

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2016 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 310 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.

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

ABSENT: Karl Jensen.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Hibbard and Brett Moore of Anderson Perry, Associates; Melvin Wagner, Raymon Smith, Echo School;

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Richard Winter 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 Janie Enright seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Raymon Smith, Echo School Superintendent, provided information on the proposed \$4 million dollar school bond which if passed will provide matching funds for a state grant of up to \$4 million dollar grant. Thus giving the school \$8 million for improvements. The new bond amount will be combined with the existing bond and extends the existing one by ten years, they can raise the \$4 million local match with an estimated \$.81 per \$1000 in taxes each year. The top 4 tax payers are UPRR, pipeline, Centurytel and an Equity firm. It will add 6 more classrooms, 30,000 s.f. to the school, and a new gym. It will also provide increased security at the entry.

Janie Enright said most people have been concerned about the amount the taxes will go up. Smith said they need statements of support for the voter's pamphlet.

What support the city can lend for the bond was discussed. Berry said as a governmental agency, the city cannot support the bond, but council members as individuals can endorse and promote it. The newsletter can promote voting, but cannot suggest or ask people to vote yes or no.

POLICE REPORT: No Report.

GOLF COURSE: Berry reported that the golf course gang mower has been rebuilt and the city crew and Randy are starting to go through the irrigation system.

PUBLIC WORKS: Darin is gone on vacation. A proposal from Purswell Pump for pulling the pump and either putting in a different pump or “trimming” the current one and to put in a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at a cost of just under \$28,000 was discussed. The council didn’t want to change out the pumps or trim the one as this is an expensive bandaid. They prefer putting in a VFD. Energy Trust will probably provide a little funding, but the amount is unclear. Brett Moore will look over the proposals from Purswell. He discussed the load balance and dirty power. He also suggested maybe changing pumping times to when the least power is being drawn throughout town. He will look into this. Check with Bill Clemmons on times of peak power. Watching for storm events was also discussed.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: a. Investments: No comments. **Walking path-** Making the Walking path by using the Gerone/Thielsen 2007 project, the upcoming Thielsen St. north project and then going along cemetery road and through the cemetery was discussed and seems to be an idea everyone Berry has talked to likes. The mayor asked about the National Guard. Berry said she had written to the contact the mayor had provided and talked to them once but has never heard from them again. Another man from the National Guard called about the same time, but didn’t know about the letter, but wanted projects. She gave him suggestions and has never heard from him again.

Executive Session: An executive session to discuss land negotiations and legal issues regarding such was called at 4:56. Melvin Wagner left, but the council, engineers and Diane Berry remained. The session ended 6:07 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business Yoder moved and Wood seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Winter, PhD, Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.