

**CITY OF UMATILLA  
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2011  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** The public hearing was opened at 7:03 p.m. to hear public testimony regarding Ordinance #762 to annex property owned by Vadata (Amazon.com) into the City.

Vadata representative Ian Wrightson stated that they were developing 3 data centers in Eastern Oregon, one of which was located in Umatilla on Beach Access Road. They are requesting annexation of the property for the data center so that water and sewer services could be accessible. Questions included employment opportunities, funding for providing utility services, type of service Vadata would provide and volume of water and sewer required for the facility. Employment would include data technicians, data center engineers and security positions. Funding for providing utility services to the site would be borne by the applicant and the data center provides data storage services. The facility would require minimal sewer services and water volume would depend on seasons, outside temperatures or conditions, etc. as water would be required for cooling.

There being no further testimony, the public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m. and the regular Council meeting was called to order immediately thereafter.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Steen, Councilors Roxbury, Meade, Fenton, Smith and Johnson.  
**ABSENT:** Councilor Stokoe  
**STAFF:** Manager Ward, Recorder Gettmann, Finance Director Glover, Planner Lunden, Police Chief Huxel, Public Works Superintendent Frances and R.A.R.E. student Karla Nelson.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor requested that in the mayor's message section the reference to "Code Enforcement Board" be changed to "Code Improvement Board." Councilor Fenton moved to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2011 Council meeting as amended and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Carol Smith asked for more detail on financial reports for the City.

John Nichols read his letter regarding the real cost of running the City.

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski reported on the upcoming community events.

Cathy Putnam announced the Landing Days meeting, the middle and high school students who competed in the battle of the books had achieved to the state level, the Lions Club meeting and planting the flower boxes for which volunteers were needed.

Mary Dedrick expressed concern regarding Resolution #08-2011 and asked how many non-compliance letters were sent out monthly. She expressed concern that additional officers would be needed to keep up with the more stringent code enforcement.

Ramona Anderson also expressed concern regarding Resolution #08-2011 and the additional cost of more code enforcement.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Discussion items included a building permit that should have been submitted to Umatilla County instead of City of Umatilla, tires for a police vehicle, license tags for dogs, police department policy manuals and ultra-violet light replacement at the wastewater treatment plant. Councilor Fenton moved to approve the consent agenda which included the paid invoices, court report and the liquor license application submitted by Picaso's Pizza. Motion was seconded by Councilor Meade and unanimously accepted. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Police Committee – Councilor Smith reported that the two meetings focused on code enforcement and developing Resolution #08-2011 to facilitate an education program for code compliance and to form an ad-hoc committee to aide in the education program.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ordinance #762 – Annexation of Vadata Property (Amazon.com). Councilor Fenton moved for the first reading of Ordinance #762 to be by title only and was seconded by Councilor Roxbury. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously. After the first reading, Councilor Roxbury called for the second reading of Ordinance #762 by title only and was seconded by Councilor Meade. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously. After the second reading, Councilor Fenton moved to adopt Ordinance #762 and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Transient Room Tax Committee Appointment – Mayor Steen requested to table the committee appointment until the code could be changed to allow more than one motel owner.

Resolution #08-2011 – Code Enforcement Policy Direction. Councilor Roxbury expressed her opinion that City management, police department, etc. were fully capable of handling code enforcement and an ad-hoc committee was not necessary as the Code Improvement Board was implemented to aide in code enforcement issues.

Mayor Steen explained that the ad-hoc committee would consist of volunteers and the process was in coordination with the 150 year anniversary and for the public to take ownership to clean up the city. With the new opportunities of more businesses at the Port, with the fact of anticipating moving the Port of Entry to open up the corridor on 730, all these things come together at the same time. So this isn't simply a code enforcement resolution, it is a resolution for direction on policy coordinated with a volunteer based education program for code enforcement. After additional discussion, Councilor Smith moved to accept Resolution #08-2011 and was seconded by Councilor Meade. Councilor Roxbury again reiterated her position to the rest of the Council to let Chief Huxel and her staff do their job and stated that more bureaucracy is not needed for something that was working. Councilor Roxbury attempted to continue her discussion and was called out of order by the Mayor who declared that discussion was over and that the roll call vote was now needed. Roll call: Roxbury – no; Meade – aye; Fenton – no; Smith – aye; Johnson – no. Motion failed by majority vote with 3 no votes and 2 yes votes.

TRCI Proclamation – Employee Recognition Week. Mayor Steen read the proclamation proclaiming the week of May 1-7, 2011 as TRCI employee recognition week.

Funding Approval for Code Improvement Board Travel to Pasco, Washington – Manager Ward reported that for the entire committee, mayor and staff to attend, the City vehicle was not adequate and that an additional vehicle would be needed for transportation. He inquired about renting a van to transport the group and was told that the cost would be \$90.00 plus the cost of fuel. Another alternative would be for someone to take their private vehicle for which mileage would be reimbursed for use of their vehicle. Estimated cost for the trip was about \$150.00. Councilor Roxbury made a motion to approve funding for the travel to Pasco, Washington and was seconded by Councilor Johnson. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Village Square Park – Umatilla Fun Days Fund Raising Event. Linda Carraher explained that this would be for all of the fund raising groups to get together on August 8, 2011, hopefully to encourage increased foot traffic. The request was for permission to use the Village Square Park for this event. Council had no objection to using the Village Square Park for this purpose.

Umatilla River Restoration – R.A.R.E. student Karla Nelson reported that the City received a small grant in the amount of \$7,500 from the Wildhorse Foundation to do restoration along the Umatilla River. Plans were to remove Russian olive trees and desert false indigo then plant native trees and plants. Cost of the cultural resource survey was \$5,000 and was required to complete the project. The grant funds would be used to rent equipment to cut down the offending brush and trees, treat the area to prevent re-growth and purchase native plants. Councilor Fenton moved to approve funding of the cultural resource survey in the amount of \$5,000. Motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and unanimously approved. Roll call: Roxbury – aye; Meade – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Nichols reported a tree on the north end of the footbridge that needed to be removed because it was causing erosion around the footing and foundation of the bridge. He also inquired about the progress of the street light inventory to get street lights fixed.

Jack McWhinnie stated that he was a member of the Code Improvement Board and commented on the improvement done at Buck's Corner.

Janice Ball stated her opinion that the City could be open to litigation without equal code enforcement.

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski also spoke on code enforcement.

Ramona Anderson asked about the people who would be going to Pasco for the Code Improvement Board.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Manager Ward reported on street lighting, Buck's Corner, ethics training, comprehensive plan community survey, the Interchange Area Management Plan meeting and the welcome sculptures.

**COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:** Discussion items included Buck's Corner, cable TV, Draper Road improvements, pigeons, the data center's utility services and the City's policy on underground utilities.

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE:** The Mayor commented on the success of the town hall meeting. She then read her letter of resignation from the mayor's position effective at the end of this meeting.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 9:08 p.m. the regular Council meeting was adjourned to Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i) for the City Manager's evaluation.

**RECONVENE:** The regular Council meeting reconvened at 9:38. Council deemed that the City Manager's evaluation was acceptable.

**ADJOURN:** With no further business discussion, the regular Council meeting was adjourned at 9:42.

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GEORGE FENTON, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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Linda Gettmann, City Recorder