fund revenues annually. If the Council should decide to proceed with the proposal, the money generated from this tax would only be used for street maintenance and improvements.

Public Comment:

Lorraine Still who resides at 83076 North Bradford Road, Creswell addressed Council opposing the gas tax stating this is not the time to enforce a tax as people are struggling and suffering with the increased costs of fuel and groceries. She purchases her fuel locally and supports the community but feels the tax will be burdensome and doesn't know what the solution is.

Carl Sorenson who resides at 170 Magnolia Drive, Creswell addressed the Council in favor of the gas tax and said he respects Mrs. Stills' position but feels people need to stand up, be responsible and learn to pay their own way. He said we need to take care of our streets and feels three cents is not very much.

Carolanne Sudderth who resides at 465 South 7th Street, Creswell addressed the Council in opposition of the proposed gas tax said three cents may not be much but may force some to go out of town to purchase their fuel. Ms. Sudderth said lowest prices around and reputation is what draws people to Creswell to purchase fuel. She would like to see a new tax base formed to make up what the City would gain in gas tax.

Robert Still who resides at 83076 North Bradford Road Creswell addressed the Council opposing the proposed fuel tax said the tax payers are the government and said he would like to see the public well informed on the gas tax proposal.

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Dennis Gaberielson who resides at 300 South 10th Street, Creswell addressed the Council in opposition of the proposed fuel tax said he would like to have curbs, gutters and sidewalks along tenth street as it is a hazard for school children walking to and from school. Mr. Gaberielson said he commutes to Eugene to work and if the tax passes and fuel prices are the same he will shop where it is most convenient for him.

Ron Bowers PO Box 519 Creswell addressed the Council questioning if the proposal included both retail and commercial fuel sales including the card lock, owned and operated by Creswell Commercial Service. Acting Mayor Bob Hooker replied that decision has not been made yet.

City Administrator Mark Shrives passed out two letters from citizens citing their opposition to the gas tax that were received at City Hall.

There being no further comments Acting Mayor Bob Hooker closed the public hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Council regarding the proposed gas tax measure, Acting Mayor Bob Hooker Adjourned the Meeting.

Robert L. Hooker, Acting Mayor

Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder