



ORIGINAL

CITY COUNCIL APRIL 6th, 2015 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia OR 97064

Mission Statement

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

Meeting started with the official swearing in of Randall J. Parrow as Vernonia's Mayor.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance -- Mayor Parrow

2. Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Councilor Tierney made a motion to approve the agenda with the change of moving **Downtown Trees and Parking** from New Business A. to Unfinished Business A. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

3. Mayor Report

A. Recommendation to appoint Brian Cole to Planning Commission

With the consensus of Council, Mayor Parrow appointed Brian Cole to the Planning Commission.

B. Recommendation from Planning Commission to expedite hiring Planner

Mayor Parrow asked City Administrator if there has been any movement on the hiring of the planner. City Administrator will meet with the Commissioners on Wednesday, April 8th, 2015. Also talked with other municipalities that may be able to share a planner. Councilor Tierney asked is there a timeline for having a City Planner? City Administrator said no if County comes back negative then we are going to start looking for hiring someone. City Administrator does not have a specific date. For the record Councilor Tierney stated she thinks it is important to have a planner to come to Vernonia sometimes not always sending citizens to the County. City Administrator will not make demands at his meeting at the County, he is going to talk about the potential opportunity to collaborate.

4. Councilor Committee Meeting Reports

Councilor Seager attended PW Committee meeting, topics discussed: water meter replacement program getting movement on that, long term Public Works positions, Water and Sewer loans. No other Councilors attended any meetings.

5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

*Persons addressing the Council must state their name for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the entire City Council.
The Council reserves the right to delay any action requested until they are fully informed on the matter.*

Jeff Harrison noticed as the meter reader read the meter that the meter was spinning around, the water was shut off immediately, they had a leak on their side of the meter and the next day they had it repaired. There was no indication of the leak in their yard, the only indication was when the meter reader read the meter and noticed the reading variance. Council will send this issue to staff and ask them to bring information to what Council has done in the past and what options are available back to Council on the 20th.

Jack Harvey- Would like something done about the electrical boxes that reside in front of the VCLC, the trees are missing and now so are the barricades. Those need barricades and or trees placed to make it safe. Council sent the issue to PW Staff to remedy.

6. Consent Agenda for Acceptance

The Consent Agenda is a policy of the governing body to approve, in one motion, routine and/or noncontroversial items, which can be determined prior to the meeting.

A. Weekly Departmental Updates March 13th, 20th, 27th, 2015

Councilor Seager asked if Council could get more information on nuisance violations. Areas being served and what violations are going out. Chief Conner will discuss nuisances and plans later in his report. Councilor Hult asked if on the 20th, we could get follow up on the Spencer Park recommendation from Damon Richardson. Councilor Tierney motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Seager. Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda for Approval

A. City Council Minutes March 16, 2015

Councilor Tierney wants it stated in Action Items that Council directed staff to post the Public Works position internally and directed staff to extend the City Planner contract until July 2015.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda for Approval was made by Councilor Hult. Motion was seconded by Councilor Seager. Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Downtown Trees and Parking

City Administrator went through the five options; 1. Leave the trees in ground 2. Place trees in vases 3. Extension of islands 4. Cut the Trees have no trees. Councilor Tierney asked if leave as it means not with the current trees, City Administrator agreed, different appropriate trees will be replacing the current trees. City Administrator explained that the third option is getting the City 2 parking spots in fifty feet, similar to what it is now. He talked to the engineer, cost is roughly \$12.00 a linear foot roughly \$200.00 per bump. The \$200.00 is just for each curb around the tree. It would cost roughly \$150.00 to make each bump out complete concrete. Each City block is roughly 250 feet long. Meaning that there would be (4) bumps per block. The Council asked how many bump per the downtown. City Administrator stated roughly 30-36 bumps.

Ernie Smith owner of the All-In Pub questioned if delivery truck would have trouble maneuvering. He does not think leaving any type of tree in the ground is a good idea. The trees will do damage.

Dan Brown former Planning Commission Chair, stated with the fort-five degree line of site the City will lose 2 parking spaces per block. The trees were not the trees the City wanted. The trees are twice as big as they were supposed to be. Vases are quite attractive, St. Helens does that and they work, because they are far enough away from the car doors as they open.

Donna Webb former City Councilor, stated if you did the groupings of multiple trees and yellow stripe along the sidewalk it may work well. Ernie Smith stated that we want the town to be attractive to tourists. Parks Committee Chair Scott Laird proposed that perhaps the yellow striping would be a great place for bicycle and motorcycle parking.

Dan Brown stated that we have a number of trip hazards and issues. The electrical boxes need to be addressed through the whole downtown. Pavers need to be pulled up and reset.

Councilor Seager thinks the trees need to come out, he thinks we should leave the trees this tourist season, and come up with a plan, and remove the trees this fall. Ernie Smith thinks that the business owners should be allowed to give input to where the clusters of trees are placed.

