

1 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2
3 February 8, 2006

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6 Attended: Jim Hamsher, Mayor
7 Tom McAuslan, Councilor
8 Mark Wishard, Councilor
9 Marvin Casebeer, Councilor
10 Mike Springer, Councilor
11 Don Strong, Councilor
12 Roger McKinley, Councilor
13 Bob Titus, Public Works
14 Russ Mansfield
15 Stan Horrell
16

17 Mayor Hamsher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The roll was called, all
18 members being present. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes of the
19 January 25, 2006 meeting were considered. **MSP: To approve the minutes of January**
20 **25, 2006 as written, Tom McAuslan/Mark Wishard.**

21
22 Public Works: Bob Titus gave the Council copies of the draft DEQ Wastewater Permit.
23 He noted that the major change concerned the cost to the City whether or not the land is
24 grazed to remove the crop. If the land is grazed, the effluent must be chlorinated and
25 tested. He said the landowner that has the first right of refusal to graze has indicated they
26 don't want to give up the right, but they also don't want to pay. There was discussion of
27 how much the City charges to graze and how to remove the crop by another means. The
28 Council agreed to review the permit and address it at the next meeting.
29

30 Well Drilling: Mayor Hamsher said John Coombs had said he would be interested in the
31 50% water rate option for the school as compensation for locating well sites on his
32 property. It was noted that he also wants the City to "freeze" the rate so it never goes up.
33 There was discussion of whether or not he would consent to freezing the rate after the
34 anticipated increase or if he means to have the current rate kept in place. The Recorder
35 said she had faxed the proposed agreement to the attorney and said she was looking into
36 the legality of giving the school half price water. The attorney cited Section 39 of the
37 City Charter may not allow it without a vote of the people. She also indicated it is
38 important for the City to recognize the value of such compensation. There was also
39 question of what would happen if the City developed 4 wells and in the future 2 of them
40 were abandoned – would the school still get the same discount even though the City was
41 receiving less water? Mayor Hamsher said he didn't see the charter issue the same way
42 and that another attorney should be consulted to interpret it. He said the City would be
43 giving up approximately \$2,500 a year in revenue, which at the current rates would add
44 approximately \$1 to everyone's water bill each month and didn't think the average water
45 user would have a problem with it. Mark Wishard proposed that the school would most

1 likely use much more water if they only have to pay ½ price for it and was concerned
2 with additional pumping costs. Hamsher said the more water the school uses, the more
3 revenue (even and half price) the City would receive. He also noted that electric rates
4 have been decreased by 16% and won't be raised until October 2006. There was more
5 discussion of the possible limitation of the charter and that going to a vote of the public
6 would considerably set back the project. There was more discussion of how the public
7 might feel about subsidizing the school's water bill – some may feel their taxes already
8 go toward the operation of the school and that they should pay like everyone else. Mark
9 Wishard suggested the City establish a different rate class for the school instead of saying
10 they get 50% “free,” but did not generally agree with giving them a discount. Mayor
11 Hamsher said the City would have to start all over if a deal can't be made with Coombs.
12 It was agreed that another attorney should look at the charter. The Recorder suggested
13 having the League of Oregon Cities legal department evaluate it. **MSP: To ask the**
14 **LOC legal representatives to review the City Charter as it pertains to reducing rates**
15 **for the school as compensation to the landowner in exchange for well sites. Mike**
16 **Springer/Don Strong.** Springer also stressed that he would like to see the City consider
17 and propose to Coombs that the rate only be frozen after the anticipated rate increase and
18 that the City be able to revisit the agreement at 10 year intervals. It was agreed that the
19 idea should be presented to Coombs and discussed again at a workshop or the next
20 meeting.

21

22 The Recorder said she had talked to the Fire Department about having the award
23 ceremony for Natasha Gregg on February 16, however due to basketball playoffs it was
24 suggested to have it on the 22 instead of a Council Meeting. It was agreed that the
25 ceremony would be held on February 22 and that the Council could schedule a special
26 meeting for business if need be.

27

28 Landfill: A written report was received.

29

30 Accounts Payable: **MSP: To approve the payables, Mike Springer/Marvin**
31 **Casebeer.**

32

33 Office: The Council was asked to consider their next move in regard to sewer rate
34 increases. The Recorder stressed that the City will need to collect additional revenue for
35 the remainder of the fiscal year in order to keep the Sewer Fund in balance. It was noted
36 that by not increasing the rate at the beginning of the year the fund would fall short by
37 over \$65,000, however, due to a cash carry forward, to deficit is estimated to be around
38 \$22,000 at June 30. The Mayor stressed that the City needs to make sure it is paying its
39 fair share, i.e., Depot Park should be paying more than one ERU and the City Park
40 restrooms should also be charged for sewer. It was agreed that all business user charges
41 should be reviewed and adjusted for accuracy July 1, 2006. Mayor Hamsher also said he
42 would like to have a town meeting to inform the public as to why rate increases are
43 needed and suggested having it after the award ceremony on February 22. It was agreed
44 the ceremony would be at the Grange (if available) at 6:00 pm and after a short break the
45 town meeting would be held. Mayor Hamsher said he would run the meeting and act as
46 moderator.

1 Ordinances: The Council was asked to consider Ordinance 9.14 prohibiting sex
2 offenders from entering all public parks located in the City of Prairie City, repealing
3 Ordinances 9.12 and 9.12A, and declaring an emergency. The Ordinance was read once
4 by title and once in its entirety. **MSP: To adopt Ordinance 9.14, Tom**
5 **McAuslan/Roger McKinley.**

6
7 7:50 p.m. The Council adjourned to Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(b) to
8 consider the dismissal or discipline of a public officer, employee, staff member or
9 individual agent, or hear complaints or charges brought against such a person, if that
10 person does not request an open hearing.

11
12 8:36 pm: The Council resumed its regular meeting. Mayor Hamsher said he would be
13 abstaining from any votes with regard to the issues discussed because he had been
14 involved in conversations with both Bob Titus and Butch Goslin. He went on to say he
15 had never seen the (septic dumping) policy and doubted if anyone else had. He did note
16 that the (July 2004) minutes reflected the Council's decision to set a policy. Mike
17 Springer pointed out that it was clear that the Council meant to control access to the
18 lagoons. **MSP: To immediately revoke the letter of authorization to the DEQ**
19 **allowing Butch Goslin, dba Hank's Sanitation to dump septic waste in the City's**
20 **lagoons, Mike Springer/Mark Wishard. Jim Hamsher abstained due to a conflict of**
21 **interest.** Mike Springer also made a motion to place a letter of reprimand in Bob Titus's
22 personnel file regarding violation of the City's policy. Mayor Hamsher interjected that
23 he didn't feel Titus had done anything wrong or underhanded and was just following
24 Hamsher's direction as public works commissioner. Springer said he wouldn't
25 recommend the letter of reprimand unless it was the consensus of the council.
26 Councilmen Casebeer, Strong and McKinley all stated that they didn't want to see a letter
27 placed in the personnel file. There was then discussion of what to do about the locks on
28 the gate to the lagoon site in order to prevent Goslin from gaining access. Since there are
29 a number of locks on the gate and it is unknown just how many people have access, it
30 was agreed that all locks shall be removed and a new master lock will be placed on the
31 gate. Other agencies and landowners authorized to enter the property will be contacted
32 and advised that they must provide a new lock.

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34 **8:45 p.m. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.**

35
36 Respectfully submitted:

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38 _____
39 Diane Clingman, City Recorder

Approved this Date: _____

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41 _____
42 Jim Hamsher, Mayor