

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 AT 5:15 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.**

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**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jeanie Hampton, Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt, Gayle Yoder, Karl Jensen, Robert Harris.

**STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT:** Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder, Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt, Darin Tuil, Public Works Director, Peggy Haines, City Clerk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathy Enright, Patty & Tyler, Cisneros, Frankie Sewell, Alvin Umphres, Kylee Murstig, Marti Huff, Garrett Wiggins, Brooke & Jodie Williams, Tonia Barzee, Vera Burres, Jessie Holben, Mel & Kris Wagner, Don, Dana & Pamela Reese, Brandi George, Daniel Thomas, Robert Lowrance, Richard Hunsaker, Michael Hampton, Kent & Laura Madison, Brett Moore, Anderson Perry and Associates, Ron Hinkle.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jeanie Hampton lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jerry Gaunt moved and Karl Jensen seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. There wasn't a January meeting due to a lack of quorum. Vote: all ayes.

**Public Comments:** Three Echo students from a newly formed Echo School Club SPARCS (Students Participating and Rebuilding Community) that promotes diversity and acceptance in the community spoke [Marti Huff, Garrett Wiggins & Kylee Murstig] regarding an event they would like to hold in the city park and on the adjoining street to promote diversity, acceptance and inclusiveness. They said Hermiston had one and it was very successful. They want to unite the town. They asked to be on the March council meeting agenda to discuss this further. They also asked about having a student representative on the council.

Kent Madison said he wanted to encourage the council to fill the council vacancy with someone supportive of his proposed Northgate Development. Madison also said that a group has formed named E.C.H.O. Echo Community... [This is an acronym H & O unknown] They are meeting at the Butter Creek Café and he invited the council to attend. He thought the meeting notices were posted, but Pamela Reese indicated they were not posted. The group wants to have input on how the city spends/budgets the potential.

**Police Report:** The written report was reviewed. A listing on elderly abuse was briefly discussed. A listing regarding a drug overdose and a minor involved in drugs

was discussed. Robert Harris asked if this was a known drug house. He was told it was. Vera Burres said she had told police about it.

**Council Vacancy:** There is a vacancy on the council due to the death of Lou Nakapalau. He submitted his resignation in January, but the council did not have a meeting to act up on the resignation prior to his death. Berry and the Mayor explained that if the council decides to fill the vacancy, the appointee will only serve until Dec. 31 as Nakapalau's remaining term is over 2 years. They would have to file in August for election if they want to remain on the council. To be considered for the position, an applicant must have resided within the Echo City Limits for at least one year prior to appointment and be a registered voter. Robert Harris moved and Janie Enright seconded the motion to open the position and have applications submitted by March 8. Vote: all ayes. An appointee will have to file the annual statement with the Oregon Ethics commission information.

**Golf Report:** Annual memberships/Dues are due by March 1 and are being paid at about the normal rate. They are getting equipment ready and will soon be turning on water at the golf course. Harris asked if the golf course manager position was up for bid. Berry said she was not sure when the contract expired, but would look it up. Her computer went repair mode so she was not able to access the contract. She said that the city doesn't put this out to bid. They negotiate with Randy Sperr, golf course manager. The manager has to be qualified to operate the golf course, so not just anyone can be offered the contract. This is a contract position and the contract changes very little as the format is one the attorney approved many years ago to make sure that federal and state agencies don't try to say the manager is an employee.

**Public Works:** Darin Tuil is back to work except for physical therapy. They are getting things ready for spring. There have been a number of water issues resulting from school construction such as a broken pipe, broken hydrant and brown water from Iron Manganese due to hydrants being opened and closed frequently. This is believed to be what caused the hydrant failure. We hope that this is resolved now.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** **a. Tree Fair:** Berry said the Tree Fair will be in April and the Mayor is organizing the stations. We are ordering Tree books for each class again this year. **b. VFW Progress:** Berry reported that the VFW remodeling is going well and the building is looking great. She has posted photos on Facebook of the flooring.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The representatives from the high school SPARCs group had asked to have a liaison to the council. Janie Enright said she had discussed with

Diane Berry, prior to the meeting, having a student youth advisor to the council. She had seen that the Cottage Grove City Council was doing this and thought it would be a good idea to try here. The high school student liaison would sit with the council and have input, but would not be able to vote. She also suggested the possibility of having advisors from some of the special districts or businesses. Robert Harris said he favored having a youth representative. Possibly having an officer from the school's Associated Student Body was proposed. However the students said they only have class officers and do not have a Student Body President or officers. Mayor Hampton asked for guidance on how the council wanted to fill this position. The council asked the Mayor to discuss this with Raymon Smith and ask for him to suggest a representative. The council wants the representative to be a resident living within the Echo City Limits.

**School Contests:** Hampton discussed the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) annual contests. One is for high school children and is an essay: "*If I were Mayor*". The city conducted a local competition last year and sent the best entry to the LOC contest. LOC gives a tablet to the entry they select. She said we need to come up with a prize for the local winner. Last year it was an Echo bag with a t-shirt and book. She suggested giving \$50 as an incentive. She also wants to do a contest for lower grades: "*Where I see my city in 10 years...*". She said it could be a list, rather than an essay. Last year they wrote a letter to her. A swimming pool was mentioned several times. She is still researching that as a possibility.

**OLD BUSINESS: Madison:** Kent Madison said he has been talking to Paul Chalmers, Umatilla County Tax Assessor, about his development. Chalmers estimates that if a hotel like the Holiday Express in Hermiston was built there it could add over \$26,000 in tax revenue to the city's current tax base. That motel is valued at \$6.8 million. This would decrease the amount each tax payer would have to pay on the school bond issue. Kent said he and his wife Laura want to proceed with the project and keep it moving forward. Diane Berry said we do not have an application for annexation yet. The city needs to receive that before anything further can happen. Madison asked Berry to email one to him. She said she would. He was asked about Thielsen Road. He said it will become a three lane road. A frontage road for accessing in the development may be required. They have no plans for developing a truck stop. He asked to be on March Meeting agenda

**Adjournment:** Jensen moved and seconded by Gayle Yoder the motion to adjourn. Vote: All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6 :30 p.m. Vote: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eujeana Hampton/Mayor

Attest:

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Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.