Councilor Tierney described the consensus of Council is to send the recommendation back to the City Administrator; the design idea is to place trees in planters, making sure the 45 degree line of site, with yellow striping to designate motorcycle/cycle parking and removal of trees this fall. Estimate for budget pulling up and reset the pavers where the trees are removed and also where the pavers are along the sidewalk along Bridge Street. Bring this new recommendation to the May 4th Council meeting. After Council sees the design revision on May 4th, the design will be sent it to Planning Commission.

B. City Car

The Assistant to the City Administrator presented the cost analysis designed for switching a VPD vehicle to be used as a City car for City staff. Council asked about the maintenance and repair costs that may be incurred with the use of the car. Staff explained that the maintenance and repair costs would be minimal, perhaps 200.00 dollars a year. Chief Conner spoke to the use of the vehicle by the code enforcement officer in his department. He wants to allow his administrative staff member to be on nuisances 50% of her time. Her being able to use an identified vehicle helps with citizens knowing she is present in an official capacity. Motion was made by Councilor Seager to transfer the VPD vehicle to a City car, and make the changes necessary to modify the vehicle. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tierney. Motion carried.

C. City Hall Closure for Lunch Hour

Mayor Parrow requested that the policy become effective May 1st.

Motion was made by Councilor Hult to approve City Hall offices closing from 12:30-1:30pm for lunch hour starting May 1st, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilor Seager. Motion carried.

D. Library Parental Notification

Shannon Romtvedt shared how she contacted other libraries on how they effectively changed the library policy for minor use of the internet in the library. The libraries she contacted had varied reaction to the internet permissions for minors. She recommends that staff point out the policy to new patrons signing up for library cards, post on the City Facebook page, request a brief notice in the Vernonia's Voice, communicate the change with the school district library staff. Councilor Tierney does not want to limit it to a brief notice in the Voice, perhaps a bigger article to really give notice to parents about the opt-out policy change.

Motion was made by Councilor Tierney. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

E. PW Committee Participation Protocol

Councilor Tierney asked is this a member representative, Councilor Seager stated that at the PW Committee meant just one, but the one they had identified has current medical issues and will be replaced by another committee member at times.

Motion was made by Councilor Seager to approve the PW Committee participation protocol agreement with the word members changed to representatives. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

9. New Business

A. Marijuana Dispensaries

City Administrator explained that staff was presenting this to Council for their opinion on whether or not they want or do not want the Marijuana dispensaries in the City of Vernonia.

City attorney Ruben Cleaveland stated that if the Council wants to allow marijuana then we would want to move the wording in the business license that negates the issuing of a business license to any business that does business that is illegal under Federal law. This provision covers the City of Vernonia currently, he wants Council to decide if they want to control it or not want it at all. Councilor Tierney discussed the communities that have increased the length of time for the moratorium. Ruben Cleaveland thinks the increase of time with the moratorium is flimsy. He stated that the time, place, and manner restrictions can suffice for control over the placement of the dispensaries. The current moratorium does not allow for the moratorium to continue. The basis for Ontario using an extension is the statute to control is not quite on point. An extension is not the first thing he would recommend to do.

The OLCC isn't going to accept the applications for recreational marijuana until January of 2016. The current moratorium will only affect Medical Marijuana. Ruben stated that as long as the Federal government keeps marijuana as a classified controlled substance. Ruben stated if Council wants to shore up the land development code, or time, place, and manner restrictions. Time, Place and Manner restrictions allow the City to choose that things can only be in these places and only sold in these hours. Councilor Tierney asks if the State could trump the time, place and manner restrictions. The State shouldn't be able to affect the zoning or development code.

Councilor Tierney's issue is that medical marijuana is legal and recreation marijuana is voted legal in this state, to put some restrictions on it seems reasonable. However she doesn't want to force people to do something illegal. Councilor Hult wants to look at time, place, and manner restrictions. Ruben stated that Option B is the safest. Councilor Tierney asked if they can restrict the number of establishments. Councilor Tierney asked if the City can act differently on Medical vs. Recreational marijuana. Ruben stated that they will be the same shop at the end of the day. Councilor Hult asked about the timeline to enact is short. Councilor Seager is not in favor of this at all, doesn't want any marijuana sold in Vernonia. Councilor Hult doesn't mind looking at option B. Councilor Tierney's option is option B, using land use and development codes to regulate it. OLCC will regulate the number allowed similar to how they regulate liquor stores. Mike Buffum stated that Safe Access to Safe Medicine, and that the City cannot ban the dispensary. Mayor Parrow asked if Chief Conner wanted to weigh in, Chief stated that the state has legalized it they are moving forward, we have to take the cards we are dealt. Councilor Tierney stated that medical marijuana should be available. Mayor Parrow stated to Ruben that we currently have medical marijuana growers here in the area. Ruben stated that our timeline is somewhat relaxed, if the Council wants to proceed with B then give GianPaolo and me the green light to making the road map that allows us to bring back a recommendation with time, place and manner restrictions. Councilor Seager is against the movement, how much money will we spend on lawyer's fees? Ruben can't say because he doesn't know how involved he will be, it is tough to say, maybe \$2000.00. Councilor Seager asked if it will change totally down the road, Ruben said that he doesn't expect it to change 180 degrees from where it is now. Mayor Parrow asked what the drop dead date for decisions to be made at the State and Legislature, Mayor Parrow would go holding our own, until the State makes its decision. Ruben is in favor of starting with the time, place, manner restrictions option B.

