

Council Present:

Omar Bowles
Brent Gifford
Ted Romoser
Jane Vincent

Holly Campbell
Adam Pelatt
Dave Stram

Staff Present:

Layli Nichols
Shelley Humble
Maddie Phillips

Finance Director
Airport Manager
Planning Technician

Staff Absent:

Michelle Amberg
Cliff Bellew
Maia Hardy

City Administrator
Public Works Director
RARE Participant

Council Absent: 0

Press: 1 – Creswell Chronicle – Scott Olson

Audience: 28

The regularly scheduled City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Stram at 7:03 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

1. Mayor's Report

The sound system is not functioning, so Councilors are encouraged to speak loudly.

Several staff members are absent due to illness, including Michelle Amberg.

2. Public Forum

- Richard Zetterval – 1122 Swale Ridge Loop, commend City Council on passing the water rate increase; nobody wants to pay more for water, but all costs must be covered fully by those that use the water system. Hard facts were presented from his water bill: \$46 average bill. January 2015: 4% \$47.84, July 2015: 8% \$51.67, July 2016: 8% \$55.80; In total, the rate increase results in approximately \$.33/month. He would be willing to help those less fortunate. Mr. Zetterval explained that annual increases are based on Budget Committee recommendation – City Council has the opportunity but not the obligation to raise rates to accommodate for costs. City Council could choose to lower rates. The increase is a little less than most people are saying.
- Jacob Daniels – Thanks to Jane Vincent for putting on the Town Hall. Congratulations were offered to Brent on his final Council meeting. It was a tough vote everyone had to make regarding the water rate increase. Unanimous vote means that prevailing parties can be brought back for further discussion. He recommends setting the rate to rise with the consumer price index. It could then be appealed to the people for increases beyond the CPI. Lane County is doing something similar with vehicle tax. South Lane Fire is another example, when the organization needs more money, you can put it to the ballot. Mr. Daniels hopes that he can help find a way for citizens to have more input and offered his help in keeping the City solvent.
- Daylen Stram – 545 S. 2nd Street. As part of the technology generation, the importance of social media is significant. Upon discovering misleading information on a Facebook page dedicated to more affordable water in Creswell, he provided correction comments. He was personally attacked, blocked, and his comments were deleted. Many others had similar experiences, being prevented from commenting. The managers of this page espouse the tenants of democracy, but have silenced those who question it. Accusations were made of civic leaders not being transparent, or comments that were false or provided misinformation. It is clear to Mr. Stram that the people running this page do not want a constructive discussion. Information can be accessed at City Hall and Councilors are available to answer questions.
- Jessica Pelatt – Citizens elect Councilors to invest free time to investigate and become experts on a subject because residents often do not have time to dedicate towards becoming such experts. There is a lot of information that goes along with the water rate increase. She noted that Mr. Pelatt has spent lots of time getting educated on this issue. Ms. Pelatt noted that sometimes folks feel that they are experts on ideas they're upset about. Providing an opportunity for Councilors to explain how they came to these conclusions may help residents understand. Few people have asked. Ms. Pelatt noted that despite poverty

in the community, Councilors still must make the best decision that accounts for the cost of providing water to City residents. Just because someone can't afford it, doesn't mean it doesn't cost. As their duty, as elected officials, Councilors need to make the decision because it is right, not because it is popular.

- Martha McReynolds, Jr. – 590 D Street. Ms. McReynolds echoed Ms. Pelatt and Mr. Stram's comments. Councilors are citizen volunteers spending ~15 hours a week. I appreciate that you want to represent us. Regarding the Facebook page, Jacob Daniels and Tony Marques, are managing the "Creswell for Affordable Water" page. Ms. McReynolds would like the Creswell City Council to understand that this site is a disingenuous representation of City Councilors. Marquess Properties owns 26 acres. The Marquess' have done well using infrastructure we have all paid for. Ms. McReynolds finds this upsetting and believes this brings a toxic environment, akin to the Hooker era, marked by the absence of transparency. "Creswell for Affordable Water" is manipulative; the motivation for this page is not to advocate for Creswell's poor.

