

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 310 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.**

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

**ABSENT:** Karl Jensen.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nate Rivera, Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Richard Winter called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** Pat Wood moved and Jeanie Hampton seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Vote: all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Rivera made a presentation on the Hermiston Trade and Event Center which is a partnership between the City of Hermiston and Umatilla County. Umatilla County Fair is one of the few around the state that is growing and not losing money. Fair is out of space. The fairgrounds and the rodeo grounds will be part of the new facility. It has 55 acres that will be developed now and another 39 that is the expansion area. The current grounds are 21 acres. The new grounds will have a 28,000 s.f. facility with a commercial kitchen, a 12,000 s.f. ball room, ticket office, EOTEC offices and three 900 s.f. meeting rooms. It will be open this year. New Rodeo arena will remain a tight intimate set up with all seats being good. There will be a restroom, and more box seats. There will be three animal barns, 2 will be 15,540 s.f. and the center on will be 49,980 s.f. Now there are no parking spaces and the new facility will have 506 paved parking spaces. There will also be better accommodations for those showing. The 2017 fair will be at the new grounds. The project is funded by a lottery grant, sale of existing grounds to the school, a HUD grant and other donations and grant to 11.8 million dollars. The lodging tax will provide \$2.2 million. Another \$2 million is needed. The fundraising committee is working to raise that amount. The website is: [www.eotechhermiston.com](http://www.eotechhermiston.com).

One donor will match all city donations. Gayle Yoder asked if there is anything to provide personality or character. It will be primarily functional with longevity and safety considerations. She wants to see the buildings with some character and color worked in. Rivera said he will report her comments to the board. They are selling bricks for about \$50 and this information is on the website.

**POLICE REPORT:** Police Reports from September through January were provided to the council. Berry provided a letter from Umatilla County Emergency Management asking for money to make the coordinator full-time. The council decided to take no action.

Pat Wood would like to see officers drive slower while patrolling at night. He said they go by at about 25 mph and cannot see if anything is going on at that speed. Berry will discuss this with Chief Zumwalt. Wood has had gas stolen.

**Other Business:** Pat Wood begged Richard to run for mayor again. He said he was the best mayor he had worked with. Jeanie Hampton said she is running for mayor this year.

The proposed school expansion bond was discussed and the Community room proposed by the Quarterback Club.

**GOLF COURSE:** Darin Tuil discussed the need to turn the irrigation system on early this year. A number of old established trees have died and are being removed and will be replaced this spring. Membership statements have been mailed. Mayor Winter suggested that golf course manager Randy Sperr show up at a council meeting once every 6 months or so.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

The electrical problems with Well #5 was discussed. PP& L does not provide enough balanced power between the three legs of the three phase power to keep our phase protection operating and within the pump manufacturers guidelines. The mayor, Dennis Marcum of Purswell Pumps, a Franklin Motor representative, Brett Moore, Anderson & Perry, Tuil, Berry and three PP & L representatives met and went over problems and options. PP & L is within the allowed standards. The Franklin representative said this is not unusual; he deals with these problems all over the west and Canada. The best option seems to be to install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) but that costs around \$25,000. Due to the pump/motor replacement, the new pump protection and other problems this year the Water Reserve Fund is almost out of funds. Ways to finance the VFD were discussed such as government grants, Short term notes and Oregon Energy Trust were discussed. Tuil reported that we need to move on this as we need to start irrigating soon and they cannot depend on Well #4 alone. Raising Water rates about \$1.25 and amount per \$1000 gallons was discussed. Tuil said the pump runs once per day in winter and up to six times per day in peek season. A Float system turns on the pump.

The council directed Tuil to turn off the pump protection or adjust it to keep the pump running until a decision is made and funding obtained.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: a. Investments:** No comments. **Tree Ordinance:** Berry said that our current Tree Code requires Tree Contractors to provide \$1million in bonding and insurance. The tort limit is \$300,000. She has been asked to have the council consider changing it to \$300,000 so some of the local companies can obtain licenses. Janie Enright moved and Gayle Yoder seconded a motion to amend tree code insurance and bonding requirements. Vote: all ayes. **Library Board;** Jeanie Hampton moved to appoint Barbara Wagner to the library board. Enright seconded the motion: Vote: all ayes. **VFW:** Berry is pursuing funding for repairs. The council will move meetings to the VFW.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Yoder moved and Enright seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard C. Winter, PhD, Mayor

Attest:

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Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.