

CITY OF SUTHERLIN
Regular City Council Meeting
Sutherlin Civic Auditorium
Monday, October 26, 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
Deputy City Recorder, Diane Harris
Finance Director, Dan Wilson
Community Development Director, Vicki Luther
Chief of Police, Kirk Sanfilippo
Fire Chief, Charles Perdomo
Interim Fire Chief, Rich LaBelle
City Attorney, Ashley Driscoll (via Skype)

Audience: Scott Richardson, Tami Trowbridge, Floyd Van Sickle, Dan McCormick, Joyce McCormick, Pat & Bert Bales, Rick Murphy, Brian Burke Sr., Tadd Held, Willie Caldwell

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, Scott Richardson – Complimented Volunteer Fire Fighters for doing a great job acknowledging they are in a tough situation regarding lift assist issue. Richardson, who works for Douglas County Fire District #2 (DCFD#2), stated he has never seen a fire department that does not handle their own public assist calls. Concerned City feels it is acceptable to not go on the calls and/or for public to pay for them when they have already paid the taxes. It has been explained volunteers are not trained to handle those calls; however, Level 1 Certification includes first aid and CPR training, making them fully capable of handling public assists.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center**

Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce President, Tami Trowbridge, presented budget report ending September 30, 2015.

Updates:

- Annual tree lighting event will be held November 29th. Propose closing connector street [Spur Road] and bring in bleachers for more accommodations for the event. Trowbridge, Police Chief, Kirk Sanfilippo, and a Chamber Board member will meet with owner of Pedotti's Restaurant to discuss the logistics.
- Would like to dedicate another park bench during the event, asking Councilor Egbert if one would be available for a dedication.

Councilor Egbert – Six benches are on order, unsure of date of their arrival, will get back with a date.

- Working with Oakland Economic Development for a mixer to be held in November.

Mayor McKnight – Would like to commend Chamber President and Executive Director, Pam Semas, for recent event honoring volunteers. It was outstanding.

- **Fire Department Update – Lift Assists**

Staff Report – Chief of Police and temporary Interim Director of Public Safety for Sutherlin Fire Department, Kirk Sanfilippo – There have been a number of Council meetings in which Sutherlin Fire Department’s plans, proposals and updates were provided. The Sutherlin Fire Department (SFD) model, a predominantly “volunteer” organization, was established and it was stated lift assist calls for service would not be provided. The department is not equipped, trained or resourced to handle this call type. However, for over two months they have responded to 20 of these calls, statistically over 50% of them required an ambulance to respond due to visible injury or complaint of pain.

As of midnight on December 1, 2015, SFD will no longer respond to Public Assist – “Lift Assist” calls for service. As an option to the public, Bay Cities Ambulance has graciously offered to respond to these calls when they are available, at a starting cost to the public for \$60. Based on availability of the ambulance service, response time may be delayed. A second option to the public is to encourage family, friends, acquaintances or neighbors available for personal assists. SFD will be conducting public awareness efforts to educate the public of this change.

Questions and concerns:

- If Bay Cities responds to the lift assist and ambulance is required, who will be doing the transport?

Bay Cities will call Medcom to transport.

Mayor McKnight – Am very much against City not supplying lift assists for citizens and charging for this service, when and if it is available. Citizens have already paid for this service of which they were told wouldn’t change. Have previously expressed concerns at various Council meetings regarding this issue. The solution is not to take away the service or charge more for it; a service every Fire Department in the county provides. As a citizen and knowing many of these people, this issue is beyond aggravating. Would recommend City go back to the drawing board, come back with something rather than taking away the service or charging for it. Appreciates the work of both Chiefs and the volunteers they are doing a great job. But doesn’t feel it’s the citizen’s problem.

Sanfilippo – This was discussed during last fiscal year, from a policy standpoint it was made clear SFD would not be doing lift assists any longer. However, at the start of this fiscal year it then became an issue. They essentially changed the policy to run the calls, therefore, he and Chief Perdomo could better analyze and make a decision on whether this was truly realistic or recommend a policy change. Findings are that it is not realistic for the volunteers, but they are doing a great job fighting fires, they are not resourced or staffed to run lift assists (about 10 per month) 24/7. Approached three agencies, Bay Cities was the only one who agreed to cover the assists. If Council chooses to not pass that cost to the community, City could decide, through an agreement with Bay Cities, to pay for the call. It may be time for fire agencies to hit the reset button and decide if it is truly in the public’s best interest to be using firefighters and city or county apparatus to run these types of calls when there are private businesses willing to do it.

- When the contract expired, the public was concerned about ambulance service and was told by DCFD#2/Medcom that the ambulance service would not change. ***In fairness to DCFD#2/Medcom, based on how the calls are classified through dispatch, they are not going in as medical calls, but are classified as lift assists. Firefighters have to make the determination to call an ambulance to respond.*** Not opposed to Bay Cities responding to the assists if we can be assured they will respond.
- What percentage of services is collected on? ***Bay Cities Administrative Supervisor, Brian Burke, Sr. – In the Roseburg area, almost 90% of billings is collected. As far as response time, two ambulances are staffed 24/7, additionally have a contract with the Veteran’s Administration (VA) which is our priority. If there is not an ambulance available, there will be a delay; however, if available will respond.***
- Makes more sense for an ambulance to respond initially to the lift assist call. ***Agree, however that is not what the Ambulance Service Authority (ASA) agreement states.***
- Sounds like a lot of the problem is dispatch not asking the proper questions.
- The charge of \$60 per call doesn’t seem out of line. ***\$60 is the fee for lift assists, however, if Bay Cities needs to render medical attention because Medcom is not there at that time, the cost will increase based on the fact it is a medical call.***

Burke – If Bay Cities begins treatment the bill could be up to \$250, cannot transport due to the ASA, but will not neglect treating a person if waiting for DCFD#2.

Richardson stated he agrees with that position, issue is charging for a service that no other fire department charges for.

- What do other fire departments do if called out for a lift assist? **Richardson – Their volunteers respond.**

Sanfilippo – The purpose of this presentation is to put Council on notice. Will be doing a media blitz to all citizens in various forms, informing them this service will not be available after December 1st.

City Manager, Jerry Gillham – Suggests Council direct Staff to bring back a methodology regarding how City would reimburse Bay Cities or anybody for this service. This would be brought back to Council for discussion and decision.

Sanfilippo asked for clarification and Council direction regarding information to pass on to the public.

Input:

- Don't want to alarm the public.
- Move forward with notification informing the public that Council is working on a solution to help subsidize the cost. If cost is more than \$60 City will not be responsible for that additional amount.
- If Bay Cities cannot respond, SFD would be second in line to respond.
- Need to put some type of controls on those who make a lot of calls for assists.
- What is considered "a lot" of calls? **Interim Fire Chief, Rich LaBelle – Have known individuals to call 18 times per year; which is considered a lot.**

Sanfilippo – If responding to the assists, specialized training will be needed.

Mayor – What type of training are you referring to? **First responder training, have talked about this potentially being an option a year or two down the road. Currently all volunteers and Staff are certified with basic First Aid and CPR.** But that's not enough to do lift assists? **No, that is not my understanding.**

If every [Fire] Department in Douglas County is doing it, why is SFD the only one that's not?

LaBelle – First Responder Certification requires 40 hours of training. In order to practice medicine on the street we would need a physician advisor and standing orders, there's a process to go through in order to render care other than First Aid and CPR. Have all of the other departments done that? **Most of the other departments have been established for quite a while; they have probably had First Responder Training and/or are EMT's.**

Sutherland Fire Chief, Charles Perdomo – Have contacted the State of Oregon Department of Health. In order for SFD to respond and provide help that would be considered medical in nature, would have to have a health care provider license, it would need to be overseen by a medical director (Doctor in the State of Oregon). Personnel would need to be certified at the minimum level of first responder. It can be done; the issue is if going that route would need to re-engineer what was initially decided by Council.

Council was in agreement to give public 30-day notice, informing them that Council will meet regarding subsidizing the cost.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- None

CONSENT AGENDA

- **October 12, 2015 Minutes – Regular Meeting**

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

Discussion: None

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

Abstain: Councilor Anderson – [Did not attend]

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McKnight opened Public Hearing at 7:52pm.

- **Supplemental Budget**

Finance Director, Dan Wilson – This process allows the public to speak during the hearing regarding the Supplemental Budget for the Library Board Fund due to grant awarded for a new outdoor book return.

Public Comment received: Resident, Pat Bales, use outside drop box often and has not noticed a problem.
Mayor McKnight closed Public Hearing at 7:53pm.

ACTION ITEMS/GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2015.16 – Supplemental Budget: Library Board Fund**

Staff Report – Finance Director, Dan Wilson – City has received the grant funds for the Library, public hearing and resolution are required due to the amount received.

MOTION made by Councilor Stone to approve Resolution 2015.16 – Supplemental Budget for the Library Board Fund; seconded by Councilor Luzier.

Discussion: What else can the money be used for? *Understand the grant is specific for what is planned for the funds.*

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- **Ratification of SPOA Contract**

Staff Report – HR Manager, Debbie Hamilton – Deferred to Labor Negotiations Attorney, Ashley Driscoll for comment.

Driscoll – Will be doing a ratification vote.

MOTION made by Councilor Boggs to approve ratification of SPOA Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Councilor Meier.

Discussion: None

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- None

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

- Umpqua Community College has made a decision to locate a new training school in Sutherlin. A technical team made up of College and City Staff has been formed. Two steps they must complete is for DCIB (Douglas County Industrial Board) and the County Commission to agree to the Sutherlin Campus. It is anticipated this may produce 50 to 100 jobs and 5 different trades over time. Automotive; T-10 for Toyota (this will be the only training available between Vancouver and Sacramento) and regular automotive, diesel repair, electrical and welding. Plans are to locate at the Airport Industrial Property.

Are there utilities available out there? *Yes.*

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Anderson –

- Will be unable to attend the November 9th meeting, will be out of state.

Councilor Luzier –

- None

Councilor Stone –

- None

Councilor Egbert –

- Have we ever gotten anything on the repairs on the Fire Equipment, or an update?

Sanfilippo – Chief Perdomo and I have been working with Finance Director and keeping a running list on a spreadsheet, which is extensive. The list includes apparatus, infrastructure and equipment maintenance. Have we pursued any recovery on any of this? We have not pursued anything yet, after list is complete will meet and talk about recovery for some of these costs before bringing the issue back to Council.

Councilor Boggs –

- This weekend daylight savings time ends and it is also Halloween.

Councilor Meier –

- Would like to express appreciation for Chief Sanfilippo mentoring Fire Chief Perdomo. It has been important since Chief Sanfilippo knows a lot of the contacts and resources in the county.
- Questioned City Labor Attorney, Driscoll, for clarifications purposes regarding the new Chief Battalion Law – SB 1518. The law involves fire fighters and mostly Chief Battalion Officers. Driscoll was unable to hear the question due to bad internet connection. It was decided Meier will email City Manager with the question, who will forward the email to Driscoll. Driscoll will respond to the entire Council with her findings.

Mayor McKnight –

- Asked for Council consensus regarding the second meeting in November which is the same week as Thanksgiving. Council members decided to have one meeting that month on November 16th.

Councilor Stone – Concerned will delay discussion regarding lift assist issue. *The public will still be notified but with a mention that Council will discuss to resolve issues.*

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- None

ADJOURNMENT –

With no further business meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Approved: *Jerry Gillham*

 Jerry Gillham, City Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Harris

 Diane Harris, Deputy City Recorder

Todd McKnight

 Todd McKnight, Mayor

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 16, 2015