

City of Creswell
Town Hall Meeting
May 22, 2008

Council Present:

David Case
Bob Hooker
Mike Ufford

Tim Demanett
Robert Millam

Staff Present:

Mark Shrives
Roberta Tharp
Layli Nichols

City Administrator
City Recorder
Finance Director

Council Absent: 1 Bill McCoy

Press: 2

Audience: 8

The City of Creswell's Town Hall meeting was called to order by Mayor Tim Demanett and the pledge of allegiance given.

Mayor Tim Demanett opened the Town Hall Meeting giving the Citizens of Creswell an opportunity to provide feedback to the City Council regarding information and ideas for funding Street Maintenance and Improvements. There is a greater need for street preservation and maintenance, than available funding sources. The goal is a new locally controlled source of revenue with the proposed solution being a local gas tax said Mr. Demanett.

Finance Director Layli Nichols said to be compliant with Election Laws the City Council will need to decided by the July 7th Council meeting whether or not to move forward in placing the gas initiative on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

Mayor Tim Demanett presented a short PowerPoint presentation on Creswell's city streets highlighting on the condition of streets, cost of repairs, maintenance and how to fund the future of our streets. Mr. Demanett proposed the implementation of a local Gas Tax to help cover the maintenance and improvement costs to local streets. Mr. Demanett said based on the information he has if a local gas tax of three cents per gallon of gasoline were implemented it would cost the average person around \$40.00 per year.

Finance Director Layli Nichols said in the past the City has received funds from the City County Road Partnership funding, but with the sunset of the Secure Rural Schools Funding, Creswell will no longer be receiving that revenue used for street maintenance.

Mayor Tim Demanett addressed System Development Charges for streets and explained upon completion of a newly annexed development where streets have been created, the ownership of the streets transfers to the City who then is responsible for maintaining and repairing them. Finance Director Layli Nichols said in the past two years the amount of system development charges collected by the city is enough money to provide street maintenance for approximately one month.

Mayor Demanett went over a street inventory list showing that of the 160 miles of fully improved City streets in Creswell about 90% of them are rated fair to better, of the twenty miles of asphalt streets, and the 10 miles of dirt and gravel 100% are rated substandard or Poor. Mr. Demanett said if we fail to maintain the streets with fair to better ratings, they will soon slip to the poor/substandard category. Mr. Demanett said he sees West A Street between North 5th & 7th Streets as well as South 10th Street big concerns for the children walking to school in the ditch because there are no sidewalks.

Mayor Demanett reiterated the fact that if the Council chooses to go forward with the gas tax the public needs to be made aware that the monies collected from the gas tax can only be used for street maintenance and improvements. Mr. Demanett also suggested when the City is working on a street project, a sign stating Your Tax Dollars at Work including the dates of the project as well as the cost should be placed at the site.

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Mr. Demanett opened the discussion up to the audience and Council asking for input and suggestions.

Councilor Bob Hooker says the longer we wait the worse it is going to get, the streets will need more repair and the price will continue to climb.

Brian McBeth who resides at 33938 Martin Road asked what the estimate would be for the City to only maintain the streets and not make any improvements. Mayor Demanett directed staff to put together figures for only maintenance and not repairs for the next meeting breaking it down to include sidewalks, storm drains, and curbs and gutters.

Barbara Zenter who resides at 502 Pebble Beach Drive asked the Council if the three cent tax per gallon of gasoline was going to maintain the amount of dollars lost from the city county road partnership fund or if that would be making up some extra money. Mr. Demanett responded the three cent tax would be replacing the lost dollars and wondered how long that amount would continue to carry the city and said maybe a four cent tax would be better. Mr. Demanett said after enactment the tax could only be raised by the vote of the people not by the Council.

City Administrator Mark Shrives said he has spoken with representatives from Cottage Grove and Springfield both of whom said when they implemented a local gas tax in their jurisdictions, they received more money than they were expecting to.

A discussion ensued amongst the Council regarding the proposed tax being collected not only from the residents of Creswell but from freeway travelers as well. Councilor Mike Ufford said we want to be sure the proposed tax will be in an amount that will make a difference, if it were not enough he didn't think the public would receive that very well. Bob Millam said we also need to be careful not to hurt the fuel station owners and have people purchase gas elsewhere.

Bill Spencer who resides at 32718 DeBerry Road Creswell and is the owner of the Creswell 76 fuel station said the numbers used in the powerpoint presentation are from a year ago when the gas tax proposal was first discussed. Mr. Spencer said he has new updated figures he is willing to provide and asked to have the presentation revamped using those numbers as well as providing true maintenance costs to project a clearer picture of the amount of revenue the tax would produce.

Jerry Norcia who resides at 33937 Martin Road Creswell suggested a bulk mailing to residents explaining the proposed gas tax in clear terms due to the lack of public participation in this meeting.

Barbara Zenter who resides at 502 Pebble Beach Drive, Creswell asked Mr. Spencer what percentage of his cliental is local and what percent is from out of the area. Mr. Spencer replied that about ninety percent of his business is local citizens, and he feels that the AM/PM Arco is probably just the opposite from the Creswell 76 station.

Mayor Tim Demanett began a discussion on monitoring the tax and said he feels the local gas tax needs to be placed on the November general election ballot. Mr. Demanett said if the tax passes by the vote of the people we can move forward, if it fails it was the voter's choice.

City Administrator Mark Shrives recommended the Council update the presentation with current information, send out an informational flyer with the June water bills and take public comment at the July 7th City Council meeting, all councilors giving consensus to the recommendation.

There being not further discussion to come before the Council, Mayor Tim Demanett closed the Town Hall Meeting.

Robert A. Hooker, Council President

Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder