

CITY OF SUTHERLIN
Regular City Council Meeting
Sutherlin Civic Auditorium
Monday, November 16, 2015 – 7:00pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tom Boggs, Frank Egbert, Wayne Luzier, Karen Meier, Forrest Stone, Wes Anderson

MAYOR: Todd McKnight

CITY STAFF: City Manager, Jerry Gillham
City Recorder/HR Manager, Debbie Hamilton
Finance Director, Dan Wilson
Community Development Director, Vicki Luther
Chief of Police, Kirk Sanfilippo
Fire Chief, Charles Perdomo
City Attorney, Chad Jacobs (via Skype)

Audience: Barbara Horn, Joe Swesso, Bertha Egbert, Pam & Denny Cameron, Barbara Camin, Floyd Van Sickle, Scott Richardson, Rick Murphy, Joseph Moore, Brian Burke Sr., James Houseman

Meeting called to order by Mayor McKnight at 7:00pm.

Flag Salute:

Roll Call: All present

Introduction of Media: Ian Campbell, News Review

PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda items only)

- Resident, Barbara Horn, spoke of concerns regarding firefighter vs. ambulance situation. Has called for public assists several times over the last few years for assistance with her ill husband. Concerned with Bay Cities response time or if they will be able to respond at all. Feels this issue should be re-evaluated, suggests going back to the voters or Fire District #2. Doesn't feel this is working as is.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor McKnight – Joe Swesso, representing the Evening Branch of the Sutherlin's Lions Club, requested making a presentation tonight and will do so at this time.

- Lion's Club representative, Joe Swesso – Would like to thank the Council for hiring two outstanding gentlemen; Fire Chief, Charles Perdomo and Police Chief, Kirk Sanfilippo. Both Chiefs attended and participated in the annual Lion's Club Halloween event. Swesso presented Certificates of Appreciation followed by a round of applause from the audience.

- **Auditors Report**

Staff Report – Finance Director, Dan Wilson – Introduced Pauly, Rogers and Co. Lead C.P.A., Kenny Allen, who will be presenting the annual audit report. Allen reported the City received an “unmodified opinion”, the cleanest opinion available. Allen explained State and Governmental Standard requirements, reporting a smooth audit process this year.

Questions:

- How many years have you been auditing for Sutherlin? *Four or five years.*
- Would like clarity on net deferred pension assets? *There are two estimates, a net apportionment of pension asset and net deferred pension asset that add up to \$212,000. A portion is based on a PERS future estimate, another estimate was provided later in the year.*

- Was told State of Oregon proposed making its pension payments easier, however it created a big liability down the line. *State Legislature reduced the future guaranteed payments from 8% to 7.75%, however it was thrown out by the Supreme Court. Legislature was attempting to make it easier on cities regarding the payments by reducing that future liability, but it remained at 8%.*

- **Planning Commission Requests**

Staff Report – Community Development Director, Vicki Luther – Planning Commission has requested two proposed changes for Council’s consideration.

1. Commission to meet every other month if no public hearings are scheduled.
2. Meetings to start at 6:30 rather than 7:00pm.

Comments:

- Sutherlin Municipal Code mandates when they can meet, however the Commission sets their own time and place for meeting.
- Do not feel they should have to have a meeting if nothing is on the agenda.
- Purpose for changing the meeting times to 7:00pm was to allow public participation; how much of that takes place? *There has been no public participation, unless there is a public hearing.*
- Would like to see the Planning Commission involved in downtown and park projects, they should know what the City is doing. *A report is provided to the Commissioners every month.*
- Have been told the Planning Commission is a very important part of the City, but if they aren’t doing anything what is their importance? Are there discussions regarding plans with UCC development or other developments? *We aren’t ready to take that to them yet.* Do they just do public hearings? *They look at the Development Code, and will look at those big developments when they come in.*
- It appears Council is agreeable to Planning Commission meeting every other month. *That will require a Municipal Code change.* Can bring that to the next meeting.
- Meeting times can change to 6:30pm now, if desired.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- **December Council Meeting Date**

Mayor McKnight stated Council generally meets once in December. Suggestion is to meet on regularly scheduled night of December 14th, but not hold the second meeting of the month. All were in agreement.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **October 26, 2015 Minutes – Regular Meeting**

MOTION made by Councilor Stone to approve Consent Agenda as presented; second by Councilor Luzier.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Councilors Egbert, Boggs, Meier, Anderson, Luzier, Stone and Mayor McKnight

Opposed: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS/GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2015.17 – Enhancement Grant**

Staff Report – Community Development Director, Vicki Luther – The Enhancement Grant through ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) is due November 20th. As part of the application process resolution needs Council approval showing support for the grant. City is applying for \$1 million; City’s portion is \$300,000, which will come out of funds received from ODOT for the Transfer of Authority.

City Manager, Jerry Gillham – Transfer of Authority for Central Avenue is planned to come before Council for approval in January. Variables will be provided in December for Council consideration. If

Transfer of Authority does not take place, City still has the ability to turn grant down. Originally discussed asking \$4.9 million from ODOT six months ago for the project, however federal funding disappeared. Oregon Transportation Commission is not planning to continue the enhancement program either. Originally \$17 million was available in Douglas County; now down to \$4 million and has to be shared with the southern regions. Applying for at least \$1 million is required; only two entities in our region will get funded.

- Why is a bus stop included? Isn't one there already? **Luther – There is an existing bus stop there, however planning to put in covered stop area. Part of this grant has to do with enhancing the transportation system.**

City Manager – Was informed by ODOT if something concerning transit system was included in the grant application more points would be awarded for the scoring, this would qualify for those points.

