

## City of Lowell, Oregon

### Minutes of the City Council Meeting

September 3, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**Members Present:** Mayor Paulson, Jim Burford, Pam Bryant, Gary Reese

**Members Absent:** None

**Public Comments, General:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for 6/30/13 were approved by consensus with the notation that Councilor Alvarez was absent, the minutes for 8/6/13 were tabled pending corrections from Mayor Paulson, the minutes for 8/17/13, 8/19/13, and 8/20/13 were approved by consensus and the minutes for 8/26/13 and 8/27/13 were tabled pending corrections.

**Approval of Expenditures:** The expenditures for September 3, 2013 were approved by consensus with the notation that Councilor Bryant only approved the motion made by Councilor Reese and seconded by Mayor Paulson because the expenditures have already been incurred.

**Old Business:** City Administrator Employment Agreement. An Agreement copy signed by Kevin Hamilton was handed out by Interim City Administrator Kelly. Jim Burford moved and Mayor Paulson seconded a motion to approve the Agreement. The motion passed 3-1 with Councilor Bryant opposed.

Interim City Administrator Kelly reminded the City Council that the organizational structure and recommendation timeline for the Citizens Committee to address crime, homelessness, park useage, code compliance and dog control was scheduled for discussion this evening and that Councilor Reese had some proposed recommendations. Councilor Reese then handed out materials entitled **Reconsideration of Prior Vote, Crime and Residential Security Advisory**

**Committee and Ordinance to Establish Crime and Residential Security (CARS)**

**Advisory Board.** Councilor Reese’s proposal was discussed in detail. In summary, the Council consensus was to ‘move in the direction of a permanent Committee with specified membership and a designated scope of responsibility’. However, Councilor Reese’s motion, seconded by Councilor Bryant, for reconsideration of the action and vote which authorized the establishment of an Advisory Committee to conduct a community review of community health and welfare issues including crime, homelessness, nuisance code compliance, park useage, dog control and general neighborhood liveability standards as well as an Ordinance to provide for a ‘Crime and Residential Security” Advisory Board, hereafter referred to as CARS, for the purpose of investigating and making recommendations to this Council as how to best deal with crime, and increasing homeless population within the City of Lowell, and the associated code violations related to these issues in order to better protect Lowell citizens lives, property, peace and overall quality of life failed on a vote of 2-2 with Councilor Burford and Mayor Paulson opposed.

Mayor Paulson then moved, seconded by Councilor Burford as follows: The Advisory Committee, established at the 8/20/13 meeting, continue until Council puts into place a permanent standing committee and that two Council members be appointed to work with the City Administrator on signage issues within the city parks. This motion passed 4-0 and Mayor Paulson and Councilor Reese were selected to work with Administrator Hamilton on signage issues.

**Business From the Audience, Specific:** Michael Minor and Ken Larsen spoke to their concerns over increasing crime and park useage matters.

City Council Position 5 vacancy. Interim City Administrator Kelly summarized the current activities associated with the recruitment of applicants for the vacant Council position including web site posting, an article in the Bridge, public notice posting and upcoming articles in the Springfield Times.

**New Business:** Councilor Bryant spoke to her grave concern over the fiscal health of the city organization and her strong preference to reduce or eliminate any non-discretionary spending. She reiterated her spending priorities as being law

enforcement and water & sewer. Her motion, seconded by Councilor Reese, was stated as a resolution – all discretionary spending is subject to City Council approval from today for a period of ninety days and then to be reviewed at that time. This motion failed with Councilor Burford and Mayor Paulson opposed.

**Other Business:** Councilor Reese questioned why Dave Rommel received a notice of violation for the advertisement on his cargo trailer. Interim City Administrator explained the circumstances.

Hall Oregon thanked Interim City Administrator Kelly for his interim services and asked that public input be provided at the end of the meeting instead of at the beginning of the meeting. Adella Stinson indicated the picnic tables in the park across the street from her house be fixed. She believes they are a hazard. Mayor Paulson asked about the timing of year-end financials and Councilor Bryant asked about creating a new Agenda item entitled Council Comment right after Business From the Audience. Upon further discussion, this idea transitioned into an Agenda location towards the end of the Council meeting. In concept, there appears to be Council consensus to try placing an Agenda topic of Council Comment at the end of the meeting just before adjournment which would be for quick comments of closure and totally would not last for more than 10 minutes and would only be allowed if the time of that Agenda topic was prior to 9:30 in the evening.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

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Mayor Paulson