Items 5A - Administrator's Quarterly Update and 6B - Jan Carothers for staff training were tabled until the Monday December 15 work session due to Ms. Amberg's absence.

Mayor Stram asked for council consensus. Council consensus was given.

Item 6G - Water Rate Public Education was moved to 6A so that members of the public can hear this item sooner. Consensus was given for this agenda adjustment.

Brent Gifford was recognized for his service as a City Councilor. Mr. Gifford was Chair of Council Finance Committee, and worked closely with Layli to produce financial policies for the city. He is moving to California to take a new job (audience boos).

3. Correspondence

- A. Lane County Sheriff's Calls For Service Report – November 2014
- B. Code Enforcement Report for November 2014
- C. Portland State University – Population Estimate
- D. Charter Communications

Mayor Stram asked if Councilors had any questions. No questions were raised.

4. Consent Calendar

Mayor Stram asked if any Councilor wished to pull items for discussion. No items are pulled for discussion.

A correction was made to the items listed on the Agenda: October 27 Special City Council meeting minutes

Lane County Election final results: Mayor Stram and Holly Campbell, re-elected; Richard Hyman will be sworn in at the January Council Meeting. With a write-in vote, Adam Pelatt prevailed to serve another term.

Councilor Pelatt moved; Councilor Campbell seconded; to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Voted on and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Administrative Report

Administration

No report was given – City Administrator is absent.

Airport

No report was given.

Finance

Ms. Nichols noted that the October 30, 2014 Financial Summary was passed out at the meeting.

Financial Statement will be forthcoming in the next quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec).

No comments were issued on the financial statements.

Public Works

No Report was given – Public Works Director is absent.

6. Council Action Items

Water Rates Public Education Plan

As presented by Councilor Campbell: The Transportation and Public Works Committee was charged with determining whether or not the water rates needed to be adjusted. Councilor Campbell commended Councilors Pelatt and Gifford for their contribution. City Administrator Amberg and Public Works Director Bellew helped educate the committee. After the water rate study was commissioned it was this committee's job to vet and interpret the results.

Ms. Campbell noted the committee's Education Plan focuses on communicating why the Council voted to raise rates, as well as what system impacts would occur if the rates were not raised. There is a history in the community regarding water rates that goes back years. The committee put together an education program that is simple but contains many elements; Ms. Campbell noted that committee members are not paid or professional communicators, nor does Creswell have a public information officer – the plan will be volunteer based, and hopes to meet needs as they arise.

Recommendation from the Transportation and Public Works Committee to City Council: Water Rate Information Plan

- Hold a Town Hall meeting on behalf of the Mayor and City Council to present answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the water rate increase and collect feedback from the public. This will be held Tuesday December 16 at 7pm at the Community Center.
- Support Jane Vincent's efforts to hold a Town Hall. The Committee has been working on the water rate for over a year.
- Councilors will be present at the public Town Hall meeting to explain their decision to the public, and Councilors can respond to dispel any misinformation; Councilors will be able to provide truth to the conversation.

Mr. Pelatt noted that the decision is not popular, but unfortunately it is what the community needs. This education plan is in-depth and will address citizen's concerns. Mr. Pelatt offered his apologies for not being able to provide this robust education plan prior to the vote. Councilors Pelatt, Campbell, and Gifford will be participating in meetings with every group in town. Information will be disseminated via the City website, fliers, presentations at the schools, tours of the water plant facilities; everything that can be done to help educate residents of Creswell. Councilors will try very hard to provide all the education the public might need. Councilor Pelatt offered his apologies for the delay.

Councilor Gifford echoed all comments.

Councilor Campbell discussed providing tailored education for the effect of water on different groups/City functions. For example, Ms. Campbell discussed the effect of water on economic development, water as it relates to purity and public safety and welfare, helping residents understand what the state and federal agencies regulate and what this costs; Discussing the successes of having an advanced water treatment facility, Creswell's award-winning water; and present the challenges of providing it – an ageing infrastructure, and otherwise.

