

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015 AT 4:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.**

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**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:** Anita Dorn, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Wagner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Richard Winter, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** Pat Wood moved and Karl Jensen seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the April council meeting. Vote: all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Anita Dorn attended to talk about nuisances behind her house on College St. and the back yard of the Cummings place on Gerone and Hiestand. The College Street house's yard was mowed twice last year and wasn't watered at all. The fence is falling down and she propped it up from her side. The Cummings have been keeping up their front yard, but the back is full of junk and debris and vegetation. Dorn feels there should be a way to fine them.

The council decided to continue discussing the nuisances at this point on the agenda. Gayle Yoder moved and Jensen seconded the motion to move Nuisances forward on the agenda. Vote: all ayes. Janie Enright said Fort Storage has a weedy mess and unless they fix the doors and keep them locked, it should be declared a nuisance. The Stohlford trailers on Buckley Street were discussed. Following the Kiwanis cleanup, the city received a complaint about the tall weeds and piles of debris at the Stohlford places. The city sent him a letter giving him 2 weeks to cleanup. The owner has not responded or cleared the nuisance. The Nordquist place on Esteb and Kennedy has a falling down fence, old vehicles and tall unmown weeds. Berry said Peggy Haines had emailed him and he called and said he was paying someone to mow the yard. A relative moved in more vehicles, but the old blue sedan has been there for years. Berry was directed to put notice in the newsletter that the council will be touring town and declaring places nuisances each month. Berry said those who have not had a notice will be sent a 10 day notice, but will be informed that the council has declared it a nuisance and that failure to abate the nuisance will result in a citation. It was suggested that while Trevor Morris is reading meters he make

notes on places the council should view. Jeanie Hampton asked about why David Gross was on the list, as recycling the old metal was his business. Berry said he is not allowed to have that type of business in a residential zone, and was told that several years ago when he met with the council. The agreement was that if he would put up the fence (which is now falling down) and started removing the old equipment and metal debris the council wouldn't cite him. He has quit eliminating debris and appears to be hauling vehicle parts and other metal debris again.

The Jackson trailer in the trailer park was mentioned. Berry will look at this. She said the general ugliness of the trailer precedes Jackson, but she will look at debris and vehicles.

Yoder moved and Enright seconded a motion to declare William Stohlford's trailers at W. Buckley to be a nuisance and to issue citations, as he has not abated the nuisance following a letter to him. The following properties are also declared nuisances and will receive notice and then citations if the nuisance is not corrected within ten (10) days: Junita Streeter, Prescott St. unmown weeds and debris on corner; Gayle Cummings, Hiestand, weeds and debris in back yard; Jon Reuter, College Street weeds/grass and fence; Nordquist, Kennedy St. old fence, cars, weeds; Anolfo, Hiestand, sacks, rolls of carpet and other debris stacked at least 5 feet high and as wide in back yard but visible from the street; Fort Storage, Main St. weeds including puncture fines; Piercy pile of brush and weeds behind the hotel, David Gross, S. Thielsen, falling down fence and tons of debris and pieces of broken down equipment; Stacy Lowrance, corner of Thielsen and Main, debris in back yard visible from the street; Ruis, Thielsen and Sprague Streets, old falling down sheds, debris, numerous vehicles; Vote: all ayes;

#### **BUDGET HEARING:**

The budget hearing and committee meeting for the 15-16 budget was called to order at 4:36 pm. Janie Enright moved and Yoder seconded a motion to appoint Melvin Wagner and Anita Dorn to the budget committee. Vote: all ayes. The public was asked for comments on proposed use of State Shared Revenues and there were no comments. The first budget meeting will be Wed., June 3 at 4 pm at city hall. Jerry Gaunt moved to appoint Tammie Williams, Chairman by accumulation. Vote all ayes.

The budget hearing was adjourned upon motion by Anita Dorn and second by Gayle Yoder. Vote: all ayes.

**RESOLUTION 427-15** This resolution increasing utility fees has been posted and copies provided to the council, and as such is read by title only. The council had set a policy to review rates annually to avoid large increases, but this has not been done since 2012. In addition it is estimated that sewer rates will need to be at least \$52 to meet the state average for grants and loans and to pay off revenue bonds. This

increase will move toward compliance and provide funding for project planning and engineering. Jeanie Hampton moved Pat Wood seconded the motion to approve Resolution 427-15, although he said he hates the state telling us what to do, but we need money. Vote: all ayes.

**POLICE REPORT:** No Written Report. The council discussed the county's attempt to charge us and the Stanfield Police for dispatch fees.

**GOLF COURSE:** Darin Tuil reported that the course was doing well. They fixed mowers, made new traps and laid sod. Dick Yoder asked if memberships had declined following the rate increase. Berry said that we had lost a few people, but had gained more and the loss of the memberships were not all attributable to the increased rates.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Darin Tuil reported everything has been going well. They have been working on trees, parks and weed control.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: a. Investments:** No comments.

**Fitch:** The city will read Charles Fitch's biography and give him a plaque with the key to the city for Charles Fitch Day and Frank Harkenrider will also receive a key during the ACE car show. The Car Show was discussed. It is the Saturday before Memorial Day. **Salaries:** The council sets salaries. Hampton moved to accept the the proposed increase of salaries 3 % for all employees, but Clerk. The clerk will get a 4% raise. The motion was seconded by Janie Enright. Vote: all ayes. **AIB:** Berry reported that the County has donated \$2500 (\$1000 for the picnic shelter masonry, \$1000 for the new sidewalks and \$500 for AIB). Judges will be here June 18 & 19 and we will dedicate the Dorn Tree and Park Improvements at the time of the Judge's reception, **Marijuana:** Gayle Yoder said she would like a separate meeting to discuss the language for the Marijuana Regulator Code. The meeting was set for Friday, May 29 at 2 pm as a work session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Yoder moved and Enright seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Winter, PhD/Mayor

Attest:

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Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.

