

City of Lowell, Oregon
Minutes of the City Council Meeting
May 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Paulson.

Members Present: Mayor Paulson, Judith Rennert, Gary Reese, Melody Knokey, Jim Burford

Public Comments: 7:02 p.m. Andrea Larsen, 655 N. Moss commented on several issues, including the City Administrator's 20 hour work week and how he was compensated for his overtime, if it was with comp time, or if he was compensated monetarily. She commented on offering competitive wages for the vacant public works position in order to get qualified and certified applicants, what an increase in water and sewer rates would be used for, wanting a breakdown of her tax dollars in writing, and commented on City Administrator's disrespectful body language at Council meetings. (No written copy submitted for the record).

7:06 p.m. Hall O'Regan (aka Eagle Eyes), 62 E. 3rd St. commented on an incident that took place on 05.19.14 with two females and one male that were standing on the railing at the entryway of City Hall. The male had ripped off the plastic holder that displays office hours on the front door. Mr. O'Regan submitted his statement that had the name of the male and also the remains of the plastic holder.

Council Comments: 7:09 p.m.

Councilor Knokey thanked Hall O'Regan for his work on the park benches in Paul Fisher Park, stating that they looked great. She also stated that she would like the use of parental controls on the library computers to be put on the next city council agenda under new business to be discussed and possible action taken.

Approval of Minutes: 7:11 p.m.

- **May 6, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus with one correction on the vote, the vote should be 4:1.**
- **May 14, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus with one correction regarding Melissa Murphy's name; only on "l" in Melissa.**
- **Minutes for May 19, 2014, were in the Councilors' mailboxes, but are to be brought back to the next Council meeting for approval.**

Approval of Expenditures: 7:12 p.m.

- **Councilor Rennert pointed out the incorrect total on the voucher report, along with questions that were answered by the City Administrator or Finance Clerk. Councilor Rennert moved to approve expenditures with corrections for May 6, 2014, Councilor Reese seconded motion.**
- PASSED 5:0**

Old Business: 7:20 p.m.

- **Economic Development/Enterprise Zone Committee** - Pam Bryant presented the Council with a new draft of the brochure the Committee has been working on. She explained the changes that have been made so far and stated that a few more changes are to be done before going to print. Council Knokey made a couple of suggestions to the brochure. Councilor Rennert asked if the City Administrator has authorized payment for this brochure to be printed. Mayor Paulson explained that the Council had authorized the City Administrator to move forward with this, but was not sure if anything had been brought to him. Bear Printing will be adding a QR code. **Councilor Rennert moved to have the City Council approve the Economic Development Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee to initiate printing of their first brochure and perma-flyer project at Bear Printing for an amount not to exceed \$800 and approve payment thereof from tourism funds.**

PASSED 4:1 Councilor Burford Opposed

Ms. Bryant asked the Council for wording for the disclaimer for Facebook and Twitter.

- **Draft Ordinance Parks**

Public Comment: Idella Stinson, 26 E. 3rd Street, stated that if we have too many restrictions in the park, that no one will want to use them at all. She agreed with the designated smoking areas and that the park should have designated hours, but was concerned if the alcohol restrictions would require a permit that people may go to other parks in the area and not use our parks.

Hall O'Regan, 62 E. 3rd Street, stated he was concerned that the alcohol restrictions are too extreme.

Discussion: The Council discussed the park hours, alcohol restrictions, smoking restrictions and clarification on what a special event definition would be to require a permit along with how it would be enforced. Language would need to be put in the Ordinance to cover the Blackberry Jam.

- **Water and Sewer Facilities Needs**

Public Comment: Idella Stinson, 26 E. 3rd , commented on the Public Works employee qualifications and overtime issue.

Mayor Paulson cautioned everyone about discussing employee performances in Open Meeting.

Bob Burr, 566 E. First Street, commented on Public Works certifications.

Hall O'Regan, 62 E. 3rd Street, commented on the Public Works position being exempt.

Ken Larsen, 655 N. Moss St., commented on certifications and on the job training.