Educational pieces will be provided to the Chronicle, the City website, etc. The program will address "Everything you ever wanted to know about water but were afraid to ask."

The city has challenges down the road related to the City's growth. Businesses want to know how our water system is when they think about coming to Creswell. Councilors will give tours for the public to see the costs of producing water and where their payments go. Councilor Campbell noted the committee would like a volunteer to develop an informative power point to share with the public.

Ms. Campbell explained that the committee doesn't want to spend money on the public information piece; but we would like to promote the H2O fund run by Community Sharing in Cottage Grove. Ms. Campbell encouraged residents to get the word out that this fund is available; this fund is for folks on fixed incomes and those unable to pay their utility bill. For those community members able to afford a contribution – speak with Mike (Community Sharing director) about making a donation to the non-profit.

Councilor Campbell asked that if groups would like a Councilor to come speak, Councilors will begin to reach out in January.

Mayor Stram entertained audience members' questions:

- Where and when will the plan be available for the public to see?

Once approved, the City will put the education plan on the website. The document is primarily a guide: there are no dates or expenses – Just ideas Council members have talked about. December 16th (Town Hall meeting) is the only date listed on the plan. Some education plan parts have been implemented, such as the insert in the utility bill.

- MaryAnne (from Library) asked "Will the Town Hall Meeting will be held here (city hall)?
Councilor Campbell indicated the Town Hall will be held at the Community Center.
- Rick Zetterval offered his support and thanks.
- Richard Hyman wanted to know if the plan will be voted on.

Mayor Stram answered that the vote will ensue in a few short minutes.

Mayor Stram entertained Council Questions

- Councilor Vincent thanked those who came out prior to the Council meeting to speak with her.

Councilor Campbell moved to approve the Water Rate Education Information Plan as presented. The Committee recommends that a Town Hall Meeting on behalf of the Mayor and City Council to be held to answer Frequently Asked Questions about the water rate increases and to hear feedback from the public. The committee recommends that the meeting be held on December 16 at 7pm at the Community Center. Councilor Vincent seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tree Care Plan

Madeline Phillips presented the final draft of the Tree Care Plan, which reflects a year's worth of work by the Tree Board. This is one of the last projects to be completed from her RARE service.

Trees play a significant role in connecting Creswell residents to their past. Creswell is in its fourth year as a Tree City USA, celebrating Arbor Day in conjunction with Earth Day every April. The city meets the four criteria required of Tree Cities, including having a Tree Board, a tree ordinance, celebrating Arbor Day, and spending at least \$2 per capita on the maintenance of trees.

This public document, which enhances one of the criteria required for the certification, helps residents.

The Executive Summary makes observations and findings identifying conflicts with different practices and codes in the City of Creswell.

The Tree Board will be doing outreach to promote and share the Tree Care Plan with the public.

Councilor Campbell commended Ms. Phillips on her work and the work of the Tree Board. The comprehensive nature of the Tree Care Plan is unique. She emphasized the public education opportunity to help residents select trees appropriate to their property.

Councilor Gifford moved to approve the Tree Care Plan as presented. Councilor Pelatt seconded. Voted on and the motion carries unanimously.

Proposal from Jan Carothers for Staff Training

This item was tabled to December 15 Special meeting.

Change Orders for City Hall Parking Lot

Councilor Bowles asked if this is really a reduction in cost.

Layli Nichols confirmed that Change Order #1 increased the overall cost, Change Order #2 reduced the cost based on previous overcrowding of plantings.

Councilor Gifford moved to approve Change Order #1 for over excavation of Creswell City Hall Parking Lot as presented, in the amount of \$2,167.67. Councilor Bowles seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Councilor Gifford moved to approve Change Order #2 for landscaping of the City Hall Parking Lot in a credit amount of \$14,519. Councilor Vincent seconded.

Motion passes unanimously.

