

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 AT 4:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Richard Winter, Gayle Yoder, Jeanie Hampton, Pat Wood, Jerry Gaunt, Janie Enright and Karl Jensen.

ABSENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Casey White-Zollman, Jer Pratton, Bryan Wolfe all representing BMCC; Melvin Wagner,

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

OATH OF OFFICE: Diane Berry administered the Oath of Office to City Council Member Karl Jensen.

APPROVE MINUTES: Jeanie Hampton moved and Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the February Council Meeting. Vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC WORKS: Darin Tuil reported on the blockage of the RV Park sewer and efforts to get town ready for spring.

GOLF COURSE: Berry reported that golf course receipts were up. Dan Huxoll is a mobile mechanic and has been doing a great job on fixing equipment for a lower cost.

BMCC BOND PRESENTATION: Casey White Zollman discussed the proposed Bond Issue for improvements to the Blue Mountain Community College facilities. In 2013 there were 5 Echo students taking classes while in school and they earned 24 college credits and in 2014 11 participated and earned 90 plus credits. They pay \$10 per credit compared to \$94 at the college.

The bond issue has to pass in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The state match will be about \$4 million if the \$22,900,000 plus bond is approved. The bond is estimated at \$.25 per thousand compared to the bond that just closed which was about \$.31 per 1,000. The Pendleton Campus will be renovated rather than new construction. Karl Jensen asked about the Boardman Early Learning Center, if it

would be a day care. Casey said it is to help children advance and is a teaching lab for teacher trainees.

Bryan Wolfe said students can get an associate degree at the same time as a high school diploma. OSU Experiment station was the first experiment in US to have a center pivot irrigation system and now there are 13. He reported on other high points of the Experiment station and BMCC ag programs. Gov. Kate Brown has committed to continuing to support getting Columbia River Water for our area. The mayor also spoke highly of the benefits of the community college system.

Jer Prat also spoke about the importance of the college to the local economy.

LIBRARY Hampton moved and Pat Wood seconded the motion to approve the new Umatilla County Special Library District agreement. Vote: all ayes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: a. Investments: No comments. **Tree Fair:** Berry reported the Tree Fair has moved to April 23 at 12:35 pm. Stations will be in the park, city hall and Masonic Lodge. Hampton explained about Tree Fair stations. Janie Enright and Sue Winter will help.

Sidewalk bids. Berry said the Sidewalk/concrete project is going to bid now.

Pat Wood asked if the Smith Drive parking issue had been resolved. Berry indicated that Mr. Wagner was in the audience. Wagener said he didn't appreciate getting the warning letter about parking on Smith Drive. He is a new resident and didn't feel it was a good welcoming. This was discussed for a few minutes.

Water/Ditch: Gayle Yoder brought up Vera Burres concerns about the subbing from the US Feed Canal.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business Yoder moved and Wood seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Winter, PhD/Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.