- Not opposed to a covered area, concerned with location where street parking exists; therefore not allowing the bus to pull off of the street.

City Manager – Proposed location in the application was reviewed by Douglas County Transit representative who was very favorable of it, but can relook at that if we get the grant.

- Does this include paving? **No, does not include paving, but does include sidewalks [with ADA ramping], decorative street lights, [trees and grates].**
- Does it include underground utilities for the streetlights? **Yes.**

MOTION made by Councilor Luzier to approve Resolution 2015.17 – Enhancement Grant as presented; seconded by Councilor Meier.

Discussion: Councilor Egbert – There was a similar project 20-25 years ago which included trees and decorative lights and it did not go well, don't really want to do it again. **Believe it may have been over 25-years ago and would hope that wouldn't happen again.**

In Favor: Councilors Boggs, Meier, Anderson, Luzier, Stone and Mayor McKnight

Opposed: Councilor Egbert

Motion carried.

REPORTS

• Fire Report – Lift Assist Methodology

Staff Report – City Manager, Jerry Gillham – Have previously discussed a change in the process regarding lift assists. Draft agreement for Council's review is the first step in the process. An agreement will be finalized with Bay Cities sometime in the next month.

- If Bay Cities cannot respond then no one will be coming? **At this stage, that is correct, the current model does not allow for it in terms of making a promise to do so.** Concerned if Bay Cities cannot respond right away. Would like to have someone there, even to make the person more comfortable, letting them know someone is coming. **We are currently working on options and possibilities now and will hopefully have a better answer within the next 60 days.**
- Concerns were voiced regarding problems with dispatch and the need for public to communicate that an ambulance is needed.
- County needs to look at their own protocols or at least City needs to talk to them about the issue. It is silly for an ambulance company to have a physician on call, pay for training, and have the fire department doing the same thing. It's a duplication of effort and resources and not smart and beyond aggravating the way it's being portrayed to citizens.
- It's not that the City doesn't want to respond, there are so many rules that don't allow the volunteers to respond to them. The volunteers want to do the assists but can't. Will take time to get to the point of being able to handle it.

City Manager – Historically, in Douglas County, the Fire Departments have responded to lift assist calls providing full-time 24/7 coverage. Was very clear from the beginning, dynamics of standing up a mostly all “volunteer fire only” response would be pushed to the limit by July 1, 2015. City is stuck in between; we are a city that is larger than most communities with volunteer fire departments. Larger cities have a full-time paid force with personnel and resources available. There are different models costing different amounts.

- Sutherlin is being very proactive in trying to do something new and different, resulting in cost savings to citizens and the City. Chief Sanfilippo has done a tremendous job bringing new ideas in, am tremendously proud of our Fire Chief and firefighters. Feel we will be a model for other cities to look to.
- Problem is there are four entities that are not working in cooperation to solve the problem. City is working with Bay Cities and dealing with Medcom and dispatch. If they are not willing to come to an agreement we are fighting an uphill battle, therefore need to look at alternatives.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

- At December 14th Council meeting will be introducing the major initiatives going into next year. Working with developers to give a brief synopsis of their projects during the meeting. Planning to feature Oregon Only developer, President of UCC, representative from the high school regarding their sports field, transfer of authority project, wastewater plant update and updates on Oak Hills Golf Course. Will essentially be introducing the 2016 year through a snapshot.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Anderson –

- None

Councilor Luzier –

- None

Councilor Stone –

- Questioning increased meter base rate from \$23 per month, now \$23.38. *All of the water related fees increased by the 1.3%. The term “meter fee” is actually a poor term in my opinion; it’s really a base rate. You’re not “paying” for the meter itself, but for the base rate of getting that service to the residence.*

Councilor Egbert –

- None

Councilor Boggs –

- None

Councilor Meier –

- None

Mayor McKnight –

- Would like to thank the Lion’s Club for a great Halloween event as usual. ServePro and Dutch Bros. also put on great events, coordination of time made it easy to attend all three events.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- Resident, Scott Richardson – Bay Cities agreement is a good temporary solution however, have issues with calls that they may not be able to respond to. Don’t agree that nobody will respond or City Manager’s argument that it can’t be done because Sutherlin Fire is responding right now. Don’t understand why Sutherlin cannot cover those few calls Bay Cities can’t cover.

Chief of Police and Interim Public Safety Director, Kirk Sanfilippo – We are currently working on options. In addition, for those community members trained as first responders already, we are welcoming additional volunteers to help pick up those lift assist calls for us.

- Suggesting those who are separate from the fire department? *Yes, if they are “First Responder Certified” they can become a volunteer and be on call back list and respond to lift assists.*
- Thought a medical director was required. *Correct, would have to work on getting a medical director. There are several components involved; 40-hours of investment are required to*

train volunteers as first responders. Right now focusing on the skill set for firefighting. If we had community members that were first responder certified, medics or firefighters with other agencies in Douglas County, we could consider getting a medical director and they could run the lift assist calls for us as volunteers.

- Was there a discussion with Fire District #2 regarding the lift assists? *Yes, met with Chief and Deputy Chief, they weren't interested in doing lift assists even for a fee and they don't interpret the ASA (Ambulance Service Agreement) the way we do.*

ADJOURNMENT –

With no further business meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Mayor McKnight announced a 5-minute break before going into Executive Session ORS 192.660(2) (f) – Exempt Public Records.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Harris

Diane Harris, Deputy City Recorder

Approved:

Jerry Gillham

Jerry Gillham, City Manager

Todd McKnight

Todd McKnight, Mayor

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 14, 2015