

City of Lowell, Oregon
Minutes of the City Council Meeting
June 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Paulson

Members Present: Mayor Paulson, Judith Rennert, Gary Reese, Melody Knokey, Jim Burford
City Attorney - Milo Mecham present

Public Comments: Ken Larsen voiced concern about GLO-PAC involvement in city business. Lucie Swarm read a statement of her concerns regarding the part-time CA position. Andrea Larsen voiced concern with Mayor's comments in past CC meetings, and the behavior of a few citizens towards council after last CC meeting. Gary Reese thanked the Public Works employees for the hard work they have done. He also voiced concern about public comments made at the May 27, 2014. Judith Rennert voiced concern regarding behavior from public towards councilor after CC meeting on May 27, 2014. Maggie Osgood commented she believes Ordinance 242 should remain. Dave Rommel voiced concern with spending city money doing non-city work. He feels the Ordinance 242 should be repealed and is concerned with contracting out public works duties. Bob Burr voiced concern about a part-time CA position. Jerry Bjornstad voiced concern on repealing the Ordinance 242 and the negative energy being displayed.

Council Comments: 7:30 PM

Councilor Knokey read from the Lowell Revised Code 2.018 Citizen's Addressing the Council, she voiced concern of public behavior after the CC meeting on May 27, 2014, she also requested a public apology from the public members involved.

Mayor Paulson reviewed proper procedure for voting during CC meetings.

Approval of Minutes: 7:35 PM

- **March 25, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus.**
- **May 19, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus as amended.**
- **May 27, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus with noted typo correction.**

Approval of Expenditures: 7:40 PM

- CA Hamilton responded to questions from the council.

Councilor Reese moved to approve expenditures for June 3, 2014, Councilor Rennert seconded motion.

PASSED 5:0

City Council Meeting Recessed 7:43 PM

A copy of the record hearing is attached.

City Council Meeting back in session 8:00 PM

Old Business: 8:01 PM

- **Proposed contract with CH2M Hill to operate water and wastewater treatment facilities.**

CA gave introduction to topic and introduced Brian Helliwell, Area Manager Willamette Valley, Scott Laroque, Supervisor and Max Baker, Operator of CH2M Hill. Mr. Laroque gave a power point presentation to the Council and audience. Questions from Council were answered by Mr. Laroque and Mr. Helliwell. Council also had questions for City Attorney, Mr. Mecham.

Public Comments: Bob Burr voiced questions of CH2M Hill. Jerry Valencia would suggest offering Randy Cherry the extra money that would be paid to CH2M Hill, to keep him here. He also believes that CH2M Hill would be a great to use as advisors. Ken Larsen asked questions of the CA and CH2M Hill. Andrea Larsen stated "We can't buy peace of mind. We had peace of mind and we blew it!"

Recess: 9:18 PM

Back in session 9:28 PM

CA requested Council to move forward with the contract with CH2M Hill. Discussion continued. **Mayor Paulson moved to delegate Councilors Knokey and Reese to work with the CA on issues in the retention of Mr. Cherry. Councilor Rennert seconded.**

PASS 5:0

Discussion continued on the pay scale of the Public Works Dept. and how to move forward in staffing of the department.

Mayor Paulson moved that if the negotiations under taken by Councilors Knokey and Reese are not successful, to direct CA to move ahead with the contract, after Mayor Paulson and Councilor Rennert had reviewed the revised contract. If negotiations are successful, then contract will be reviewed at the next CC meeting on 6-17-14. Councilor Knokey seconded.

FAIL 2:3 Councilors Reese, Rennert and Burford opposed.

Special City Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 11:00 AM.

It was agreed to move agenda items: Draft Ordinance Parks: Alcohol, Smoking Restriction and Park Hours, City Wide Leash Law Ordinance, Intergovernmental Agreement for City Attorney Services, to the June 10th meeting.

Recess: 10:51 PM

Old Business: 10:56 PM

- **Ordinance 286, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 242** - Mayor Paulson read the Ordinance in its entirety. This item will be brought back at the June 10th , 2014 meeting.

It was decided to bring back the agenda items: Employee Pay Resolution, Water and Sewer Rate Resolution to the next CC meeting on June 10, 2014.

Other Business: 11:01 PM

- Councilor Rennert handed to the council a comparison pay scale sheet and read a statement in regards to pay scale adjustment for Public Works Employees.
- Councilor Reese would like to see the cost of the step raise and COLA broken out more.

Adjourn: 11:07 PM

Approved: _____
Stephen Paulson, Mayor

Public Hearing Record
Ordinance 286, An Ordinance to Repealing Ordinance 242
Employee Pay Resolution
Water and Sewer Rate Resolution
June 3, 2014

Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Paulson:

Opened 7:43 PM: Ordinance 286, An Ordinance to Repealing Ordinance 242

Public Comments: Bob Burr voiced concern on repealing Ordinance 242, and the need to give CA full time to do his job. Ken Larsen stated his concern about CA's performance. Rudy Rennert voiced concern about bureaucrats.

Closed 7:49 PM

Opened 7:49 PM: Employee Pay Resolution

CA Hamilton gave a brief summary of pay resolution, which includes the step increase for one employee and the 2% COLA for all employees.

Public Comments - none

Closed 7:51 PM

Opened 7:52 PM: Water and Sewer Rate Resolution

CA gave a brief summary for a fee increase of 3% for water and sewer rates.

Public Comments: Rudy Rennert voiced concern about fees becoming so high, that people may not come to Lowell. Hall O'Regan voiced concern over the cost of water. Jerry Valencia suggested raising the cost 4% and give the extra money to the Public Works Dept. employee's to keep them and get those that left back. Andrea Larsen voiced concern about treatment of Public Works employee's and that CA needs to do whatever it takes to get them back. Jerry Bjornstad stated he understands the need due to inflationary costs.

Closed 8:00 PM