Mayor Paulson asked for a report from Councilors Rennert and Knokey on the workshop that they attended. Councilor Rennert stated that Melissa Murphy from IFA came to talk about financing for infrastructure for water and waste water facilities. Councilor Rennert said Melissa Murphy stated that there were very few grants available, but there were low interest rates on loans, and the agencies would look for a plan to suit the City's needs and the amount of debt the City currently has. Councilor Knokey spoke about the Asset Management aspect of the workshop, and stated that there is a spreadsheet available to list your assets, and also to prioritize projects; and sometimes rated had to be raised to be able to pay loans back. Councilor Reese stated that at the meeting it was brought up that the City has a circuit rider available for up to 10 hours of free consultation. Mayor Paulson stated that City Administrator Hamilton would be contacting them to move forward with that. The process for grants was discussed. Mayor Paulson asked about master plans, and it was stated that they usually are done for twenty (20) years; however, they are updated every five to ten years. Councilor Rennert asked about the progress on the bids for the generator and the wireless bid for the generator from Cummins for \$18,900, and he had received two bids on the wireless system. City Administrator Hamilton stated that they are still getting bids and should have them available for the next Council meeting. The City Administrator gave the Council a list of projects to review.

Reports: A couple of sets of minutes from the Economic Development Committee were submitted along with Blackberry Jam minutes from April 8th. Mayor Paulson submitted an announcement from the Department of Transportation regarding the Oregon State Rail Plan for anyone that was interested. He stated that Oakridge is trying to get an Amtrak station there. They would like to have support from people outside of Oakridge.

Staff Reports: The City Administrator explained his exempt employment, and he produced a comparison with other cities. The City Administrator toured our plants with operators that can learn to operate our plants, but wanted to have someone to call for backup. The City Administrator was given another website to advertise the position we have available. The City Administrator gave low and high amounts that were on our pay scale. Council Knokey asked about the position to be advertised in the local newspaper. No ads have been placed in any newspaper. Council Rennert asked about the status of applications. We have received one. Councilor Reese asked if we would be paying for the operators to train on our facilities. The City Administrator explained that he was sure that we would have to pay them to train on our plant. The City Administrator reported that we have 478 EDUs with four (4) new housing units this year. Update on the website is that a new website is up and running, and the Mayor thanked Councilor Knokey for all her long hours working on the website. There is a place to subscribe to the website that will send you an email when staff adds something. Suggestions and comments are welcome on an ongoing basis. Councilor Knokey is asking for more photos; and she has put links to the Blackberry Jam and the school.

Councilor Reese asked if the website has the capability to put the audio minutes on there, and "yes," it has that capability.

The police report was distributed and the City Administrator stated he would report on the Court Report at this time; and stated that a decision will need to be made soon for no shows for their arraignments, and if the City wants to go to the expense of getting a prosecuting attorney to pursue these cases.

1. **Other Business:** Councilor Rennert reminded everyone about the Budget Meeting tomorrow and requested an updated Expense and Revenue Report.

Public Comments: Ken Larsen commented on using other cities more equivalent to our population when getting comparison wages. The City Administrator stated that he was given those cities because of the type of facilities they had were similar to ours.

Pam Bryant commented on the Leash Law and that an Ordinance was submitted to be reviewed by the City Attorney.

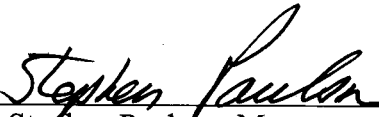
Bob Burr commented on the qualifications and certifications of our Public Works employee and stated that he should apply for the position if he wanted it.

Idella Stinson stated that she felt the City should pursue the prosecuting attorney because, if word got out that the City of Lowell doesn't do anything if you don't show up, that it could get around and people would not show up to Court, and nothing would be done.

She also asked about a barking dog Ordinance, and the Mayor stated to file a complaint.

Adjourn: 9:08 p.m.

Approved: _____


Stephen Paulson, Mayor