

**CITY OF UMATILLA
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Lafferty called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Lafferty, Councilors Dedrick, Farnsworth, Meade, Fenton, Smith and Johnson.

STAFF: Manager Ward, Finance Officer Ince, Planner Searles, Public Works Director Pelleberg and Chief Huxel.

MINUTES: Councilor Fenton moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2013 as presented and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll Call: Councilor Dedrick – Aye, Councilor Farnsworth – Aye, Councilor Meade – Aye, Councilor Fenton – Aye, Councilor Smith – Aye, Councilor Johnson – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Melvin Hewitt lives on Stephens avenue and part of that street is City and part is County. Mr. Hewitt is asking if the city will come down and at least patch the pot holes as the road is in terrible shape.

John Nichols spoke about his concern of the Semi trucks driving on the residential streets up on south hill and asked if the city could get a handle on that before they wreck the streets. Mr. Nichols voiced his concern regarding CRIS Inc continuing to run the Marina and feels that we should talk with the Port of Columbia as they had a similar situation and have a private contractor running their marina and they have made it a successful operation.

Dave Meade is there representing the Chamber of Commerce and spoke about tourism and the use of Transient Room Tax funds, he highly encourages that the chamber, city officials and the transient room tax committee work together towards some great opportunities for tourism.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Fenton moved to approve both the paid invoices and the court report as presented. Councilor Meade seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Dedrick – Aye, Councilor Farnsworth – Aye, Councilor Meade – Aye, Councilor Fenton – Aye, Councilor Smith – Aye, Councilor Johnson – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Hasmukh Mistry – Mr. Mistry stated that we are lacking in communication in this community, he also is concerned because no one attends the Chamber Business to Business lunch's each month. Mr. Mistry is concerned about the large increase in the rates that are affective July 1 as he already pays twice what his competition pays in Hermiston.

Proclamation for Police Week and Peace Officers' Memorial Day – Mayor Lafferty read the proclamation declaring May 15, 2013 as Peace Officer's Memorial day and May 12-18, 2013 as Police Week.

Resolution 07-2013- This resolution is to declare a 1974 backhoe as surplus property to be sold. Councilor Fenton moved to approve Resolution 07-2013 and Councilor Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilor Dedrick – Aye, Councilor Farnsworth – Aye, Councilor Meade – Aye, Councilor Smith – Aye, Councilor Johnson – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Negotiation – Manager Ward was approached by a real estate agent asking if the City would be interested in the old Union Pacific Railroad right away and a little bit of property that connects with that right of way. After some discussion the council gave their unanimous approval for Mr. Ward to dig deeper into the opportunity to this property.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John Nichols wanted to clarify that the senior discount was an age verification and a hardship rate was a financial verification. Council confirmed.

Melvin Hewitt also questioned that since he is 79 he will qualify for the senior discount. Council confirmed.

Jack McWhinnie suggested that we advertise the rate and options better. Also feels that there should have been a hearing prior to the council meeting to have the input of the community on the increase to the water and sewer fees. Mr. McWhinnie would also like to have a report from each department head at the council meetings.

Shirley Frost just wanted to support Mr. McWhinnie in regards to there being a hearing for community input.

Hasmukh Mistry would like to have an email list that goes out to create more communication between the city and the community.

MAYORS MESSAGE – Mayor Lafferty went to see Mr. Hansell at the Oregon House of Representatives and made contact with Mr. Schmidt, he is supposed to get some contacts to the city in regards to getting some help for the marina and some grant money. Mr. Lafferty also attended the TRCI recognition ceremonies for their recognition week.

MANAGER’S REPORT- Manger Ward stated that they had their first working group meeting with the Tribe and it was a very successful meeting and will continue to meet twice a month for the next few months, they will focus first on an MOU. Corp of Engineers did some invasive species removal this past winter and the old town site is looking good.

Budget committee approved the budget and had some good discussion, most the discussion was on the Marina, it will be passed on the Council for approval at the June meeting.

Code improvement board is having good success with voluntary compliance. Still trying to figure out how to deal with hard core violators and we are working with City of Pasco for some other options.

Roak went to the port meeting and pleaded with them to take reservations beyond September and they said no, told us to figure out a way to take our own, we are trying to figure out how or if we can go about that so that when the port releases their rights in September the books are not empty.

ADJOURN - There being no further business to discuss the regular Council meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Pat Lafferty – Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela Hughes – City Recorder