

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT: Mayor, Michael Cahill; Councilors Karen Leach, Bill DiMarco, Jim Leach, Randy Nelson, Steven Hitchcock, and Herb Christensen; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; City Administrator, Jason Knope; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; City Planner, Jordan Cogburn; Community Services Director, Tom Boldon; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilor Nelson made a motion to approve the bills from August and the August 11 and 25, 2015 Council minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor DiMarco and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

None.

5. Junction City High School Noise Parade Street Closure Request

Planner Cogburn presented the annual street closure request. Included the same route as usual and there were no staff concerns. The Community Development Committee reviewed and recommended approval.

MOTION: Councilor Hitchcock made a motion to approve the street closure request for the Annual Noise Parade on September 30, 2015 as conditioned in Attachment B with the nonexclusive use of City streets for street closure from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The use of City streets will apply to the route stated in Attachment A, contingent upon approval from Oregon Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Councilor K. Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

6. 11th and Elm Well and Interfund Loan Resolution

Administrator Knope reviewed the Interfund Loan Resolution of \$215,000 from the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund to the Water System Improvement Fund for construction of the 11th and Elm Well. The loan must be paid back in 10 years and annual payments of no less than \$21,500 would begin next fiscal year.

A. Resolution No. 1 – A Budget Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations and Interfund Loan.

MOTION: Councilor K. Leach made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Nelson and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

7. Council Agenda Forecaster Review

Administrator Knope presented the Council Agenda Forecaster and asked if the Council would like a Lane County Planner to attend the September 22nd Work Session to talk about the Meadowview Road/Grain Millers issue. The Council consensus was in favor.

In response to a question on Vista Dale, Administrator Knope noted that the engineer's report on Vista Dale would go to the Council at the 1st meeting in October.

In response to a question on the status of the City adopting language on Building Code abatement per Senate Bill 915, Administrator Knope stated that he would have Director Crocker put that discussion on the Finance and Judiciary Committee Agenda Forecaster.

8. Staff Reports

Director Boldon reported: The Community Services Committee reviewed and approved a proposal from Trever Stroda, representing the Tracer Family, to remove a large barn, relocate a chicken coop, do general clean up, and pay for all associated costs on property

that was deeded to the City. A liability wavier has been signed and it is planned that the project will be completed this fall. Councilor DiMarco noted that the Historical Society had no concerns and endorsed this action, as the barn structure was not salvageable.

In response to a question on a staff change, Director Boldon stated that the Community Services Administrative Aide had resigned, and the Community Services Committee would be reviewing the position and determining next steps.

Director Kaping reported: Don Johnson has worked for the City since 1986 and would be retiring in October, so the City was advertising for a Sanitation position. The drilling of the test wells would begin on September 14th. Downtown sidewalks would be removed on September 14th and new sidewalks installed on September 21st. The 11th and Elm Well bids have closed and would be reviewed by the Committee on September 14th.

Planner Cogburn reported: He would be reviewing options with the Planning Commission on future development of the Rolling Meadows property, since Hayden Homes has pulled out of the development. Grain Millers engineers met with Lane County staff on new solutions for Meadowview Road. Planner Cogburn rescinded the City's approval to give Grain Millers more time; there would be a three year window for them to begin their project. The TSP contract bids would be reviewed on September 22nd.

Attorney Connelly reported: She had recently forwarded SB 915 information to Planner Cogburn.

Administrator Knope noted that his personnel contract reads that the Council could do a 6 month evaluation if desired; regular evaluations occur annually in February.

The Council consensus was to do the annual evaluation. Administrator Knope responded that he would gather information on how evaluations have been done in the past and bring to the Council for their direction on how to proceed.

9. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Christensen noted that things were going well.

Councilor Hitchcock said that he had been told that there would be a review and summary of City properties and he had not seen that. He asked if the Council could discuss staff emails at meetings. Mayor Cahill responded that he did not think that would be a problem, unless it was a personnel issue.

Councilor Nelson asked about the status of communications with JCA (Junction City Athletics). Administrator Knope responded that there had been no movement this month.

Councilor Nelson encouraged the Council to look at designating reserve funds to refurbish the pool, which was a valuable asset to the community. It was noted that on October 8th the Budget Committee would be discussing possible restoration of reserves that were cut from the proposed budget. It was added that separating the Parks and Pool Reserve Fund could be an option for the upcoming budget.

Councilor J. Leach thanked Councilor Nelson for his comments on the pool. He asked how they could move forward with the JCA well discussions. Administrator Knope responded that the next step was for a meeting to be scheduled between him and Mark Steinmetz.

Councilor J. Leach asked about the status of amending the code on utilities to allow past due charges, etc. Attorney Connelly responded that she would be bringing those code amendments to staff and then the amendments would go to the Committees.

Councilor K. Leach thanked staff and Council for all their good work and expressed support for Director Boldon and the great things that he would be doing with Community Services. She thought the Council decision at the last Work Session to remove the tree showed the Council's concern for the people in the community and doing what was right for the City.

Councilor Hitchcock stated that the downtown area where the trees had been removed looked really good and it was nice to see the buildings. He noted that a parks sign at 14th

and Laurel had been removed. Director Boldon responded that Parks staff was restoring some parks signs and he would follow up on this.

Councilor J. Leach noted that several people had told him they liked the look of downtown without the trees. He asked if concrete could be placed where the trees were and then easily removed if the Council decided to put in more trees. Director Kaping responded that the concrete could easily be cut without damaging the sidewalk; the plan was to put in conduits for electricity and water and then the Council could decide if they wanted light poles, plants, trees, etc.

Councilor Christensen asked if water could be made available to have hanging plants. Director Kaping responded yes.

Councilor K. Leach noted that downtown looked good without the trees and it was nice to be able to see the old buildings. She shared that there were many possibilities, including having street lamps, redoing the parking, and having a planter strip in the middle of the street. She referred to Springfield's downtown looking nice and having street lamps and trees together. Director Kaping added that the City of Sisters had installed benches facing the businesses instead of the street.

Councilor DiMarco shared that at a certain level of redevelopment Pacific Power would contribute funding or placement of underground electrical, but he did not know what the triggers were. Administrator Knope responded that he could look at the franchise agreement and get details. Councilor DiMarco noted that there was funding for Façade Improvements in the Community Development Fund.

Councilor K. Leach added that she and Planner Cogburn had talked about grants being available for projects like this. Planner Cogburn noted that the City would want some sort of a Downtown Plan to support those projects, similar to a Transportation System Plan.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Cahill stated that he had received positive comments from community members on the recent changes in the watering restrictions. He thought slow growth was a good way to monitor housing and that the inventory in Junction City seemed to be sufficient at this time. He would be attending a League of Oregon Cities training at the end of the month. He expressed support and appreciation for police officers and all that they do to keep communities safe, while putting their lives on the line. He added that what was going on in the nation right now against officers was despicable and words needed to be spoken on how important these people were.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Michael J. Cahill, Mayor