

Council: Mayor Andrea Rogers, Peny Wallace, Kathy Fitzpatrick, and Steve McKibben.
Staff: Finance Director Barbara Irving and City Recorder Jean Hadley
Absent: None Excused: Tim Mortenson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Rogers at 7:04 p.m. and roll call was taken.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – None

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Mayor Rogers recognized County Commissioner Chip Wood in the audience and invited him to speak. Commissioner Wood said he was running for County Commissioner and gave a brief overview of what the Commission has been involved with and why he is running for office.

Mike Rockwell was present to update the Council on Mosier Bluffs. Rockwell said he felt the Bank was largely responsible for holding up the process of moving forward with the necessary requirements to finish the water tank. Rockwell said the foreclosure action has stopped and the private investor is still on board. Rockwell said he was confident things will move forward due to an arrangement with the parties involved.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes, September 19, 2012
2. Review/Approve Bills

A motion was made by Councilor Fitzpatrick to approve the consent agenda. Councilor McKibben seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

1. Budget & Finance update

Finance Director Barbara Irving passed out two documents. The first one was an update about the rail road (UPRR) property acquisition and the expenses; the City match amount, what was budgeted, and the grants amount. The second document was a bar graph document showing the first three months of the current budget; revenues and expenditures. Irving and the Council reviewed the documents. Irving did comment on the shortage of revenue from the sale of Parking Passes due to the theft and destruction of the collection box at Rock Creek Park. Irving felt the City was on track for the most part. There was conversation about the parking pass money and the possibility of implementing different options; a person monitoring the users and collecting money and/or a camp host who would possibly be voluntary. Irving spoke about the upcoming audit, education budget, training for the maintenance person with regard to the water meters and water system, cemetery training expenses, continued education related to the water system certification requirements, and ongoing finance training.

2. Cemetery markers update

Hadley reported the repairs done by Bruce Howard and Sally Donovan related to the leaning and dangerous headstones/cemetery markers. Hadley had not received the invoice as of this date. Hadley said she spoke with Donovan who said nothing was damaged and the repairs went well; there won't be a charge for the Chatfield marker because the earlier work on it could have failed due to the weather or the mortar which could have been old/bad. Hadley reported to the Council that the maintenance person went

to the cemetery and identified some other markers which were worse than some of the ones identified by Bruce Howard. Hadley suggested a conversation about the cemetery and the possibility of turning it over to the County; the records are complicated and the qualifications for a working cemetery are getting more complicated. Hadley reported a few situations which were difficult to deal with regarding ownership of Lots/Plots; maintenance of records, tracking who is buried and where, different people digging the graves, and overall knowledge of what is required for a cemetery. Hadley reported about a software program for cemeteries. The general consensus of Council was to not give up the cemetery and take measures to understand cemetery management. Fitzpatrick suggested an intern student interested in history and records related to cemeteries. Fitzpatrick volunteered to contact Columbia Gorge Community College and research the possibility.

3. Review Fire Dept. lease

Mayor Rogers reminded Council about the current arrangement with the Fire District and the lease which does not charge any rent for the office space and the 3-bay shed allowing no money for maintenance or improvements. Hadley mentioned the fact that there wasn't a time frame included in the lease and there are expenses for maintenance of the grounds and the building. Hadley also mentioned the City maintenance truck which is exposed to the weather with a new engine; one of the bays in the shed being used by the Fire District could house the truck. Finance Director Irving spoke about the space requirements for the office staff and the increased need for maintenance and space.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to have the City Attorney write a letter notifying the Fire District of a renegotiation of the current lease.

3. Street repair update

Hadley reported that there were no responses to the Request for Proposals regarding the crack sealing repairs needed. City Engineer John Grim said it was not too late to get a quote and have the repairs done. Hadley mentioned a gentleman who came into the office interested in the job and wondering if it was too late to respond; his company has done other crack sealing for the City. Hadley asked him to call Grim and discuss the possibility.

5. UPRR property purchase: financial consultant/feasibility services

Fitzpatrick mentioned a program supported by the League of Oregon Cities organizing support from retired City managers, called Range Riders; to help Cities. Fitzpatrick spoke with a Range Rider named Roger Jordan who said he would do a financial review of City finances in order to identify options for the Union Pacific Rail Road property acquisition. Jordan would need the consent of the Council to make arrangements for a consultation meeting. Fitzpatrick reminded Council that City Planner DeVaney mentioned this strategy as one of the steps for purchasing the Rail Road property. While Fitzpatrick was at the LOC conference she spoke with Bev Stein and many others who were interested in this project and willing to look at it for needs. Mayor Rogers asked Fitzpatrick to find out what, if any, charges there will be for these services. Fitzpatrick said the options for investors of the property should be now rather than later.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Cemetery committee – Fitzpatrick said the order for the markers for Pioneer Cemetery requires payment at the time of purchase so a credit card or other means will be necessary.

This prompted a conversation about a credit card for the office so updates to software and programs could be purchased because they do not have a payment processing center. Irving said there are a few times when a check cannot be sent and they want payment on-line which causes a problem for a few things. Sheriff Eiesland explained how the credit cards function in his office for the officers. Each officer has

their own card and is responsible for checking it out and all purchases are specific to that officer and its use.

Irving was given the task of finding out about a credit card vs. a debit card and report back to the Council.

2. Park committee – Fitzpatrick reported that the lock has been removed/stolen and there is no more money for depositing. Fitzpatrick spoke to Council about a camp host and the responsibilities. Fitzpatrick volunteered to contact the Port of Hood River and find out about the camp host and the arrangement. Wallace mentioned a security system and volunteered to work with Fitzpatrick to figure out some options.

3. Public Art committee – Wallace reported about the seminar she attended and the other Cities represented at the seminar. Wallace mentioned the grants available for art. Rogers mentioned the retirement celebration for Lark Lennox who retired from the Mosier Post Office. There was a conversation about collecting money at the City office and how to handle that.

CORRESPONDENCE – Hadley reported to Council about the NPDES permit for the WWTP through DEQ and the representative who is reviewing the permit contacting the City office. Duane Smith from DEQ suggested coming before the Council and speaking about the permit and the process. Hadley had the permit application available if any Council member was interested in looking at it and being a liaison for the City. Councilor McKibben volunteered to look at the permit and speak to the representative from DEQ if he had any questions in order to better understand the permit.

Hadley mentioned the Audit process that has started and the auditor coming in October 31st.

Hadley asked Council about the upcoming meetings and asked if there were any suggestions for date changes.

Council agreed that November 28th will be the date for the second meeting in November and the one meeting in December will be held December 12th.

Hadley asked about the meeting with the Gorge Commission and what date that will be. Fitzpatrick suggested a meeting in January and invite the Gorge Commission. Council agreed to hold that meeting in January on the 16th, 2013, new Councilors will be in place.

Sheriff Eiesland mentioned a new 911 phone system capable of notifying people of emergencies, evacuations, or lock down of streets, schools, or specific places. The 911 people handling this will be going around showing what the system will do and letting people know about it. Eiesland said it will be in the newspaper soon. It is up and running right now.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Approved this 7th day of November, 2012

Attest:

Andrea Rogers, Mayor

Jean M. Hadley, City Recorder