



 ORIGINAL

CITY COUNCIL APRIL 13th, 2015 MINUTES
WORKSESSION 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.

1. Call to Order -- Mayor Parrow

Mayor Parrow called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm

In attendance: Mayor Parrow, Councilors Hult, Tierney, and Seager. Staff City Administrator, Chief Conner, Financial Director Handegard.

2. Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Motion made by Councilor Hult to approve the April 13th Work Session Agenda as written. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tierney. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

A. Discussion VPD Future Staffing

The discussion started with Financial Director Handegard explaining the proposal of 12 hour shifts vs. current 10 hour shifts. Councilor Tierney asked for some clarification on the breakdown of the numbers presented, Chief Conner stated that only if the police contract states the 12 hour shifts are noted in the contract then it does not automatically become overtime at an excess of 2080 hours in the year. Chief stated what the 12 hour work schedule would get us is mostly 24 hour coverage in the City. Mayor Parrow asked where the money will come from, Mrs. Handegard stated that the money is already accounted for in the budget and it is balanced at this time. Councilor Tierney asked if the City needs a step 2 officer. Chief Conner stated that he left the option open in case we receive an applicant that is a Step 2 then we could potentially hire them. Chief stated that he had preliminary discussions with the Sheriff about moving all the police services to the Sheriff's office. In the case that City Council doesn't want to go one of the routes presented to increase coverage, Chief is presenting the discussion of moving services to the Sheriff's office. Councilor Tierney asked if we would have any coverage in town if we went with the Sheriff's office. Chief stated the same officers would be in town, the coverage area would increase. Mayor Parrow has always been opposed to this option. The sheriff's office is based on levy and the risk is high. Councilor Tierney asked if the 12 Step 2 option is it sustainable from an employee perspective. Councilor Tierney asked what the hours would look like, 6pm-6am or 7pm-7am. Councilor Seager asked how much an officer costs, Step 1 approximately 50,000 plus benefits. Councilor Tierney asked about having resident officers, Chief stated he thinks that the City would get push back from the Police Association. Chief said there is a lot of case law out there; FOP doesn't want any agency in Oregon making residency requirements.

If the Council adopted through the budget a 12 hour shift cycle then the police should not have a necessity to take cars home as much as they need to take them home now. Councilor Seager asked how we get police officers to live closer. Chief said that talks have happened

around things that could entice police to live in town or closer. However he doesn't see it a benefit to the officer, the citizens stepped over the boundaries of the police officers personal time and space. Mayor Parrow asked when the negotiations open, Chief replied in January of this year, we are four months into it. The FOP is waiting for the City's proposal to be delivered. Mayor Parrow asked if any Council members are interested in having Chief pursue the Sheriff's office to discuss collaboration. Councilor Tierney is a no, Councilor Hult is a no, Mayor Parrow is a no, Councilor Seager is a no; consensus of Council is not to further discussions.

The COLA stipend would be given once a year, instead of attaching it to the salary; Chief will poll his staff to see if specific date is preferred. Consensus was to put language in the contract for new hires to live in the fire protection district. Consensus of Council was hiring up to Step 2 / 12 hour shifts.

Councilor Hult stated her interest in having officers live here, and the spirit it adds to the community interaction. She sees the safety aspect as well as the need for officers to be engaged in the community, and redefining the relationship within the community. Chief Conner stated there are pros and cons to both scenarios. Where the community complaints come from is the police vehicles going out of town, if the citizens don't see the vehicles leaving they may not care where the officer lives as long as they have police coverage in the community.

Consensus of Council - Items Council would like to be changed/negotiated:

- **Article 13 Leave Time;** Section1 Holiday Compensation
- **Article 14 Hours of Work and Over time;** Section 1, Section 2 Calculation of Overtime, Section 6 Shift Rotation
- **Article 23 B-Salary Step Pay Scale, C-COLA.**

5. Action Items Summary – City Administrator

- City Administrator to ask City Attorney what the potential to give incentive to move or relocate to Vernonia would that incentive also be given to local hire.
- Next Council meeting present agenda item lot line adjustment to delineate the cemetery house lot from other cemetery property.

Adjournment 8:42pm

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



Josette Mitchell, City Recorder



Randall J. Parrow, Mayor