

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017 AT 4:30 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.**

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**COUNCIL PRESENT:**, Jeanie Hampton, Robert Harris, Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt. Lou Nakapalau.

**ABSENT:** Gayle Yoder, Karl Jensen.

**STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT:** Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder, Bryan Zumwalt, City Attorney William Kuhn.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pam, Dana & Don Reese, Antonio Cobarubias, Natalie Lapp, Alvin Umphres, Jade McDowell, East Oregonian, Melvin Wagner, Kent & Laura Madison, Jackie Read, Vickie Reed, Vickie Ranger, V. Hendricks, Jennifer Shehan-Dokka, Jenny Sullivan, Brandi Cox George.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jeanie Hampton lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jane Enright moved and Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Vote: all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Vickie Read, representing Pendleton's PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays) organization, provided handouts and read a statement. She said she became involved in PFLAG when her 17 year old son came to her and her husband and told them he was gay. She said this is not a choice he made. She wants the council to take action to refute Lou Nakapalau's comments in a Facebook exchange with gay filmmaker Joe Wilson or issue an apology. Jenny Sullivan said she endorses Ms. Read and wants the council to condemn Nakapalau and stated she feels no one will want to move here. "She is disgusted." Five PFLAG representatives left at 4:15 p.m.

**ANNEXATION CODE:** Ordinance 374-17, An Ordinance Establishing Policies and Procedures for the Annexation of Land to the City of Echo, Code 9-16-2, was read by title only as it has been posted and copies provided to the city council. There have been no changes in the code since last month's meeting. Robert Harris asked who can apply to be annexed. The city attorney explained the procedure and that the property must be located in the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Harris asked if there was an option to opt out from city utility connection? He said people in Echo Heights already have water via wells and sewer through septic tanks and would have no incentive to pay to connect to city utilities in order to annex. Berry said that needing utilities would probably be the only reason they would want to annex and have to pay city taxes. Kent Madison agreed that the need for such

services is usually the reason for wanting to annex. Harris moved and Janie Enright seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 374-17. Vote: all ayes. Motion Carried.

**Ordinance 375-17 System Development Charges:** This ordinance would adopt System Development Charges for new development in Echo. It is still in draft form. Harris and Enright had questions about charges for landscaping and calculating charges. Kuhn said the charges would be unknown until a System Development Charge study is completed. State law dictates how these are imposed and such a study is part of it. Madison thought it was a good ordinance.

**Police Report:** The written report was reviewed. Chief Zumwalt explained the Oregon dog tether law.

**Golf Report:** The season is drawing to a close so Trevor Morris and Randy Sperr are beginning to weatherize the irrigation system and equipment for the winter. The smoky conditions this summer due to all the forest fires hurt play.

**Public Works:** Darin Tuil had to undergo shoulder surgery this month. He fell several times on the job last winter on the ice and tore his rotator cuff. They tried physical therapy, but it didn't work. He will be off several months and then on light duty for several more. Morris will be starting to winterize equipment and irrigation around town the end of October and into November.

**New Business:** Mayor Hampton discussed people in Echo wanting a swimming pool and Hermiston wanting to add an indoor one. There is also discussion of forming a regional recreational district. **Facebook:** Janie Enright provided a Social Media policy adopted by the Fire Board for firefighters as an example the city might want to adopt for staff and council members. Council ethics and rules were discussed. Harris asked for copies of these. Berry said that at this time you do not have any adopted policies. She has passed samples out, but the council has never adopted any. There are some state ethics laws that govern council actions. He said he would like to see us adopt some regulations that reassure citizens of Echo that we are unbiased. The League of Oregon Cities also has model social media policies. As council members are elected officials placed by the voters, there are limited options for sanctioning them. The council can issue a statement, according to city attorney Bill Kuhn but cannot remove a council member.

The mayor asked Harris if he has comments or a direction he wants to go with such a statement. Kuhn suggested that Harris make a motion regarding the statement or policy. He said the council can individually make apologies or issue a council statement. Harris moved to issue an apology. He asked Jerry Gaunt to second the motion. But Janie Enright said she had already seconded it. Mayor Hampton asked Harris to provide some wording and direction as to what to do with the apology.

Harris wants it to go to the East Oregonian and on Facebook. Council members stated that Nakapalau's comments were just one person's statement on Facebook and not a city statement or policy. Harris asked for audience comments on the apology. Several people began to talk at once. The mayor immediately said this is not the time or place for public comments. Vote: all ayes. Berry will draft the apology and send it to the newspaper and post it on the city's Facebook page.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Berry asked if anyone had looked through the Statement of Goals and Needs yet? There were no comments. She will put it on the agenda for next month. She provided information on a new Wind Farm Project proposed for the Nolin area. She contacted the county commissioners to ask if it would provide a pool of grant funds like the Echo Benefit Plan has from the wind farm on Madison's. They said it is too early to tell. This project is just at the very beginning stage.

Liquor Licenses:

**Adjournment:** Harris moved and Gaunt seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. Vote: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eujeana Hampton/Mayor

Attest:

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Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.