

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Eujeana “Jeanie” Hampton, Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt, Robert Harris, Karl Jensen, Lou Nakapalau.

ABSENT: Gayle Yoder.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Tammie Williams, Eli Stephens, James and Carol Shelton, Bill Webb, Sr., Judy Webb. William Douglas (a few minutes at the end of meeting).

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jeanie Hampton called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Tammie Williams said she received a call from a former classmate regarding the proposed eminent domain action on the Mike Yunker property. She was told the city wanted to “take” his home for the upcoming wastewater project and the proposed pond would be practically at his front porch. She was concerned about flooding on the proposed sites and asked and urged the council to have a public hearing. She felt the council should slow the process down.

She also wanted to speak in favor of the proposed Madison Annexation as the town needs to lower its taxes and adding homes there will help do so. Diane Berry asked the mayor if it was ok to respond to Williams and clarify a couple of items. The mayor agreed. Berry said that the city was looking to obtain about 10 acres of the Mike Yunker property at the south end far from his house. This is not in the flood plain. Yunker will be paid the appraised value of the property.

To avoid the flood plain/way the city would have had to go onto the hills or a couple of miles into the Echo Meadows, but there has been no willing seller there either. The city has not been hasty and in fact has been working to find a solution for the DEQ mandated improvements for more than 10 years.

A public hearing is not required for this issue.

Annexation: None of the property proposed for annexation is zoned for housing so no new homes will be built if this property is annexed. The piece the Madison’s have an option on is all Tourist Commercial/Light Industrial. Echo Heights, which is zoned for homes on 1 acre lots, would only be annexed upon a petition of property owners and council approval. No such petition has been received or discussed. The city has provided interested homeowners information on the city’s tax rate and this rate would not decline with growth.

The proposed wastewater improvements would be funded by loans repaid by rate payers, not property taxes and hopefully some grants.

GOLF: The prison crew sanded green recently. Memberships are coming in and were due by March 1.

PUBLIC WORKS: Tuil reported that they are ending the discharge of wastewater into the river at the end of the month. They are working on weeds and spring cleanup.

Karl Jensen commented that he hopes that with the new President and administration some of the problems such as the DEQ regulations will lighten or go away. Berry said she agreed and was tempted to write the President to tell about our problems.

Robert Harris had some concerns about the facilities plans and finding information he was looking for such as some of the costs in them. We will need to consult with Brett Moore.

NEW BUSINESS: The Mayor reported on the League of Oregon Small Cities Conference that Echo hosted for 13 cities in eastern Oregon. They shared ideas, problems and solutions. It went well. She gave kudos to Darin, Trevor, Peggy and Laurie for the food and set up for the meeting.

Representatives from some state agencies also attend. She was able to discuss with ODOT the problem with collisions between farm equipment and parked cars since ODOT wiped out the parking stripes on Main Street. Berry explained that when the Main Street project was constructed, ODOT calculated the angle needed to provide enough room for vehicles to travel between parked cars such as long bed pickups. This made a sharper angle, but when they installed the chip seal a couple of years ago, they wiped out the thermal marking. Berry said the city new striping is the wrong angle. She said the city is probably being blamed for the recent accident where a piece of farm equipment hit 3 vehicles, but she wanted to make it clear it wasn't the city's fault. The Mayor said that one of the ODOT representatives measured and the spacing is a foot short.

She reported that the county and west end cities will be meeting to discuss trying to develop a trail between our communities.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Berry said the Tree Fair will be next Tuesday at 12:30 pm if they want to participate. The mayor has organized the stations that the elementary students will rotate between again this year. The school will have their annual cleanup day in May.

Echo Open Air Market: The first market will be May 20. Jerry Gaunt moved and Jensen seconded a motion to authorize the monthly Echo Open Air Market this summer and fall in the George Park and along Dupont Street. Vote: all ayes.

The Kiwanis Cleanup will be the same Saturday as the first Open Air Market, May 20.

NEW BUSINESS: The Reese's of Butter Creek Coffee House are applying for a liquor license and the mayor signed the initial application. They also want to put tables on the sidewalk. The consensus was that there was no problem with previous businesses doing this. Janie Enright moved and Jensen seconded a motion to approve the sidewalk tables and license. Vote: all ayes.

Continuity of Operations: The insurance company wants us to reapprove this plan which was adopted by resolution. Berry will review and see if any changes are needed.

The mayor said one of the Echo school student art projects won an award and he will allow us to display it.

Irrigation Rights: A letter from Stanfield Irrigation District was reviewed. Berry will check in to this more, but one proposal was to transfer the small right to the cemetery district, if possible.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Jensen moved and Lou Nakapalau seconded a motion to adjourn. Vote: all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Eujeana Hampton

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.