

City of Prairie City
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 2015

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Attended: Jim Hamsher, Mayor
Carole Garrison, Councilor
Les Church, Councilor
Georgia Patterson, Councilor
Viola Rose, Councilor
Dottie Miller, Councilor
Henry Goslin, Councilor
Taci Philbrook, City Recorder
Kathy Smith, Museum Director
Chris Camarena, PWD Director
Sandy Murray
Donna Becker
Bruce Kaufman
Michael Blount
Wanda Winegar
Kevin Dahlen
Farrell Clark
Ronald Waggoner
Mike Rose
Richard Gray, JD Police Chief

The Mayor opened the regular meeting at 6:00 pm.

The minutes of January 14, 2015 regular meeting were considered for approval.

MSP: To approve the minutes as written. Councilor Garrison / Councilor Miller. All in favor.

The Mayor introduced Bruce Kaufman, Master of the Strawberry Grange. Bruce started with a brief history of the Grange noting it was established 1925. Due to membership waning and the State Granges bylaws saying they had to, the Grange closed its doors in 1971 and held meetings in their homes until 1976. At that time the P.C. SR. Citizens acquired a 25 year contract to lease the building. In 1977, the Grange underwent a revamping of the kitchen, restrooms, the front porch and added an ADA compliant ramp. The Sr. Citizens have been serving hot meals

40. every Wednesday since 1977. The Grange now finds itself unable to meet its
41. obligations again. There have been changes in the State Granges by-laws that will
42. now allow them to bypass the 7 year wait and to reorganize or consolidate with
43. another Grange now. The current grange membership has authorized Bruce to set
44. up the consolidation of our Grange with Mt. Vernon's Grange. They will be
45. voting on it March 11, 2015. If, both memberships agree than both of the Granges
46. will assess assets and the one that has the most will be the strongest grange
47. resulting in closing the other. He thinks Mt. Vernon may have the strongest
48. assets. If the vote fails, the membership will have no choice but to close it
49. again and sell the building and lot to the P.C. Sr. Citizens. Bruce is asking the
50. City to support either action. Bruce said he would keep the City updated after the
51. March 11th vote.

52.

53. The Mayor introduced Sandy Murray who started by reading a letter of
54. resignation to the Council (see attached). She is no longer willing to head the
55. maintaining of the Memorial Planters along Front St. Councilor Garrison asked
56. Sandy if any of her committee is willing to further the upkeep of any of the
57. memorial planters? To which Sandy explained no one is interested in
58. participating any longer. The Mayor asked Councilor Garrison if she is willing to
59. go to the businesses and see if they would be willing to maintain the memorial
60. planters in front of their shops and stores. Councilor Garrison agreed to and to
61. also create a map/list of the planters. Councilor Patterson suggested asking the
62. high school students and the FFA group. She remembers they have to do a
63. community project for their senior thesis. Sandy Murray asked that during
64. pruning time they make sure “they” know what they are doing so as not to
65. butcher the trees.

66.

67. The Mayor introduced Michael Blount. Michael asked for permission to use a
68. 25 x 10 section of the Texaco Bldg. parking lot to “test the economics”. The
69. Mayor responded first by explaining the Council cant allow a business to set up
70. on the city's private property for their own commercial needs, it would be
71. different if it was for a fund raiser or at a city wide activity(like the 4th of July or
72. the Kar Show). He suggested Mr. Blount ask the mini-mart about using the little
73. park in front of the store. Councilor Church encouraged Mr. Blount to talk to
74. Steve at the apartments next to/behind the mini-mart.

75.

76. The Mayor introduced Farrell Clark from Clark's Disposal. He began by stating
77. the landfill is going great. He next spoke about the recycling bins set up next to
78. the Texaco Bldg. They are now dumping them every Wednesday and Friday to
79. keep up with the demand but that there is always trash mixed in with the
80. recycling so he would like to see them better monitored. He suggested moving
81. them so that they can be “seen” better. The Mayor asked if behind the recycling

82. center would be a better location but Councilor Garrison and Councilor Patterson
83. both explained the ground is too soft there, and Chris thought they would be
84. harder to manage there. Kevin Dahlen asked the Council to consider putting the
85. recycling bins on the other side of the Mill property, to which Chris explained
86. they would really be out of sight then so that would not work. The Mayor
87. expressed his thoughts on the Texaco Bldg. parking lot, that it is for visitors and
88. he would like to see the recycling bins moved to make it more aesthetic and so as
89. to make the parking lot more accessible for visitors. Ferrell suggested the City
90. purchase another green bin (\$500). He also suggested putting up more signs to
91. better inform recyclers about what to recycle and which bin it belongs in. Ferrell
92. also suggested moving the bins behind the Texaco Bldg., then recyclers could just
93. drive through and they would be more visible to the City workers. Councilor
94. Garrison suggested we put an informational flyer in the utility bills to better
95. inform the residents “how to” recycle. The city Recorder asked Ferrell for a flyer
96. and he said he would get us one. The Mayor asked for more time to come
97. up with a better place for the bins. **MSP: To authorize the purchase of another**
98. **green bin. Councilor Goslin / Councilor Patterson. All in Favor.**
99.

100. The Mayor asked for reports:

101. **Museum:** Kathy Smith gave her written report (see attached) After
102. reviewing the Museum Operations Supervisor position the Council and
103. Kathy agreed that the qualifications needed lessening. The Council asked
104. Taci to work with Kathy on the job description. The Council reviewed the
105. proposed ad for the BME and approved it as is.(see attached) **MSP: To**
106. **place the ad in the BME times to receive applications for the Museum**
107. **Operations Supervisor position. Councilor Garrison / Councilor Rose.**
108. **All in Favor.**
109.

