

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE ST., ECHO, OREGON.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jeanie Hampton, Jerry Gaunt, Robert Harris. Tammie Williams, Chad Ray.

ABSENT: Janie Enright, Dick Yoder. (Both excused, illness)

STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT: Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder, Darin Tuil, Public Works Dir. Peggy Haines, City Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT: Alvin Umphres, Kent & Laura Madison, Earl & Cheryl Sineath, David I. Slaght, Jeff & Toni Roach, James Shelton, Richard Thew, Bill & Judy Webb. Jessica Holben and Glenn arrived late in the meeting and left before it was over. The sign-in sheet was passed around for those attending to sign-in.

CALL TO ORDER: The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: James Shelton, a resident of Echo Heights, thought public comments should be allowed at other times in the meeting so he could comment on the items being discussed. Mayor Hampton said that often people come to meeting to discuss a specific topic and do not want to set through the whole meeting, so this way they can comment and leave if they wish.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 21 meeting was made by Tammie Williams and was seconded by Jerry Gaunt. Vote: all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: Madison Annexation/Zoning: Kent Madison discussed the latest plan for the Northgate project, a traffic plan that has been presented to ODOT. He said it was the 9th one. Part of the discussion was about adding a traffic round-about. Madison said he is afraid that if this is not installed initially, the city might get stuck with the cost if the traffic volume requires one as the site develops. It would be a 165' to 300' radius to accommodate trucks. He asked about questions on the traffic plan the need for housing was discussed. The proposed lots would be about 10,000 sq. ft. or about 1/4 acre. This is proposed as Single Family Limited Residential. Multi-family housing would require a conditional use. Industrial development would be a conditional use to show the use would not result in a "public nuisance because of unsightliness, noise, smoke, odor, dust, vibration or heavy truck traffic".

Chad Ray asked if there is a way to avoid installation of a roundabout? Madison said if the traffic warrants it would require either a stop light or roundabout and roundabout are cheaper.

Berry will try to find out if the city could be forced to pay for future traffic improvements and if the streets are annexed will the city be responsible for their maintenance and improvement.

Tammie Williams asked about other zone changes. Berry said the agreement with the county states that upon annexation or zoning application this parcel is to become tourist-commercial/light industrial. Housing is not currently allowed.

Kent pointed out the area on the plan which is proposed to be reserved for a water tank and well.

Natural gas is there, but if the demand load is too large, they would have to upgrade. Electrical: 3/4 of site is PP & L and 1/4 is Umatilla electric.

Bill Webb voiced opposition to the project. The mayor asked to have comments saved until public hearing. Madison said he would be willing to discuss the proposed project with people after the meeting.

Shelton said he is opposed to the amphitheater. Madison feels the project will give the city funds "for things the city needs".

Tammie Williams said she feels we need the project to pay for future needs.

Madison said the city's water study shows the potential fire demand isn't currently met.

POLICE REPORT: No. Comments.

GOLF: Business is beginning to pick up. The new mower should be arriving soon.

PUBLIC WORKS: The first wastewater test required for discharge to the river is back and the results were good. The reservoir is on the list with the company until and they will schedule it when they have another in this area. Tuil provided a letter of resignation effective June 30.

ADMINISTRATOR'S Report: City Administrator: Berry reported there were nine applicants for the position. The mayor appointed a committee to narrow the list to the top 5. She appointed Jerry Gaunt and Chad Ray to sit on the committee with her. Tammie Williams said she wants to be on the committee small so it isn't a public session and for efficiency. Jerry Gaunt said Williams can have his seat. The

mayor allowed the change. They will meet on April 1 to review applications in executive session.

Tree Fair: Diane Berry will receive a Community Trees Presidents Award. She asked for ideas on the tree fair. Ray said he thought it was a good idea to name a tree for former mayor Doug Clement. There were no other suggestions so Berry asked if they trusted the mayor and her to organize it. There were no objections. There were no comments on the Needs and Goals list.

Filling the Public Works II position was discussed briefly. The council decided to fill the Public Works Director position first so the new director can hire his assistant. The council would like to hire someone and get them trained as soon as possible. They hope to find someone already certified. Williams thinks it is a good idea. We currently have two full-time positions. Berry said the budget has to be done by June 30. Chad wants to talk the City of Stanfield about a shared position. The mayor gave him the ok.

New Business: The dispatch charges by the county were discussed. The amount is ridiculously high for our small community with its limited calls. Ray asked what to do about a dead deer at the north end of town. He asked about removal of the pile of debris along Golf Course Road. Tuil said he would remind the fire department to put it on their training list. There was concern that someone was living in the camp trailer at the Cummings place on Hiestand. He will be sent a notice. Ray was concerned about kids walking in the street and not on the Thielsen St. sidewalk when the snow was heavy. Tuil said they do have equipment, but with only one person working on winter he was only able to keep up downtown sidewalks and around city hall. Berry said this is another reason why you really need two people.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the council, Williams moved and Ray seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eujeana Hampton/Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.