Pay Request for Knife River

Ms. Nichols noted that this is not the final payment request; we still have our 5% retainage, which is typical on contracts of this nature, to assure that the project is completed. The City is still waiting for Franz Electric to install a light fixture; They're waiting for the fixture to come in. As soon as the fixture is in place and we do a walk-through and release the 5% retainage.

Councilor Brent Gifford moved to approve pay request #2 for work on the City Hall Parking Lot project for \$106,493.74. Councilor Omar Bowles seconded. Voted on and the motion passed unanimously.

Contract Amendment for Nagao/Hansen

Ms. Nichols explained that there were several items regarding the City Hall parking lot that were not included in the original parking lot request. Much of the amendment request had to do with re-engineering and moving of elements of the parking lot. Ms. Nichols included the original contract with Ken Nagao for the upstairs of City Hall and the parking lot for background.

The assumption that Task Order #2 circa 2010, (\$25,000), which came before Council in April, had been completed; In fact, by virtue of the Council reviewing and passing each pay request, that the Council had acted appropriately. This action would further clarify the changes to his contract and ratify that.

Councilor Campbell asked if these items are typically the responsibility of the Architect.

Ms. Nichols noted that Jamon Kent, Larry Patterson, and Michelle Amberg all worked on the project. \$17,000 is referred to as Task Order #3, though this is confusing.

Ms. Nichols noted that all pay requests from Ken Nagao have been brought to the council and approved by the council.

Mr. Bellew compiled section B of additional task orders, but he is absent.

Councilor Bowles recommended that the item be tabled or delayed, due to the lack of clarity, to get more information from Mr. Bellew or Ms. Amberg. Ms. Nichols noted that the project is wrapping up and will require expedience. Mayor Stram suggested that the item could be added to the agenda on Monday, December 15. Delaying a week would be appropriate.

Mayor Stram asked for consensus to move this item to the Special Meeting on Monday December 15, in lieu of directing the City Administrator to do so. Council consensus was granted.

Ms. Nichols commented that the City was operating under the notion that the \$25,000 task order was executed – that the total cost would not exceed the total anticipated contract amount. This amount then, is still present in our 2014-15 Budget.

Mayor Stram encouraged bringing information from Cliff to clarify background information on additional items. Councilors were encouraged to send email to Michelle Amberg to request particular kinds of information. Ms. Nichols noted that the original contract is included in the packet. Discussion is limited to this contract of Mr. Nagao's total not to exceed amount.

Councilor Bowles noted that more clarification would help.

Pay Request Nagao Pacific – City Hall Parking Lot Project

Councilor Campbell confirmed that the City still retained 5% from Knife River, despite this being the final pay request. Ms. Nichols presented that Mr. Nagao spoke to Mr. Bellew and noted that he will do is final walk-through “on the house.”

Councilor Omar Bowles moved that the Council approve Invoice #13060 for Nagao Pacific Architecture and Planning P.C. in the amount of \$3,299.45 for services on the City hall parking lot as presented. Councilor Pelatt seconded. Voted on and the motion carries unanimously.

Liquor License – Fast Mart Creswell

Mayor Stram presented the Liquor license request for Fast Mart at 5 South Front Street, Creswell.

Councilor Campbell asked if the sheriff had any comments. Sargent Billy Halvorson noted that there was nothing that stood out from his background check, so he had no further recommendation other than what is normal protocol.

Councilor Romoser asked if this would be primarily a liquor store. Councilor Vincent thought that it would be a convenience store like Dairy Mart. Mayor Stram noted that the application does not indicate what type of store this will be.

Councilor Pelatt moved to approve the Off-Premises Sales Liquor License Application for Fast Mart Creswell, as presented. Councilor Campbell seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A City Council sponsored Town Hall to be held next Tuesday, December 16 at 7pm the Community Center to learn more about the water rate.

Councilor Vincent will be bringing items to the next Work Session on Monday, at 6pm on December 15. Folks wanted to continue to discuss certain aspects of the water rate study.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Stram adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.



Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder



Dave Stram, Mayor

Minutes submitted by Madeline Phillips