

1 City of Prairie City

2 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

3 May 8, 2013

4 Attended: Gary Waterhouse, Mayor Pro Tem
5 Carole Garrison, Councilor
6 Dennis Lynch, Councilor
7 Les Church, Councilor
8 Viola Rose, Councilor
9 Butch Goslin, Councilor
10 Georgia Patterson
11 Mike Springer
12 Dan Bishop
13 Larry Blasing
14

15 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was
16 taken, Mayor Tim Cooley being absent. The minutes of the April 10 meeting were considered.

17 **MSP: To approve the minutes as written, Carole Garrison/Viola Rose. All members voted in**
18 **favor.**

19
20 Mayor Pro Tem Gary Waterhouse read a letter of resignation submitted by Mayor Cooley. He cited
21 health reasons for stepping down, effective May 10, 2013.
22

23 Mike Springer was recognized and addressed the Council regarding the budget that the Budget
24 Committee had recently approved. He noted that it was well prepared and credited the Budget
25 Officer for a good job. He referred to a section in the Budget Message concerning the Water, Sewer
26 and Road Funds and read it to the Council. "Minimal amounts have been budgeted for Water
27 and Sewer Capital Outlay. Staff has been advised of the importance of keeping operating
28 expenses to a minimum. This is especially critical in the Road Fund which will no longer be
29 able to contribute its share of Personnel Services after fiscal year 2014-15 primarily due to the
30 loss of timber receipts. Similarly, more is spent in the Water Fund than is taken in each year.
31 If spending at this rate continues, the Water Fund will not be able to contribute its entire
32 share of Personnel Services by fiscal year 2015-16. The Sewer Fund just breaks even in
33 keeping pace but like the Road and Water Funds, is not able to build a reserve for future
34 replacement, repairs or improvements. The City must address these issues in the near future
35 to determine its course of action." As Budget Chair he was asking the Council to be sure to keep
36 these issues in mind. He suggested that vacating portions of 80 and 100 foot wide streets and certain
37 streets and alleys that will never be opened might be a way to bring in additional property tax
38 revenue for the Road Fund. The process would also eliminate encroachment problems and result in
39 less right-of-way maintenance. Easements would remain in place for utilities. He did not think it
40 would involve surveying if center lines and monuments are in place. Springer volunteered to assist

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1 the City if they are interested. With regard to the Water and Sewer Funds he did not necessarily
2 advocate rate increases, but rather to become more efficient in operations instead.

3 **Economic Development:** Dan Bishop and Larry Blasing of the Grant County Public forest
4 Commission introduced themselves and presented a draft letter for the City to consider. The letter
5 was concerning the Forest Service's proposed 10 year stewardship timber sale. They explained that
6 it is not a competitive approach and would result in only one mill in Grant County getting the bulk
7 of any timber sales with the other mill basically being put out of business. They would rather see
8 each mill be able to compete based on their efficiencies. The stewardship program would also
9 result in loss of money to the County, whereas in a regular sale 25% goes to the County. The
10 reasoning for the 25% return is because 65% of the land in Grant County belongs to the government
11 and is not on the tax rolls. In the case of stewardship, the money goes back to the Forest Service for
12 replanting costs. They asked the Council to consider supporting their efforts to keep the playing
13 field level by submitting a letter to the Forest Service, Congressman Walden and Senators Merkley
14 and Wyden. It was noted that it is particularly important for Prairie City as one of the mills is
15 located here. They cited the need to move quickly as the sales will be awarded in August. **MSP:**
16 **To give the Mayor Pro Tem the authority to go over the letter with Dennis Lynch and make**
17 **any changes or additions, and to sign and send to the suggested people, Carole Garrison/Les**
18 **Church. All members voted in favor.** Dennis Lynch said he had talked to Kristi at the Forest
19 Service and that she said she will help in any way she can. Dan Bishop also reported that they are
20 getting the mill ready to possibly open again very soon.

21
22 In other business Dennis Lynch said he had attended an Oregon Unlimited meeting. The group
23 coordinates projects, inventories properties and equipment, etc. He also said he and Viola Rose had
24 sat in on a CEDS webinar that went over County and City economic strategies. If cities don't have
25 projects on the list they won't be eligible for certain grants. He submitted a proposed list and said a
26 form would need to be submitted by Friday.

27
28 Lynch said he had attended a County Court meeting regarding road closures and asked the Council
29 to consider sending a letter of support for keeping roads open.

30
31 Regarding the Industrial Site property, he said he had been approached by Chuck Church about the
32 possibility of purchasing a portion of it for a gold processing plant that could employ 5 to 10
33 people. He said Sally Bartlett (Economic Development Coordinator) will be at the June 12 meeting
34 to discuss possibilities for the site.

35
36 **Museum:** Carole Garrison reported that the museum would be opening in the next week. She
37 asked the Council to approve the appointment of Howard and Marsha Gieger and Ron Smith as
38 museum volunteers. **MSP: To approve the appointment of the suggested volunteers, Butch**
39 **Goslin/Viola Rose. All members voted in favor.**

40
41 **Public Safety:** Deputy Moore said he had addressed the complaint regarding the two firewood
42 trailers parked on Front Street. The owners were advised that they cannot be parked within 100 feet
43 of an intersection.

1 **Abatement:** It was noted that no report had been received on the Gill's progress for over 5 months.
2 It was noted that the Mayor had asked Councilor Goslin to look into it. Goslin said the Gill's are
3 working on it. The Council felt more information is needed.
4

5 **Landfill:** A landfill report was received.
6

7 **Public Works:** Georgia Patterson reported that they have been cleaning at Depot.
8

9 **Accounts Payable: MSP: To pay the bills, Les Church/Carole Garrison. All members voted**
10 **in favor.**

11 **Resolutions:** none
12

13
14 **Other Business:** The statement regarding the amendment of the City Charter was read aloud. It
15 was generally agreed that what the attorney had summarized reflected what the Council had
16 discussed. **MSP: With that being said, I make the following motion in three parts: a. The**
17 **City Council direct the City Attorney to move forward with any necessary and/or appropriate**
18 **revisions to the Amended Charter to address, to the extent possible, the aforementioned**
19 **community concerns. b. The City Council plan to present the Amended Charter to the legal**
20 **voters of Prairie City for their approval at the general election to be held in November 2013.**
21 **c. The City Attorney is directed to prepare a press release for the local newspaper concerning**
22 **the City Council's decision to move forward with the Amended Charter, Les Church/Carole**
23 **Garrison. All members voted in favor.**
24

25 The Council considered the contract for the July 4 fireworks display. **MSP: To approve the 4th of**
26 **July contract with Western Display Fireworks, Carole Garrison/Dennis Lynch.**
27

28 Dennis Lynch noted that the VFW could use some help with flags. He also said he had been
29 looking into the mineral rights on the Industrial Site and that a title search would cost about \$500.
30 Viola Rose said she would be willing to go to the courthouse to do some research. Lynch said he
31 already spent quite a lot of time there but welcomed her to go ahead.
32

33 **7:15 pm** It was moved and seconded to adjourn, all members voted in favor.
34

35
36 _____
Diane Clingman, City Recorder

37 Approved by the City Council this ____
38 day of _____, 2013 and
39 signed by the Mayor.
40

41 _____
42 Gary Waterhouse, Mayor Pro Tem