

City of Lowell, Oregon
Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting
June 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Mayor Paulson

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

Public Comments: General

Dave Rommel asked questions in regards to the City mowing grass around Lowell.

Mike Galvin from Fall Creek, gave a report on Lowell School District graduating class, and scholarships awarded. He also commented on the proposed economic flyers.

Council Comments: Councilor Reese responded to Mike Galvin's comment clarifying the use of tourism funds.

Old Business: 11:09 AM

- **Proposed contract with CH2M Hill** - CA Hamilton gave a review of contract with CH2M Hill, and attempted to clear some of the confusion from last week's meeting.

Public Comment: Randy Cherry, Acting Public Works Superintendent suggested having CH2M Hill come in and do a more thorough tour of the plants and possibly get a new bid for the contract. Rudy Rennert wanted to know if Randy Cherry is on board with bringing CH2M Hill in?

Councilor Reese inquired of Mr. Mecham what is the council at liberty to say or not say? Mr. Mecham replied. CA reported that pay was not an issue for Mr. Cherry's leaving and that he recommends us to move forward with bringing CH2M Hill on. Councilor Reese and Councilor Knokey gave a brief review of their meeting with Mr. Cherry on Friday, 6-6-14. Council discussion continued. CA responded to council's concerns. Randy Cherry stated his last day is June 18, 2014. Mr. Mecham reviewed the contract, explained noted changes that had been made, and his conclusion is that this contract is legally sufficient for the council to execute.

Councilor Reese moved to allow public comment for 2 additional community members, seconded by Councilor Rennert.

PASS 4:1 Councilor Burford opposed

Public Comment: Andrea Larsen asked why we are losing long term employees? Hall O'Regan wants to know what the core issue is for two long term employees quitting. Discussion continued with Council, CA and Mr. Mecham.

Councilor Rennert moved that the CA be directed to prepare a mailing to the addresses of the persons with state water and wastewater plant operator certification, advertising all positions available in the Lowell Public Works Dept. This mailing is to be posted no later than Friday, June 13, 2014, and a copy of this mailer should be put in the councilors packets for the next council meeting on June 17, 2014. Councilor Knokey seconded.

PASS 4:1 Burford opposed

Discussion followed on how to accomplish this task.

It was agreed by consensus Councilor Knokey will work with the CA on recruiting issues.

Mayor Paulson moved that the contract with CH2M Hill be approved effective on the date that both the operator and the supervisor are available to begin training, and with a correction to paragraph 2 of Attachment B to read \$59.71 instead of \$57.71.

FAILED for lack of second.

Recess: 12:48 PM

Back in session: 12:59 PM

Council continued discussion and asked Randy Cherry if he would stay on a few extra days, and he said he would.

- **Ordinance 286, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 242**

Public Comment: Pam Bryant read a statement in favor of the repeal of Ordinance 242.

Discussion followed between councilors and Mr. Mecham.

Mayor Paulson moved to amend Ordinance 286 as follows: Change the title to read 'An Ordinance Partially Repealing Ordinance 242', and changing the text in Section 1 Ordinance 242 amending Ordinance 211 as repealed except a for Section 1A. Section 2 the terms and provisions of Ordinance 211 as originally adopted June 18, 2002 are reinstated as written when adapted except that Section 1A for Ordinance 242 will stay in effect. Seconded by Councilor Burford.

FAIL 2:3 Councilor Reese, Rennert and Knokey opposed

Discussion followed between councilors and Mr. Mecham. Item will be brought back to next council meeting.

2:06 PM: Mayor Paulson and Councilor Burford left the meeting. Councilor Reese, Rennert and Knokey remain.

- **Employee Pay Resolution**

Public comments: None

Councilor Reese would like to wait to see the cost of private contractors after the 4 week period, and decide on the salaries of Public Works Dept. before they give any COLA's, he would separate out the Step increase. Also would be alright going retroactive with COLA's if decided.

Councilor Rennert moved to defer wage increases until such time as we have secured Public Works employees and have further information regarding salary comparisons.

Councilor Reese seconded.

PASS 3:0

- **Water and Sewer Rate Resolution**

Councilor Rennert moved to defer to next council meeting the water and sewer rate resolution. Councilor Reese seconded.

PASS 3:0

Other Business:

- Email from Suzie LaDuke was placed in councilors mailboxes by Councilor Burford will bring back to next council meeting.
- Discussion between Council and CA, responding to questions from D. Rommel about City employee cutting grass in public right of ways. Item will be brought back at next council meeting.

Adjourn: 2:27 PM

Approved: _____

Stephen Paulson
Stephen Paulson, Mayor