

**CITY OF UMATILLA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2011  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Steen called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Steen, Councilors Meade, Fenton, Smith and Johnson  
**ABSENT:** Councilors Roxbury and Stokoe  
**STAFF:** Manager Ward, Recorder Gettmann, Finance Director Glover, Police Chief Huxel, Planner Lunden and Public Works Lead Xavier Leos

**PRESENTATION:** Cathy Putnam gave a presentation on a proposed homeless family transitional shelter for Umatilla and Morrow Counties called Martha's House. Agape House was raising funds for the project through donations, grants, etc. and asked for a letter of support for the "Martha's House" project from the City. Councilor Fenton moved to draft a letter of support as requested and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** Councilor Johnson moved to approve the minutes as presented and was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Mayor Steen expressed her concern regarding the old business section, specifically the Interchange Area Management Plan update. She expressed her opinion that the statement "After much discussion, Council's preference was for relocation of the Port of Entry facility with a report from ODOT" was not correct. It wouldn't be ODOT that would give a report on the potential economic impacts to the Crossroads Truck Stop. It was her understanding that the City would look into that. Her suggestion was to change the wording to "After much discussion, Council's preference was for relocation of the Port of Entry facility. It was suggested that the potential economic impacts to the Crossroads Truck Stop as a result of this relocation would be explored and considered with a final IAMP decision by the Council." Councilor Johnson remembered that ODOT's consultant (Kittelson & Assoc.) would report on that issue. After some discussion, Mayor Steen stated that the minutes did not need to be amended. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Karen Hutchinson-Talaski of the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce reported on upcoming events in Umatilla.

Judy Simmons acknowledged and commended the Council for their work then expressed her request for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony to be returned to the McNary area. She also expressed concern about chronic code violations in the McNary area, specifically at the intersection of Yakima Street and Deschutes.

John Nichols reported on his street lighting project. He reported that of the 61 light fixtures in the Hayden Homes development, 14% don't work. His concerns included street lights not sufficiently marked, lights that don't work and the City paying for non-working light fixtures.

Larry Nelson expressed his comments on the proposed development of Village Park and the museum.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Discussion items included supplies for the water department, refurbishing the City's signs, an annual payment for a police department vehicle and repairs on the City's vehicle and repair to a cigarette lighter in a City vehicle. Councilor Fenton moved to approve the paid invoices and court report. Motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and unanimously approved. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

**Gaming Table Application** – Crossroads Truck Stop. After the police department noted no past problems with gaming tables, Councilor Fenton moved to approve the gaming table application submitted by Crossroads Truck Stop and was seconded by Councilor Meade. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Parks & Recreation Committee** – John Nichols introduced Larry Nelson as the chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee. Larry Nelson reported on the tree project and the activities of the committee.

**OLD BUSINESS: Interchange Area Management Plan** – Manager Ward reported that ODOT was moving ahead with the City’s request for a single phase project to relocate the Port of Entry facility to south of the Umatilla River Bridge on I-82. This would mitigate any of the capacity issues at the current interchange. They could forego the loop ramp coming into town off of I-82 simply by moving the Port of Entry to another location. They will still need to look at potential future uses of the Port of Entry site and how those uses might impact future capacity issues. Those issues and costs would be borne by potential developers. ODOT was receptive to the idea of whatever income that could be generated from the sale of the property could off-set the cost of relocating the facility. Other concerns included trucks trying to bypass the Port of Entry by exiting I-84 and using Highway 730 to get to I-82. This was not a unique situation, and can be addressed by cameras, special units posted to intercept such vehicles and other means.

Mayor Steen noted that the City has a contract with the state for the Port of Entry citations, regardless of whether the facility is in the city limits or urban growth area the City would not lose revenue from the move.

**NEW BUSINESS: Resolution #07-2011** – Grant Application for Village Square Park. Karla Nelson gave a brief presentation on development of the park and the grant application. Cost of the development was estimated at about \$176,000 with the City’s matching cost to be about \$40,000. Councilor Smith moved to accept Resolution #07-2011 authorizing the City to apply for a local government grant from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department for the development of Village Square Park. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fenton and unanimously approved. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

**Ordinance #761** – Re-establish 5 members on the Transient Room Tax Committee. The Transient Room Tax Committee requested the committee membership be reinstated at five members, with one representing lodging operators, one representing the Chamber of Commerce and three at large members. Councilor Johnson moved for the first reading of Ordinance #761 to be by title only and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously. After the first reading, Councilor Johnson moved for the second reading of Ordinance #761 by title only and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously. After the second reading, Councilor Smith moved to adopt Ordinance #761 and was seconded by Councilor Johnson. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Code Improvement Board Update** – The Code Improvement Board had their organizational meeting along with a review of policies and procedures. Since that time there have been no cases to come before them as violators seem to be responding to the notices of violation given them by the Code Enforcement Officer. The ordinance that established the Code Improvement Board also references the fact that they serve in an advisory capacity to the Planning Commission and City Council. While their role is quasi-judicial, it does not preclude them from also making some general evaluations of the code, particularly those areas of the code that they deal with and making suggestions how the code could be improved. One of those areas would be dealing with shipping containers being used as storage facilities. Also, Manager Ward has been making some contact to meet with Pasco’s Code Improvement Board.

