

MINUTES OF ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Date: August 11th, 2015

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Elgin City Council was held at Elgin City Hall, Elgin, Oregon on August 11th, 2015. The meeting convened at 19:00, Mayor Allan Duffy presiding.

Members in attendance: Mayor Duffy, Councilors Linville, Miles, Richards and Shaffer.
Recorder/Administrator Eckstein.

Members not in attendance: Councilors Burgess and Warren - Excused

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Councilor Shaffer, and seconded by Councilor Linville to approve the minutes of the July 14th 2015 regular council meeting and July 28th 2015 regular council meeting. All in favor, motion carries.

Citizen Complaints/Concerns: Administrator Eckstein was still working on getting all vehicles illegally parked either moved or towed.

Reports:

- Law Enforcement/Animal Control – Councilor Linville would like to make sure repeat offenders in the animal control sector are being tagged to track their violations. Mayor Duffy questioned the Stampede coverage, it was explained that it was separate coverage from the City's normal patrol hours and didn't cut into it at all.
- Ambulance – No report filed
- Public Safety – No significant discussion
- Public Works – No significant discussion
- Library – The library reported that 18 kids completed the summer reading program. Councilor Shaffer question if those numbers were up or down and the Librarian reported the number attending was down, but the number completing the tasks was up. They also reported that local people and business enhanced the program greatly with donations of time, money, and products. It was also reported that their annual Ready to Read Grant would be submitted by the end of the month and it would be reduced back to \$1,000. The library board was also working on drafting a policy to deal with collecting past due fines and fees.
- Administrator – Administrator Eckstein
- Administration – No significant discussion
- Opera House – Reports that the Friends of the Opera House is currently in negotiations with Liberty Theater in La Grande to do productions in both Elgin and La Grande.
- Chamber of Commerce – No significant discussion
- Lions Club – No significant discussion
- Stampeders – No significant discussion
- Women's Service Club – No significant discussion
- Economic Development – Mayor Duffy reports that County Commissioners and Mayors are trying to develop a program that would allow smaller cities in the county the opportunity to partake in the program as a whole and not be penalized for not being able to contribute the funds larger cities like La Grande can.

- Student Councilor – No councilor selected yet

Old Business

Parking Lot on N 8th (Highway 204): Tabled

Solid Waste Transfer Station Upgrades: All the used scales quotes obtained were somewhat misleading as they were NOT an all-inclusive turn-key operation. Total Scales however did come back to the council with a little better offer that was a different brand and more heavy duty. From the purchase date it would take approximately 4 weeks to get the scales delivered and installed. The City had budgeted approximately \$60,000 for this project.

Mayor Duffy and other councilors expressed they would not want to see the dump closed and believe it's a vital service offered to the public. Councilor Linville expressed that he felt strongly this will enhance this service as well as eliminate an exception that has plagued the City audit for years. The City auditing service had been questioned if this would help and they said it would.

Councilor Linville motions to accept the second offer from Total Scales to purchase the Rice-Lake scales for \$46,906.00. Councilor Richards seconds the motion. Councilor Shaffer is the only nay vote. Motion carries.

New Business

Surplus Equipment: Administrator Eckstein speaks on behalf of the Public Works Director in requesting that 3 of the City's vehicles be labeled as surplus equipment and allowed to be auctioned off with sealed bids. A reserve price would be set for each piece of machinery based off their Blue Book value and if that price was not met with any of the bids it would be up to the discretion of the Public Works Director to discard the equipment that would benefit the City in the greatest way.

Councilor Linville stated that the only reason they were kept is for in the future if the City ever switched back to an internal police force they would have 2 cars already. Councilor Miles inquired the last time they were even started, Councilor Linville believed it was over 2 years ago.

Councilor Shaffer motions to label the equipment as surplus and to dispose of it through sealed bids as explained in the request letter. Councilor Miles seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

House Bill 3400 Opt in or Opt Out: Administrator Eckstein explains that although the City has established an ordinance preventing a majority of marijuana use in the City, we still need to submit an official form to the OLCC to officially be opted out of the program. The form has already been prepared and ready to submit and is just waiting on the Councils approval.

Councilor Shaffer motions to file House Bill form 3400 with the OLCC opting out, Councilor Richards seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Emergency Response Plan: Administrator Eckstein pointed out that the City handled the recent wild fires with ease. The logistics were all taken care of and we developed a great working relationship with all of the crews and outfits. However, we were asked to see our emergency response plan for this situation and the City of Elgin did not have one. Eckstein expressed his concern that if key leadership were incapacitated in any way in the future and not able to deal with, there would be no guidance for people filling in the gaps to handle these.

Mayor Duffy also expressed communication concerns that he and other mayors of local cities had. If all of our primary means of communication were to go down how would we pick up new means? These are all things that need to be addressed in the NEAR future.

Administrator Eckstein would like the permission of the council to form a committee designed to develop and publish this plan. It would consist of the heads of all emergency services as well as the council and mayor and other specific people like ODOT and Union County. The council gave the go ahead on this plan.

Councilor Linville motions to pay the bills upon final review on Monday. Councilor Shaffer seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Councilor Linville motions to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Miles seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.


Brock Eckstein

Recorder/Administrator

UNAPPROVED