

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY MAY 9, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 20 S. BONANZA, ECHO, OREGON.**

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**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Jeanie Hampton, Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt, Dick Yoder, Robert Harris, Tammy Williams (joined meeting at 6 PM)

**ABSENT:** Chad Ray

**STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT:** David Slaght, (new) City Administrator-Recorder, Diane Berry, (retiring) City Administrator-Recorder, Bill Kuhn, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

**BUSINESS:** Mayor asked for a motion to approve the new City Administrator- Recorder David Slaght as an official signer. Janie Enright made the motion, Robert Harris seconded it. Vote: ALL ayes. Diane mentioned that we needed to rename all official signers to be legal. Robert made a motion to amend the previous motion to include the Mayor and Jerry as official signers. Dick seconded. Vote: ALL ayes.

The council discussed the Public Works Director applications and Dave asked that the council consider looking at all applications even if the applicant doesn't currently hold a wastewater and water certifications. They all agreed that if the candidates are highly qualified that we should look at all applications equally and interview them. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve this change from the original posting. Robert Harris made the motion to approve the change and Jerry Gaunt seconded. Vote: ALL ayes.

**PUBLIC HEARING PREP DISCUSSION:** The Mayor discussed with the council the plan of action for the hearing. *See attached Agenda Notes 5-9-19.*

**JUNE COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE:** The Mayor asked the council if we could move the June 20<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled council meeting to June 27<sup>th</sup> due to a scheduling conflict with David. The council agreed to move it. Jerry Gaunt made a motion to change the date from June 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. Robert Harris seconded. Vote: ALL ayes

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the council, Robert Harris moved that we close the meeting, Jerry Gaunt seconded. Vote: ALL ayes

## **PUBLIC HEARING: MADISON ZONING REQUEST**

**ATTENDING:** See attachment A – Public Sign-In sheet

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Mayor opened the meeting at 6:10 PM by explaining the process and why we were asking for public comment. James Shelton asked if he could challenge the process and a council member due to a conflict of interest. The Mayor and Mr. Shelton exchanged conversation and the Mayor asked Bill Kuhn (council attorney) if we could continue with collecting public comment. Bill said yes and there was some conversation back and forth between Mr. Shelton and Bill. The Mayor then finished explaining the process for public comment and read the Staff Report the laid out the reasons for the hearing. *See attached Staff Report.* The Mayor called each person in order in which they signed in and indicated that they wanted to speak.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*Richard Thew* – Lives in Echo. He indicated that it took him two years to find a home in Echo. People are looking for housing in Echo and community needs to consider providing space for more housing development.

*James Shelton* – Echo Heights resident. Read his statement (see attachment B) He also wanted to be on the record that he is challenging the process and that a member of the council had a conflict of interest. He did not indicate which council member he was referring to.

*Phil Steinbeck:* represents Oregon Department of Land and Conservation. He explained their role and that they are a resource for municipalities such as Echo to help follow the complicated processes of land development in Oregon. He urged the council to hold off on any further hearings or decisions until he could work with the city administration to re-write the Staff Report and make it available for 7 days prior to the next hearing. Council Lawyer Bill Kuhn said in response to this that the city council and administration should take Mr. Steinbeck up on his offer to help.

*Gary & Barbra Gottschalk:* Live in Echo Heights. Mr. Gottschalk is concerned about the proposed change. Issues such as increased traffic, water shortages, school over population, etc. He indicated that the amphitheater was not appropriate and that he and his wife are in favor of keeping things as they are, status quo. He did say that if this process did get approved that he would be willing to compromise but didn't elaborate on what that meant.

*Valarie & Craig Cooley:* Live on Joyce Way. Very concerned about proposal. Mrs. Cooley indicated that she had a petition and urged everyone who was not in favor of the proposal to sign it. *See attachment C & C.1* for written statement and petition with 17 signed names.

*Cheryl Simeath:* Live on Joyce Way. Indicated that this proposal doesn't need to happen. We have a quiet neighborhood and with the railroad shutting down at Hinkle there won't

be the need for more homes. With water issues and traffic concerns this shouldn't be allowed, and it should be up to the voters.

*Jon & Rebecca Patterson:* Lives in Echo Heights. Has worked construction for over 20 years and lived in small towns all over Easter Oregon. My past experience dictates that the development that Mr. Madison is proposing will happen anyway and Echo should work with someone local like Mr. Madison rather than someone from outside the area. We are in support of it and have started a petition on Joyce Way that is in support of the proposal. See attachment D which also includes 18 signatures and 2 written letters, 1 from Larry & Glenna Grames, and Jason & Christy Gefre.

*Kent Madison:* He wanted everyone to know that he understands the concerns of Echo citizens inside the city limits. He would like the proposal to get approved and be a written document for whomever wants to develop the area, if it isn't him. "Ultimately, we will do whatever the citizens of Echo want." The development could be the city's new north gate entrance.

*Bill & Judith Webb:* Live on Joyce Way. I am a retired railroader, and this is my retirement home. He urges the council to look for other sites due to the potential side effects of developing the proposed site, which could be increased noise pollution, crime, higher taxes, traffic, etc. We support a no vote on the proposal.

*Andrew Kilgore:* Resident of Echo. The city of Echo needs new tax revenue and if we want to keep our quiet little town then we need to invest in its future, or we will be like 100's of other small towns in America that died off due to no growth. If folks from Echo Heights are concerned about noise pollution, then how about 2 o'clock in the morning trains blowing their horns all the way through town. I support a yes vote.

*Justin Morris:* Lives in Echo. I am open to listening to the proposal and I am not for or against the proposal at this time. If the amphitheater where to go in, please place it toward Stanfield.

*Jake Bales:* Lives in Echo Heights. The interstate area is going to be developed at some point anyway. If this proposal passes, then I would like to see comparable housing to what's on the south side of Bowman.

*Jay Bales:* Lives in Echo Heights. I am a business owner and do lot for the community. The annexation would help with foot traffic in Echo and translate into revenue for the community. There is a symbiotic relationship between community businesses and housing development.

*Patty Cisiro:* I have lived in Echo all of my life. My family has been here for 100 years. We need more housing and we are for a yes vote.

End of verbal statements.

We currently have 2 anonymous letters opposing the proposal and two letters for the proposal, both signed letters are from the same household in Richland WA. & are signed by Daniel & Marilyn Brammer, see attachment F for signed letters.

We received written comment from Umatilla County Department of Land Use. See attachment E.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eujeana Hampton/Mayor

Attest:

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David Slaght/City Administrator-Rec.