

# MINUTES OF ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Date: July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Elgin City Council was held at Elgin City Hall, Elgin, Oregon on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The meeting convened at 19:00, Mayor Allan Duffy presiding.

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

**Members not in attendance:** Councilor Richards - Excused

**Approval of minutes:** Motion was made by Councilor Linville, and seconded by Councilor Warren to approve the minutes of the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 regular council meeting, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 planning commission meeting, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 planning commission meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 special session, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 work session, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regular council meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 planning commission meeting, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 planning commission meeting, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 planning commission meeting. There were two documents placed in the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting by Administrator Eckstein that should not have been included in those set of minutes so until they were removed those minutes would not be approved.

**Citizen Complaints/Concerns:** There is still a trailer parked on 15<sup>th</sup> street that needs to be addressed. There was also a citizen concern about the speed of traffic coming off Fish Trap Hill. The citizen requested the 40 mph zone be moved farther away from the City limit sign to get them slowed down farther away. Councilor Burgess said that this is an ODOT issue as it is not in City limits and the citizen should take their complaint to them as it's on a highway.

## Old Business

**Parking Lot on N 8<sup>th</sup> (Highway 204):** Tabled

**Solid Waste Transfer Station Upgrades:** Tabled

**Purchase of New Public Works Heavy Machinery:** The excavators the committee looked at in La Grande were NOT purchased. The Public Works Director ultimately did not think they were the best fit for the City. The Public Works Director would like to attend a Richie Brother auction to try that avenue to look at graders and excavators. Citizen Miller voiced concerns that he didn't see any graders going for under \$50,000 and wanted to know if any councilors going to the auction with the Director had experience operating heavy equipment. Councilor Burgess said they did. Councilor Burgess stated he would like the Union County Public Works mechanic to go through anything they get at the auction to ensure it is in proper working order under the assumption there would be a grace period to do so. The council also asked if transportation would be provided or if the City had to provide that on top of the cost of the machinery, the City would have to provide this service. Councilor Burgess makes a motion to purchase a grader and excavator not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$75,000 to include transportation costs in that number. Councilor Warren seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

## New Business

**The Council went into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)**

**Sigs License to Sell Alcohol:** Councilor Linville has no problem with this as they have sold in the past, Councilor Warren does not either. Councilor Warren moves to approve Sigs license to sell alcohol, Councilor Shaffer seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

**Urban Growth Boundary Expansion:** Administrator Eckstein states that it has been over 40 years since the last Elgin Land Use Plan has been completed and we are overdue for this. In order to expand the Urban Growth Boundary we would need to have one of these updated and on file. There are a couple different routes that could be taken to get this done, one, obtain some grants and have it professionally completed or two, the City complete the work itself and absorb all costs. With approval from the Council, Administrator Eckstein said he would explore both possibilities and get the planning commission back on line to help out with this task.

**Equipment Purchase EMT's:** Kevin Silvernail requested to purchase a new stair chair and Ferno cot for the EMT service. He explained the service has demoed similar products from both Ferno and Stryker and they favored the Ferno Cot and Stair Chair because it was more cost effective and would require no modifications to the current or future ambulance. Councilor Linville asked in a couple years when the City looks at a new ambulance would this work with it? Kevin said yes. Councilor Miles said there are videos showing how both products work on YouTube and they are very informative and useful to see what you are getting. The council asked how much CIS premium rebate money the City has to apply to the purchase and Administrator Eckstein stated roughly \$5,000. The city's insurance agent expressed his support of this purchase as he strongly felt it would reduce the City's risk of worker comp. claims as it requires just one EMT to operate the cot. Councilor Linville expressed concerns of taking money away from the purchase of a new ambulance but was OK with the purchase if the EMT personnel felt the current ambulance would last another couple years to let the fund build up again to have sufficient monies to buy a new ambulance. Kevin felt very strongly that it would. Councilor Shaffer makes a motion to approve the purchase of the Ferno Cot and Stair Chair within the budget of \$35,000. Councilor Warren seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

**Discussion on How the City Will Support the New Health Clinic:** Mayor Duffy and Administrator Eckstein gave a brief update on the current situation of the new health clinic. Administrator Eckstein explained that it would be possible for the City to apply for a community block grant on behalf of the health district to fill the funding holes. The Mayor and Council supported this idea, but ultimately the health board decided to use this as a last case scenario and opted to explore other funding ideas to finish the project. They did ask the Council what the City would be willing to help with as far as the water and sewer service are concerned. The council expressed they would love to help in any way they can but wanted some more specific information on the project before they commit to anything like the size of service they are requiring. They will make a future decision on this as more information becomes available.

**Resolution 1352 (2015) A Resolution Setting Employee Wages for Fiscal Year 2015/2016:** There was an error that needs to be corrected on the final draft of the resolution changing the Assistant Librarians wage from \$10.92 to \$10.95. Councilor Burgess expressed his concerns again that the City is making too big of wage increases. They should closely follow the CPI to determine raises for City employees as is common practice of the County. He is more in favor of a labor negotiation that would apply a straight across the board increase to all employees' wages that is based off the current CPI, excluding the management. The Council then discussed the importance of taking care of employees that have worked

for the City so long. Councilor Warren stated she would much rather see more of an emphasis placed on a program that increases the education for the youth of the City rather than funds spent on the dump. Councilor Miles agreed with this statement.

The discussion then shifted to the costs of the employee insurance. Councilor Burgess was concerned that the City is paying too much of the premium. Administrator Eckstein said the employee pays 15% of the premium with the City picking up the other 85%. He was not sure how long ago these percentages were determined. Based off his wage survey however it appeared that the City was really close to that of other cities in the area and providing a very competitive rate. The insurance representative for the City also stated it was a very fair deal as the deductible for the employee's was fairly high. If the City was to seek a lower deductible and more of an employee contribution it would sky rocket the cost of the premium.

Councilor Shaffer read the said resolution entirely, then again by title and moved it be accepted. Councilor Warren seconds. Councilor Burgess was the only one NOT in favor, motion carries.

Councilor Warren moves to adjourn, Councilor Miles Seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:46pm.

Brock Eckstein

Recorder/Administrator