

City of Lowell, Oregon
Minutes of the City Council Meeting
March 18, 2014

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

Members Present: Mayor Paulson, Judith Rennert, Gary Reese, Jim Burford

Public Comments: General 7:01 PM

Andrea Larson voiced concern about vacant council seat and some of the councilors intentions. She also offered a suggestion for obtaining information from candidates and extended an invitation to meet with anyone in the community, to begin communication and work together for the good of the community.

Pam Bryant voiced concern about the behaviors exhibited at the Park Advisory Committee Meeting on March 6, 2014.

Council Comments: 7:12 PM

Councilor Reese stated he does not object to A. Larsen's suggestion to allow council candidates to freely come forward to answer questions from the council.

Mayor Paulson encouraged the public to take A. Larsen up on her proposal to get together and talk.

Mayor Paulson gave a review of council proceedings and how they work.

Approval of Minutes: 7:17 PM

- **March 4, 2014 minutes are approved by consensus with one change. Councilor Rennert moved to have staff give a copy of Resolution 571, Fiscal Policy and Financial Management Procedures Manual to each Budget Committee Member, seconded by Councilor Reese.**

PASS 4:0

Approval of Expenditures: 7:21 PM

- CA Hamilton responded to questions from the council, a need for correction in coding was noted.

Councilor Reese moved to approve expenditures for March 18, 2014 as corrected, Councilor Rennert seconded motion.

PASSED 4:0

Old Business: 7:25 PM

- **Interim City Attorney Contract**

CA introduced Milo Mecham of LCOG, and contract proposal. Mr. Mecham answered questions from the council, and after some discussion, the council requested some language to be changed in the proposed contract. Mr. Mecham will present a new copy to council for their review.

Mayor Paulson moved to have CA enter into a contract for legal services with Lane Council Of Governments, subject to final review by the Mayor and Council President. Seconded by Councilor Reese.

PASS 4:0

- **Councilor Committee Appointments**

A) **Lane Area Commission on Transportation** - Mayor Paulson attended the last meeting and will continue to do so on a permanent basis.

B) **Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program** - CA stated there was a need for a citizen to be present on this board. Melody Knokey volunteered to attend. **Councilor Reese motioned to appoint Melody Knokey to the citizens position on the RHRP board, seconded by Mayor Paulson.**

PASS 4:0

- **Council Vacancy**

Public Comment: Idella Stinson voiced her opinion over the recall election and the selection of candidate for vacant council seat.

Pam Bryant voiced concern about one of the council candidates and their behavior at the previous Park Advisory Committee Meeting.

Council Comments: Councilor Reese commented on vacant council position and requested help from the Mayor to resolve the deadlock. Councilor Rennert agreed with the suggestion of A. Larsen and Councilor Reese, to allow candidates to come forward and volunteer to answer questions by the council. Council agreed, candidates were invited to come forward now and/or at the next council meeting. Stacie Harris, followed by Melody Knokey came forward to respond to questions.

- **City Administrator PERS (Public Employee Retirement System)**

Mayor Paulson gave brief introduction, the PERS requirements and how the compensation was not written into CA's contract at time of hire. **Mayor Paulson moved that the following revision be made to the Employment Agreement between the City of Lowell and Kevin Hamilton: Add to Section 4: Compensation D: PERS: The City will pay both the City's and Mr. Hamilton's PERS contributions until such time as this contract is renegotiated. Seconded by Councilor Burford.** Discussion followed.

PASS 3:0 Rennert abstained

Recess

Reconvened: 9:06 PM

New Business:

- **Moratorium on Siting of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

CA read an email from Alex Cuyler about Oregon Legislature SB 1531 and the one year moratorium Lane County Commissioners are drafting.

Public Comments: Ken Larsen is against having any legal marijuana dispensaries in Lowell. Devon Morino is in favor of supporting dispensaries and feels it would have a positive financial impact on Lowell. Idella Stinson disagrees and is totally against having dispensaries in Lowell.

Mayor Paulson provided more information on the senate bill and explained the process needed for whatever decision is made. Council discussion followed. Councilor Reese and Councilor Burford are against having dispensaries in Lowell. Councilors would like

to see the draft language from Lane County Commission for the moratorium. CA was directed to provide additional information to the councilors, and bring item back on next agenda.

- **Parks Safety**

CA relayed concerns about a couple of structures in the parks that are deemed unsafe, and why the delay in repairs.

Public Comment: Hall O'Regan voiced concern for children safety in Paul Fisher Park and other safety concerns in the park. Idella Stinson voiced concern for safety of children also, and how unstable the picnic structure is.

Council Comment: Councilor Rennert is in agreement and the need for something to be done within the next 30 days. If volunteers are unable, hire a contractor to get it done.

Councilor Reese inquired if the Public Works Dept could take care of the situation?

Mayor Paulson stated if it is unsafe, it needs to be closed until fixed. We should not allow public to use unsafe equipment. CA will bring the temp. worker in to take care of the tree stump in Paul Fisher Park.

- **Parks Committee Request that the Parks Regulations Workshop be held at night**

CA stated at the Parks Advisory Committee Meeting they voted to request the workshop meeting be held in the evening, so more people could attend. Discussion followed by councilors.

Public Comment: Bob Burr commented on the opportunity to have an evening work session.

Councilor Reese motion to keep scheduled time and date of Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 10 AM, seconded by Councilor Rennert.

PASS 4:0

Reports: 10:02 PM

- **Economic Development/Enterprise Zone Committee Minutes**

Pam Bryant requests on behalf of the chairperson of the committee, that they would like clarification of the exact amount of tourism funds available and email the chairperson this information. The committee would like an item placed on the next agenda, to present a short term marketing plan before the council. Council directed CA to provide them with the amount at the next council meeting. Councilor Burford voiced concern if they will meet the spending requirements for Tourism Funds.

- **Parks Committee Meeting draft minutes in packet**

Staff Reports: 10:04 PM

- **Lowell Municipal Court** CA will continue to work on refining report to answer Councilor Rennert's question on whether the court is making or losing money.

- **Tourism Funds** CA placed information in councilors packet on how money was distributed.

Public Comment: Bob Burr questioned how much staff time is being used to investigate public requests and are fees being charged to do so?

- **Audit Report Follow Up** CA stated a policy/procedure is being addressed to help with some of the concerns from the audit report. Councilor Rennert would like to know if the

audit oversight committee will be looked at again? Mayor Paulson said they may look at it again at budget time.


- **Police Report** Oakridge PD report was placed in packet, CA would like to inquire about the arrests that were made.
- **Public Works Staffing** The new Public Works II employee began on Monday. CA will now begin the hiring process to replace the current Superintendents position.
- **Council Meeting Follow Up**
OAR will purchase the equipment needed and the City will reimburse them.
The Finance Clerk provided a written report on the Return to Service Fee structure in councilors packet. Councilor Reese read a statement that he would like to take into consideration modification of resolution, to help people improve the area. He also would like to bring this item back for more discussion at the next meeting. Mayor Paulson had a question about the SDC fees quoted in report. CA will look into it.

Other Business: 10:25 PM

- Councilor Rennert would like to see the Fixed Asset Report updated and given to Budget Committee.
- Councilor Rennert would like to know the progress on the web site.
- Councilor Reese stated he dislikes putting off issues that need a decision until last minute, and would like to get away from that practice.
- **90 by 30 Program:** Mayor Paulson spoke on the program that is to help reduce child abuse 90% by 2030, a Community Forum is scheduled on April 17, 2014. More information to follow.

Adjourn: 10:30 PM

Approved: _____


Stephen Paulson, Mayor