Council directed City staff to:

Identify the areas that are allowable or restricted by City code.

Buffers; schools, playgrounds, churches, civic centers, library.

There was consensus of Council to have the City Attorney and City Administrator to move forward with coming up with options of restrictions, option 2B. By Council meeting June 1st, 2015.

10. Business from Departments

A. Police Department – Chief Michael Conner

Chief asked for questions from Council. What nuisance violation information is Council looking to be provided. Council asked to see the Zone quadrant, specific number of violations by categories, glossary of nuisance categories.

B. City Administrator – Gian Paolo Mammone

A. City Administrator Report

WWTP Project- Thursday City staff will meet with Tetra Tech and USDA representatives to finalize the WWTP bid. City Administrator has never come across this situation with a project in a City. Council requests email from City Administrator after the meeting on Thursday with USDA and Tetra Tech outlining the movement or forward plan.

Spencer Park – Staff is looking at the perimeter fencing necessary for the new Spencer Park. Staff will bring to the Council a proposal for fencing improvements at the April 20th Council meeting.

Anderson Park- Current host is staying until end of May. Job opportunity is posted and closes May 15th, 2015. Parks Department Position- Parks Superintendent James McMahon started today.

PW Staff Position- Internal posting will start Wednesday, April 8th and close Wednesday, April 15th, 2015.

Debris Sites – Staff will present the debris sites at the next Council meeting April 20th, 2015.

11. Ordinances/Resolutions

No ordinances/resolutions.

12. Correspondence

Letter from Vernonia Seniors- Council will send this request on to the Budget Committee to see if it is possible in the City fiscal budget 2015-2016.

City County Dinner –St. Helens May 26th

Yes Hult, Mayor Parrow will inform of availability, No Seager, No Tierney.

13. Items from Mayor, Councilors, City Administrator

Councilor Seager will be absent from the May 4th Council meeting.

Councilor Tierney spoke about attending the Town Hall with the Congress members. She spoke to the members of the community and there was much concern about the ONLG.

Councilor Tierney asked that Dan Serres of Columbia River Keepers and the County Commissioners be invited to a Council meeting and asked to speak to the ONLG project and their perspectives. Councilor Hult is not opposed to the idea of listening to the sides and hearing the sides of the issue.

Councilor Tierney stated in thinking about budget she wants to discuss the idea of moving from paper for Council to iPad's. Software on the iPad's to file email and access the

Outlook account. Chief stated that Windows tablets are more cost effective. Council would like to have staff factor Tablets for Council members into the City budget proposal.

Mayor Parrow spoke about Tim Nebergall who is a citizen who is interested in teaching citizens how to do sustainable gardening.

14. Action Items Summary – City Administrator

- Consensus is to send the recommendation back to the City Administrator; the design idea is to place trees in planters, making sure the 45 degree line of site is available, with yellow striping to designate motorcycle/cycle parking and removal of trees this fall. Estimate for budget pulling up and reset the pavers where the trees are removed and all pavers. Bring this new recommendation to the May 4th Council meeting.
- Jeff Harrison had a leak and the next day he had it repaired. Council will send this issue to staff and ask staff to bring options and relate it or not to past decisions and bring back to Council at the April 20, 2015 Council meeting.
- Jack Harvey would like something done about the electrical boxes that reside in front of the VCLC. Council sent the downtown along Bridge Street electrical boxes and junction box issue to PW Staff to remedy.
- Council directed City staff to:
Identify the areas that are allowable or restricted by City code.
Buffers; schools, playgrounds, churches, civic centers, library.
There was consensus of Council to have the City Attorney when needed and City Administrator to move forward with coming up with options of restrictions, option 2B.
By Council meeting June 1st, 2015.
- Council requests email from City Administrator after the meeting on Thursday with USDA and Tetra Tech outlining the movement or forward plan WWTP.
- Invite Dan Serres of Columbia River Keepers and the County Commissioners be invited and asked to present their perspectives in regards to the ONLG pipeline project next Council meeting if possible.
- Council would like to have staff factor Tablets for Council members into the City budget proposal.

Adjournment 9:48pm

Approved at the regular Council meeting April 20th, 2015.



Josette Mitchell, City Recorder Date



Randall J. Parrow, Mayor Date