

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 AT 4:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.

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

ABSENT: Karl Jensen.

STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT: Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder & Darin Tuil.

OTHERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Richard Winter called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none.

APPROVE MINUTES: Pat Wood moved and Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the last council meeting as corrected. Vote: all ayes.

NUISANCES: None.

POLICE REPORT: No Written Report. Berry brought up a neighborhood dispute over burning in fire pits vs. burning garbage. The current ordinance was discussed. Janie Enright discussed the fire districts interpretation of safe burning: outdoor fire pits and barrels should have a cover or screen and open burning should be done with a hose available.

Code: 5-1-3 Burning Refuse: Burning of rubbish, rags, leaves or any type of refuse on public or private property so as to disturb peaceful possession of property by offensive odors or smoke.

5-2-5 b. Wastepaper, boxes, rubbish and debris; brush, leaves, grass, wood and cuttings from trees, lawns, shrubs, and gardens (but **excepting paper, cardboard, or wood containers in commercial quantities,**) may be burned on private property only if the method of burning is approved by the Fire Chief and is done in accordance with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Rules and Regulations.

Gayle Yoder questioned whether the ordinance should be revised to be more specific. The rest of the council thought the current language adequate at this time. Berry was directed to put information on this in the newsletter.

Dispatch Fee: The council discussed the dispatch fees the county is wanting to impose on cities in the county. The county would absorb the costs for the cities they contract with and residents outside the incorporated cities. Chief Zumwalt provided a copy of the schedule proposed by the Stanfield and Hermiston City Managers. The council is still opposed to this fee and maintains that the county's plan is a tax, and in fact double taxation for those in incorporated areas. Such fees have been proposed in areas such as Idaho. It was dropped because the residents opposed it as double taxation. Those residing within the Echo city limits pay the same taxes as those in the unincorporated areas. The council feels that this is another attempt by the county to free up money from the county budgets to use in other areas, and basically tax the residents of incorporated areas as they cannot get a law enforcement levy passed. This is a function the county should be running with the taxes they are already generating.

Departments in Hermiston and Pendleton did away with their own dispatch operations to save money. As a result they need and require much more service than other smaller cities. Let them pay the extra or provide their own employees to do the extra work they want from the county. Now they are trying to get the rest of us to pay extra because they decided to contract with the county. We can limit calls that are not covered by 9-1-1, by encouraging residents to call 9-1-1 for all emergencies and ask them to call in dog control and other non-emergencies to city hall or to leave a message on the Stanfield Police machine, if the county pursues this.

Janie Enright moved to direct the City Administrator to tell the county and Stanfield that the city is not willing to pay the county fee as it is double taxation of our residents. Jeanie Hampton seconded the motion. Vote: all ayes.

GOLF COURSE Berry reported on Dan Huxoll fixing the greens mower on site and finding us the best price for an engine through Umatilla NAPA.

PUBLIC WORKS: Darin Tuil reported on LDS community service work. There are a number of projects they will be working on from spreading bark to painting. Tuil will be scheduling to have the chlorinator repaired and calibrated this winter.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: a. Investments: No comments. **AIB:** The girl scouts have been cleaning up trash at the Skatepark. **Marijuana:** The council discussed recreational marijuana regulation at length. Unless it is banned, the city will get a portion of the tax. We do not have to have a dispensary in town, just like we don't have to have a liquor store. Amending the current Medical Marijuana code to include Recreation Marijuana was discussed. This code limits development to 1000 feet from a school, playground or daycare. The only place it could be allowed, and that is via a conditional use before the council is a small section at the north end of town—the old mill site (Bales winery site) and a small piece of the former

Esther Fife property where the old single wide is located. Pat Wood moved to amend the current code to apply it to recreational marijuana. Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion. Vote: all ayes.

New Business: Veteran's Day: The school will celebrate Veteran's Day the day after Veteran's day on Thurs. Nov. 12 with a parade at 10 am, followed by an assembly at 1pm.

OLD BUSINESS: Hampton stated that the VFW was willing to give the city the VFW Hall, provided the city conducted a title search as they no longer have the deed. Hampton moved to authorize the city to accept the building and to conduct a title search for the VFW Hall. Ideas for its use were discussed: Amazon Store site, meetings, library crafts, Yoder seconded the motion; Vote: all ayes

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business Yoder moved and Enright seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Winter, PhD, Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.