



CITY COUNCIL JUNE 13, 2016
WORKSESSION 6:30 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.

MINUTES

Call to Order -- Mayor Parrow

Mayor Parrow called the meeting to order at 6:37pm

In attendance: Mayor Parrow, Councilor Hult, Councilor Seager, Councilor McNair, and Councilor Tierney.

Staff in Attendance: City Administrator Mitchell and City Recorder Borst

Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Councilor Hult made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

New Business

- Discussion Regarding the Downtown Trees

City Administrator Mitchell gave Council a brief overview of the surveys that were completed by local business owners. She explained that the majority of owners whom would like the trees removed are having issues with the roots pushing up the side walk, debris removal, trouble parking, or the trees are blocking their sign.

Councilor Tierney proposed removing the most difficult trees right away and waiting to remove the trees that are not causing a problem at a later date. Councilor Seager stated that he walks every morning and has noticed that there is not a single tree that is not causing some sort of problem. He proposes that instead of postponing any action, Council decide to remove all of the trees immediately in order to reduce any more damage. Once they are removed, Council can then explore options for funding the replanting of the trees if they wish.

Council McNair explained that every year we are doing some sort of maintenance on the trees and they are costing us quite a bit of money. He is not against beautification of downtown but he would rather see those funds being used for areas that have not been being maintained. His suggestion is to remove the trees and not replace them as those funds are needed in other areas. If the businesses really want the trees to be replaced, then they can pay for them. Mayor Parrow is in agreement with Councilor McNair. The city has already purchased the brick so there would be minimal cost in replacing the brick.

Councilor Tierney agrees that other areas need more attention but 66% of the business owners want something in the trees place. She fought firmly for the trees during the budget meetings and wants the trees to be replaced. She would like to see the trees that are causing issue removed first in order to get an idea of what it would look like. Councilor Hult is in agreement with Councilor Tierney.



ORIGINAL

Council then discussed what trees are a problem and what business owners preferred. All members of Council are in agreement that all of the trees will be removed within the next two years regardless of them being replanted or not. It is Council's understanding that the trees are going to cause damage eventually.

At this point, three members are in favor of removing the trees and not replanting. Two members would like the trees replaced with the appropriate species and less densely.

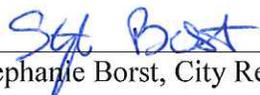
City Administrator Mitchell stated that we could buy the trees now, while they are cheap, and grow them at the warehouse until they are planted. Another option would be to buy them and keep them at the nursery to grow where they would get the attention they need.

Consensus of Council is to wait to make a formal decision until the business owners have all completed the survey. City staff will bring the completed survey overview to Council once completed. Staff will also look into methods of killing the weeds along the sidewalk and around the trees.

Adjournment

Mayor Parrow adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm

These minutes were approved at the July 5th, 2016 City Council Meeting.



Stephanie Borst, City Recorder



Randall J. Parrow, Mayor