**Town Hall Meeting** – Mayor Steen had proposed a Town Hall meeting on March 29, 2011, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Council chamber to welcome all the public and Council members and all committee members. This would be an open forum with questions and answers and an opportunity for networking for people with shared interests. She also invited ODOT to have displays in the foyer for the IAMP relocation plan and the Planning Department with a capital improvement plan and comprehensive plan.

**Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment** – Applications for appointment were submitted by Dave Trott and Thomas Surber. Mayor Steen stated that she had spoken with Mr. Surber who was from McNary and has specific interests in McNary. He works with community youth basketball and coaches several teams in middle school ages and also has a middle school child. He has grown up here living here 31 years and plans to be here until he dies. He has special interests for youth recreational facilities to be located in McNary. Mayor Steen chose to appoint Thomas Surber to the Parks & Recreation Committee. Councilor Fenton expressed his opinion that Mr. Trott should be given some consideration. Councilor Johnson moved to accept Mr. Surber’s appointment and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Meade – no; Fenton – no; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Mayor Steen broke the tie by voting aye. Motion carried by majority vote with 2 no votes and 3 yes votes.

**Budget Committee Appointment** – Applications were submitted by David Trott and Janice Ball. Mayor Steen reported that she had spoken with Mrs. Ball who was the director of the media center of Blue Mountain Community College and oversaw 3 budgets that were the different departments of the media center. She was the president of an international bridge tournament that she served on for many years and an events planner. Mayor Steen chose to appoint Janice Ball to the Budget Committee. Councilor Fenton again asked that David Trott be given some consideration and made a motion to appoint David Trott to the Budget Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilor Meade. Mayor Steen questioned the validity of the motion and stated her understanding of the Mayor’s responsibilities and privileges was that the mayor makes the appointments and those appointments need to be approved by the Council. Councilor Fenton then withdrew his motion. Councilor Johnson moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Meade – no; Fenton – no; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Mayor Steen broke the tie by voting aye. Motion carried by majority vote with 2 no votes and 3 yes votes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Jon Garrett submitted a letter of resignation from the Budget Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee. Councilor Johnson moved to accept the resignation and was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Roll call: Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment at this time.

**MAYOR’S MESSAGE:** Mayor Steen announced the April 1-7 annual spring clean-up by Sanitary Disposal and summarized the Code Enforcement Board, noting that a lot of people had brought comments to her. The Code Enforcement Board could really be effective in response to citations against violations. The Code Enforcement Board could advise on specific issues such as storage containers and advise the Council about codes specific to that. The Code Improvement Board’s real community service is on citations. One of the problems she has was that code enforcement was primarily complaint driven. She asked to call a police committee meeting to review codes and give some more explicit direction about the approach to code enforcement. She would like to explore the possibility of it also being violation based so that the Code Enforcement Officer could initiate citations when there are obvious violations, especially in main thoroughfares and commercial districts. All citizens with concerns, questions or complaints about code violations, nuisance violations, illegal vehicles, trash, land use violations, etc. were asked to know the codes especially Title 4 Nuisance Code, Title 6 Traffic and abandoned and inoperable vehicles and Title 7 Public Ways. Citizens can complain anonymously although giving your name allows for more effective follow-up and documentation. Officers responding to nuisance codes can sign the citation if they witness the nuisance. Document your complaint. If satisfactory follow-up is not received within 10 days, take your documentation to City Manager Ward. There is also the option of bringing a prepared statement to the Council meetings and reading into the public record or write a letter for the Mayor to read into the record.

Also discussed was the City Manager’s evaluation process.

**STAFF REPORT:** Manager Ward reported on the property deed, meeting with the Confederated Tribes, ethics training, comprehensive plan update, an ODOT open house, Buck’s Corner complaints, Umatilla welcome sculptures and a school reading project.

**COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:** Discussion items included a public meeting on the state of the Hanford site, Village Square and the farmer’s market, a meeting between Steve Trukositz and the fire chief and merging of fire districts.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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KAREN STEEN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Linda Gettmann, City Recorder