

City of Creswell
Council Minutes
February 21, 2008

The Special scheduled council meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Tim Demanett and the pledge of allegiance given.

Council Present:

David Case
Bob Millam
Tim Demanett

Bill McCoy
Mike Ufford

Staff Present:

Jamon Kent
Shelley Humble
Roberta Tharp
Ken Jones
Interim City
Administrator
Airport Manager
City Recorder
City Attorney

Council Absent: Ron Petitti

Press: 1

Audience: 35

Acting Mayor Tim Demanett thanked the Lane County Sheriff's department for a job well done in bringing conclusion to the recent shooting of a dog just outside the City Limits.

1. Review/Action on Town Hall Meeting Report

Interim City Administrator Jamon Kent said Jim Johnson's report on the Creswell Airport Town Hall Meeting was discussed at the February 11th City Council meeting, but no official direction was given staff on how to proceed. Mr. Kent said he would like clarification on staff direction since no direction was given, yet Council wished to have Jim Johnson return to complete a visionary process for the Airport. Mr. Kent has contacted Mr. Johnson and he is willing to work on a visionary, but needs some specifics as to what the council wants and in what capacity. Bob Millam noted the remaining amount of the contract approved for Jim Johnson could be used to complete this process. Mr. Kent said Mr. Johnson's purpose of this process would be to look at the future of the Airport and what action the Council would want to take based upon the visionary process.

Bill McCoy moved Bob Millam seconded to accept Jim Johnson's report on the Creswell Airport Town Hall Meeting, and adopt the recommendations in the report.

Discussion ensued and David Case asked to review the recommendations included in the report and Bill McCoy listed them as follows:

1. No Additional Town Hall Meetings
2. Conduct a Visioning Process and Goal Setting
3. Direction to the City Administrator
4. Direction to the Airport Commission
5. The Future of Skydiving at the Airport
6. Airport Expansion

Mr. McCoy said he feels most of these things will come out of the visionary process, but would also like to have an idea what Mr. Johnson feels this will cost. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Council directed staff to ask Mr. Johnson to return and present a simple visionary process for the Airport, resulting in goals, not to exceed the previously approved contract amount. Mr. Kent said he will contact Mr. Johnson and set a date sometime in March.

2. Review/Action on October 10, 2006 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Letter

Interim City Administrator Jamon Kent said it is necessary for the Council to clarify previous direction given to staff. On September 10th, 2007 the Council directed staff to take no further action on the skydiving issue, in order to move forward Council needs to either change that decision and direction or reaffirm it. City Attorney Ken Jones said Council gave specific direction to staff to do nothing more unless something has changed with the FAA.

Mr. Kent said he has spoke with Chuck Cox of the FAA, who said there has been some recent action and a letter is forthcoming to the city basically stating that an airport cannot have simultaneous fixed wing and parachute activities. Mr. Cox said an airport can have both activities just not simultaneously; he was unable to provide a timeline for the letter to arrive.

City Attorney Ken Jones said the October 2006 Council decision was reviewed on September 10th 2007 at the request of Urban Moore, owner of Eugene Skydivers. Douglas Minger, Mr. Moore's attorney provided additional material to be reviewed in September, he thought might change the Council's decision. Mr. Jones said the Council reviewed the information in executive session, and upon reconvening the Council Meeting voted unanimously to take no further action until a change in the FAA ruling is received by the Council.

Bob Millam said it is his feeling the Council is perceived as being against the skydivers, but reassured everyone they are not, they have a responsibility to make good choices for the City and strive for a win-win situation. Tim Demanett said based on the information he has now the City is waiting for a letter from the FAA and the action to do nothing still stands.

Interim City Administrator Jamon Kent explained the City is basically in the same position as it was in September of 2007, we have the same letter from the FAA, land use laws state there must be at least ten contiguous acres by the airport to have a safe drop zone, and there are also some insurance issues. Council directed Mr. Kent to get an update from the insurance carrier to see if there have been any changes since the report two years ago which stated they would no longer be providing that line of insurance.

A discussion ensued about the recently acquired property the City purchased from Oregon Department of Transportation next to the airport for investment purposes. Tim Demanett asked to have the Finance Committee set a meeting to begin looking into what the City would like to do with that property. Mr. Kent said he has had a request from someone to lease the land for pasture and feels maybe we should advertise in case others are interested in leasing it.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, Acting Mayor Tim Demanett adjourned the meeting.

Tim Demanett, Acting Mayor

Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder