

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, AT 4:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jeanie Hampton, Richard Winter. Jerry Gaunt, Pat Wood & Gayle Yoder.

ABSENT: Karl Jensen.

STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT: Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder; Darin Tuil, Public Works Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Richard Winter lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE: Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder administered the oath of office to Mayor Richard Winter, Janie Enright, and Gayle Yoder.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Berry had provided the council with a copy of an anonymous letter from someone calling themselves “Citizens of the City of Echo.” Berry asked if the council wanted to discuss this. The council agreed that if people have legitimate concerns they need to be willing to sign their names. Anonymous letters will not be addressed.

However Berry did explain that the party the letter accused of getting free showers at the RV Park has been paying a monthly rate for more than a year. The council had no problem with this, but decided to increase the fee. Jeanie Hampton moved to establish a \$20 per month Shower fee that will be posted at the RV Park. Gayle Yoder seconded the motion. Vote: all ayes. The council felt the letter probably came from camp hosts or their associates and they were not impressed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December meeting were approved as corrected upon motion by Jeanie Hampton and second by Gayle Yoder. Vote: all ayes.:

POLICE REPORT: The written report from September thru December was reviewed. The council said to tell Chief Zumwalt that they like the new format. Can it be sorted by address?

GOLF COURSE: Berry reported that membership fees are coming in already. Randy has received few comments on the new rates so far.

PUBLIC WORKS: Darin Tuil reported that Engineered Control Products will be here in the next month to service chlorinators at the lagoons and the reservoir. He & Trevor Morris have been cleaning up at the shop and hauling scrap metal to Hermiston. Problems with the street lights and ballasts were discussed. The electrician said the ballasts are only good for 1 year and we have gotten over two years so far, but they may all be starting to go. Berry will check on different ballast. They were also installed with undersized fuses so when the new wreaths were installed, several immediately blew fuses. Yoder asked about trying to get volunteers or an organization to clean up around the businesses. Berry said if an individual or businesses wants to organize such an effort like the Kiwanis Cleanup or school Cleanup Day, that would be fine, but the city shouldn't try to do this. We just work with them if they offer to do this. However each business is responsible for cleanup around their business. The post office is the worst. Berry said that citizens can complain to the postal service about this. Yoder said people are putting paper in cigarette urns. Berry said she noticed this and it was irritating that they wouldn't walk a few more feet to place it in the garbage receptacles. Tuil said they have a kitty litter scoop to use to pick up butts from the urns and will try to check them more frequently.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: a. **Investments.** No Comments. b. **Budget Officer & Elections Officer:** Although the city administrator ordinance lists these as city administrator functions, the state requires a formal appointment: Hampton moved and Wood seconded the motion to name Diane Berry as city budget officer and city elections officer. Council President: Jeanne Hampton was appointed by acclamation.

Echo Ridge Cellars Winery; Berry reported they were preceding and have applied for building permits. She said they will add on and restore the old Granary to use as the tasting rooms and will fix up the concrete building to use as the winery.

Tree Fair: Berry said that this will serve as one of the annual Tree Committee meetings and asked for input on the annual Tree Fair. She said that the children and teachers loved the rotating stations that Jeannie Hampton organized last year that was roughly based on the "Minute To Win It" show. Berry asked for ideas for things we can do to earn Tree Growth Award points. Janie Enright suggested we work with the Bales at the winery on a tree planting project. Having a grove or street trees there would be nice. Berry will discuss this with them.

Sterilent: Berry said that because of the terrible weed situation last year, we are going to expand the amount of sterilent applied and adding Casoron application to the flower beds and gardens. The Casoron that the applicators can apply is much stronger than what we can buy retail. Berry is working to get three bids.

Ideas for AIB: Berry asked the council to be thinking about ideas for America in Bloom projects. We will be competing in the Circle of Winners instead of the population category this year.

Walking Trail: Berry said that she had been approached about developing a hiking/biking trail in town along the Furnish Ditch from the Golf Course to the Cemetery. She is doing some research on this and Anderson Perry is doing a cost estimate. The project would be submitted to the Echo Benefit Plan for the matching funds, but the bulk of the money would need to come from grants from ODOT or State Parks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Art Grant: Berry said that the Echo Benefit Plan has awarded \$15,000 for the Echo Public Art Project and she will try to get a meeting set up to talk about progressing with the project.

Adjournment Yoder moved and Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion to adjourn.
Vote: All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Richard C. Winter, PhD

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.