110. **Public Safety:** Chief Gray reviewed report and discussed with the Council
111. a mistake that had been made in the billing. John Days computer system
112. was omitting a cell in the addition of hours thus leaving 100.99 hours not
113. billed or paid for. The hours are equates to \$3837.62. Chief Gray
114. brought his log and showed the council members how his reports are
115. produced and how the error happened. The City Recorder reviewed the
116. funds received from the courts that represented our share of fines paid
117. to the court. Prairie City received \$1181.00 for 2014, and \$162.50 thus far
118. for 2015. Taci reported she discussed the erratic payments with Kathy
119. Stinnett who explained they had gotten behind in paperwork and that the
120. payments will be timely from hereon.
121.

122. **Landfill:** along with Chris's written report, he stated Kathy, a representative
123. from DEQ, did an on-site investigation and found lots of trash in the

124. recycling, she discussed it with Clark's and told them they would not be
125. able to dump in PC's landfill if the problem persists. Chris noted the
126. landfill will be full 3 or 4 months from now. He reported Tom is already
127. grading and filling in. For the Council, Chris again reviewed the options for
128. the landfill. If the City bought the land from BLM we would have to
129. purchase very expensive monitoring devices, and we have no use for the
130. land, so it would not be in the best interest of the city to purchase the land.

131.
132. The Mayor brought up a complaint about speeders on S. Johnson. He
133. expressed how dangerous it is for kids to out there. The Mayor asked Chris
134. if we have any "caution children at play" signs to put along side the road
135. on S. Johnson. Chris thought we had a sign, and if not he would purchase
136. what we needed. **MSP: To put out appropriate signs. Councilor Rose /**
137. **Councilor Goslin.** A discussion about placing the speed trailer on the
138. same road started amongst the Council members, all members concurred.

139.
140. Chris furthered his report on the Public Works. (see attached) Chris spoke
141. of the plans to paint so that all the cities outbuildings match, including the
142. PWD Bldg., this includes the bathroom at the cities playground. He stated
143. he will be starting the posts to hire a park host for Depot Park. The council
144. and Chris discussed the need for background checks because of the hosts
145. handling money and if they were a sexual predator it would come up in a
146. background check. Chris has received one application for park host so
147. far. The Council asked Taci to look into the budget and see if there was
148. \$400.00 a month available for the host. Taci agreed to review and revise the
149. application and job description with Chris.

150.
151. **Accounts Payable:** While reviewing the bills Councilor Rose asked about
152. the Anderson Perry & Associates bill for operating manuals (\$4,399.94).
153. Councilor Garrison reminded the council this was already reviewed, voted
154. on, and approved at a previous council meeting. Councilor Church
155. expressed his concerns about our Attorney bills. He would like us to "rein
156. in" using the attorney so much as it has cost so much, the council as a
157. whole agreed.

158. **MSP: Vote to pay the bills. Councilor Church / Councilor Patterson. All**
159. **in favor.**

160.
161. **Resolutions/Ordinances:** The Mayor introduced Resolution 2015-02. To
162. amend the Personnel Policy to add section 2.15.4 (see attached). The
163. Council discussed the reason behind the amended policy. Councilor
164. Patterson would like to see the section read the City will pay for two tests
165. and then the employee would pay for the third attempt and thereon. The

166. Mayor thinks it will be a great incentive to study harder. The Council as a
167. whole would like to see the word “may” changed to “will” (see attached).
168. The council also discussed waiving the retesting fees if the employee came
169. before the Council to plead their case and ask for an exception to the policy
170. be made, they discussed adding “unless approved by Council”. Chris
171. discussed with the Council, in the 2015-2016 budget he would like to see
172. a .25 cent raise in pay each time a certification is acquired by a Pubic
173. works employee (a merit raise). Chris started the discussion about how out-
174. dated the books are that they use for testing. Chris asked given permission
175. to update the city's workbooks. Chris stated it would help if the PWD
176. employees went to yearly classes instead of every other year like they do
177. now. **MSP: To approve Resolution 2015-02 with the stipulation that**
178. **“will” is inserted where it reads “may” and to add unless otherwise**
179. **approved by the Council. Councilor Garrison / Councilor Miller. All in**
180. **Favor.**

181.
182. The Mayor asked Taci to advise the council of our current auditors the
183. Oster Professional Groups (OPG) information in the councilors packets (see
184. attached). Included in their packets was the Engagement letter, OGP's
185. External Peer Review report, and OGP's response to their auditors after
186. receiving a “Fail” by the Peer Review Committee. Included in their
187. information packet was OGP's response to the review. After a thorough
188. review the Council decided to put out RFP's for a new audit team. It is the
189. Councils hope to “stay local” but they do realize there are only so many
190. CPA firms local. It was suggested we sent a RFP to Ken Kendig's firm in
191. John Day and OGP. **MSP: to seek out another audit firm. Councilor**
192. **Church / Councilor Goslin. All in Favor.**

193.
194. The Mayor asked if there was any further business and Councilor Goslin
195. asked where “we” are with the grievance that was filed by a City
196. employee. The Mayor explained to discuss that we would have to move to
197. an Executive Session and there is not only no time, but no notice for an
198. executive session was posted.

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200. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

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202. Submitted by:

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204. _____
205. Taci Philbrook, City Recorder

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Approved by the City Council this _____
day of _____, 2015 and
signed by the Mayor:

Jim Hamsher, Mayor