

CITY OF PILOT ROCK

Council Meeting

January 19, 2016

7:00 PM

A. Called to Order

Having a quorum the Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Carnes at 7:00 PM. Council members present were Deacon Perkins, Terry Womack, Jim Hinkle, Raymond Doherty, Ray Corwin and Bob Deno. Also present were Teri Porter. Citizens present were Elsie and Michael Tester.

B. INVOCATION

Pastor Jeffers gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. PRESENTATIONS

Nate Rivera of Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center gave us a power point presentation on the new fairgrounds facility being constructed in Hermiston.

E. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Elsie and Michael Tester, addressed Council with a proposal regarding a drive that is located on their property. They stated that they would allow the neighbors to use the drive that runs between their house and the creek, if the City would agree to pay for half of the gravel to keep the drive in good condition. They also stated they would like to put up a speed limit sign. The was question as to whether the City can enforce a speed limit on private property. It was suggested that this item be put on the agenda for action at the next meeting, when both Steve Draper and Cpl. Lehnert will be present to offer their input. The Testers do not mind if Council would like to drive by the property to see where the drive is and its current condition. **On a motion by Councilor Perkins and seconded by Councilor Hinkle, Council agreed to table this item until all parties can meet and formulate a plan at a future meeting. All present voted yes.**

F. ACTION ITEMS

F-1 Librarian, Susan Hilliard's Resignation

On a motion by Councilor Doherty and seconded by Councilor Corwin. Council agreed to accept Susan Hilliard's resignation. All present voted yes.

F-2 Reconsider the Resident Preference for Chief of Police

Council is asked to reconsider lifting the residence preference for the Chief of Police. Council consider the following before making a decision.

1. We have been looking for a Chief for over a year.
2. Our postings on the various police sites is stale, we are receiving fewer and fewer applications.

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3. We have one officer in the academy and we need to hire another. We cannot hire another officer until we have a Chief in place that can supervise and lead.
4. When our officer graduates from the academy, we are fortunate that Pendleton has agreed to do his field training. After that he will need and deserves supervision.
5. Many of the applicants that have applied for the Chief position either are not a good fit, or can't meet the required qualifications. Others have had concerns regarding finding adequate housing for themselves and their family within Pilot Rock.
6. By requiring the Chief live in Pilot Rock, we are eliminating many qualified candidates.
7. Currently it is acceptable for the Chief to live within the Pilot Rock School District, which goes as far as Vinson. Which is as far if not further than Pendleton.
8. The City of Pilot Rock has relied on the good graces of other agencies such as Pendleton, the Sheriffs Dept. and Oregon State Police long enough.
9. We have come under criticism, some insinuating that we are getting a free ride, or taking advantage of another agency at their tax payers' expense.
10. Even though we have Cpl. Lehnert and the other agencies providing police coverage, social media sites have countless comments from our citizens, concerned about police coverage in Pilot Rock.
11. Staff has taken on extra tasks that would normally be handled by the Police Dept.
12. We know that there are interested qualified potential candidates that own their homes in Pendleton, unwilling to move and up root their families, they have not thrown their hat in the ring.
13. For the past 10 years, at least, we have not had a Police dept. whose officers have all lived in Pilot Rock, which would make you question... is it an unreasonable expectation?
14. There is no written policy that requires our officers to live within Pilot Rock, it is only a preference that has been written into individual employment contracts.

There was discussion regarding consideration of lifting the restriction for officers as well. Council concluded that it would be a separate issue and should not be addressed at this time. Councilor Hinkle stated that if we lift the restriction, he does not feel we would ever have another police chief that lives in Pilot Rock. It was discussed, that after a year of searching this is a reasonable accommodation to ensure that we get a well qualified Chief that is a good fit for our community. If in the future we find ourselves looking for a Chief once again, it will be up to the Council at that time whether or not they choose to stipulate the residence preference once again. **On a motion by Councilor Deno and seconded by Councilor Womack, Councilors Perkins, Doherty, Corwin, Deno and Womack voted in favor of lifting the residence preference. Councilor Hinkle voted opposed. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

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G INFORMATION ITEMS, REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

G-1 Department Head Report

CITY HALL:

1. Phil Wright of the EO called me on January 11th to clarify what the city is paying for police services as well as the IGA. A correction was printed on page two in a color block on January 12th.
2. Held an interview with a candidate for Police Chief on January 5. We are still working through all options and have not made any determination
3. Steve and I have had several meetings with different individuals to determine all options that may be available to us regarding recruiting a police chief.
4. Thursday the 14th, I have a meeting with Grant Young (our state DLCD rep) and Gordon Howard (Urban specialist), to discuss concerns regarding older mobile and manufactured homes that are relocated into our city limits. I want to be sure that any changes to our ordinance are legal and do not infringe on any federal fair housing laws. I have also spoken with the State Building Codes dept., I am told that there are several towns and even the County that do set a limit on the age of mobile and manufactured homes being brought in. The State does not generally, do inspections on these structures as they are already constructed.
5. I have been in contact with Daniel Badal's Lt. at the academy. He tells me that Daniel has worked hard and done well with his academics. I will meet his Lt. at graduation.
6. I will be attending Daniel Badal's graduation from the Police Academy on January 22nd.
7. I will be attending the Small Cities meeting on January 20th.
8. When I received our property tax statements from the County. I noticed that tax lot #400 had grown 42 acres after Mt. Judy had been partitioned (now two tax lots 400 & 401). In addition since we do not receive revenue from this tax lot we should not have been assessed \$1,122. When I brought the growth in acres to the attention of the assessor's office I was told I would have to talk with Tracie Diehl, the County Cartographer, but she was on a leave for a couple of weeks. I did not pay the taxes and called her when she returned. She then directed me back to Paul Chalmers, the County Assessor. I went by the Court House but was told he was gone for the day. The next day I sent him an email after which he called me. He explained that this was an issue for Tracie Diehl and walked it down the hall to her office and resolved the acreage issue. Paul also agreed that we should not have been assessed on either of the lots and abated the \$1,122 in taxes. This entire process took weeks and I was not able to record the Sunthurst partition until it was all resolved.

Teri added the following to her department report.

9. The recording of the deed to the property at the foot of the stairs which was purchased by the City to facilitate the reconstruction of the stairs to the school, was delayed because the notary who notarized the signatures of the previous owners of the property, did not notarize the deed

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properly. I had to send the deed to her in Arlington so that she could fix it and am now waiting to receive it back from her.

10. The server was installed and running well, but it did add a firewall that prevented me from sending my emails, which is why Council did not get their packets on Thursday. After an hour with Centurylink and another 1.5 hours with the IT folks it is now fixed and working beautifully.
11. Regarding #4, the meeting with Grant Young was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Anthony Bushong, owner of the property behind the old Round Up Room, has inquired about bringing in an '85 mobile home.
12. We received a letter from DEQ on Monday January 4th, (the letter was dated December 30, 2015), regarding changes to the Wastewater Facility Plan. We planned to present the letter to Council at the Tuesday 5th Council meeting. Rather than present the letter and leave it open to uneducated guesses, questions and speculation, Steve had arranged to have Brad and Jaddon from Anderson Perry present at that meeting to explain the changes, so that Council could ask questions and be informed on their options to move forward. A winter storm was predicted for the evening of the 5th and icy road conditions would have made it dangerous for Brad and Jaddon to be on the road. At about 5pm that evening Steve called Brad and Jaddon and told them not to risk the trip and that we would reschedule for February 2nd. Once again we did not want to address this letter until the engineers could be present, but Mr. Taylor has a copy of the letter (obtained from DEQ?) and has questioned a Councilor about its contents and what it means the plan. So I wanted to make the rest of Council aware of the letter and our intentions to address it on February 2nd when, Steve, Jaddon and Brad are present to answer Council's questions. (Teri passed a copy of the letter around to Council.)

POLICE:

1. Would like to set a date and time to meet with "The Pilot Rock Community Watch" members, to discuss crime prevention methods and overall purpose of "community watch".
2. Have a meeting with Mark Moore to discuss potential burn to learn project within the city of Pilot Rock.
3. Following up on ordinance violations.
4. Spoke with the property owners of the drive off SW 2nd, they have expressed interest in addressing Council regarding the city maintaining the drive and to discuss a possible agreement to allow public use. In the meantime they have put up "No Trespassing" signs.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Took the Dump Truck into Woodpecker for repair.
2. Took the Christmas decorations down. There are some that need to be replaced over time.

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H. CONSENT CALENDAR

Bills Total: \$25,497.21

On a motion by Councilor Deno and seconded by Councilor Corwin, Council agreed to accept the consent calendar. All present voted yes.

I COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Corwin asked about Brian Hemphill's involvement in the Fire Dept. Virginia explained that the Chief is Ron Neely and Brian has not been involved with the fire dept. for 2 years.

Councilor Corwin also stated that he has been approached by a business man from Pendleton who already has several rentals in Pilot Rock, about the property across from the mill (Rootville). He has expressed interest in purchasing the property and bringing in mobile/ manufactured homes as rentals. There was discussion relating to the age of mobiles and manufactured homes being relocated. At this time they have to be built after 1976. Teri is looking into amending the ordinance to limit the age of the mobile/ manufactured home, maybe no older than 10-20 years. Teri has not heard from the Pendleton Business man.

Councilor Deno appreciated both Teri and Steve for all the extra work and hours they have taken on.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

Council agreed to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

APPROVED _____

ATTEST _____