

**STAYTON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 02, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Aboud

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerry Aboud
Councilor Frank

Councilor Loftus
Councilor Vigil
Councilor Walters

STAFF:

Don Eubank, City Administrator
Christine Shaffer, Finance Director, excused
Rich Sebens, Acting Chief of Police
Dave Kinney, Public Works Director, excused
Dan Fleishman, Director of Planning and Development
Louise Meyers, Library Director, excused
David A. Rhoten, City Attorney, excused
Jeffrey M. Strickland, Assistant City Attorney, excused
Rebecca Petersen, Deputy City Recorder

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. Certificate of Appreciation:** Mayor Aboud presented Angie Lehnert, Community Participation Coordinator for the City through the Americorps Program, with a plaque for her fine work on projects over the past year. Ms. Lehnert has helped out on several community volunteer projects, the city website and most recently the Marion County Fair. Ms. Lehnert's time with the city will end on August 13, 2010 and she will be moving on to another jurisdiction.
- b. Marion County Fair:** Mayor Aboud read a letter from the Marion County Board of Commissioners Office stating the City received the First Place ribbon for their display booth at the Marion County Fair; and thanked staff for all of their work on the project.
- c. Lee Hazelwood, Stayton:** Mr. Hazelwood stated he wanted to personally thank the Mayor and Council members for supporting the funding for Oregon Project Independent (OPI). The project was about to be eliminated due to state cutbacks and with support from communities and agencies, the program will be funded until October 2011.
- d. Jeff Lamoreaux, Silverton:** Mr. Lamoreaux stated he was present to request sponsorship Funds for an event in Mehama "Santiam Canyon Gospel Blue Grass Festival" to raise money for the community. The sponsorship amounts start at \$200 and go up to \$2000.
- e. Santiam Park Improvements:** Mr. Kinney stated the city applied for and received a state parks grant in the amount \$125,000 to be used to upgrade facilities at the park. The project includes rehabilitation of the park, ADA improvements are needed, and lighting in the vicinity of the park needs to be addressed, along with pedestrian access. Staff conducted several public meetings to gain input from the neighbors and tried to accommodate their concerns in the plans.

The priorities are to create an open air picnic shelter, install a new playground surface, add a restroom in the play area, extend a fence along the water way and add additional benches and trash cans. Slayden Construction donated \$25,000 of in-kind services, some of the parks SDC funds will be used, Oregon Community Foundation and the Frank Foundation donated funds, in kind funds from the Stayton Moose Lodge were received and city Public Works staff will provide in kind services. The total amount would be \$235,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Additions to the Agenda: None.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. City Council Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2010

Motion: From Councilor Vigil, seconded by Councilor Loftus, to move to approve the consent agenda. **Motion passed:** 4:0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 924 Land Use & Dev. Code re: Signs

a. Staff Report: Mr. Fleishman reviewed the staff report in the agenda packets.

Larry Gower, Stayton. Mr. Gower asked if non-conforming signs need to be removed if the code is changed. Mr. Fleishman stated the Planning Commission is recommending that the paragraph requiring removal of the non-conforming signs be removed.

b. Council Deliberation: Councilor Loftus stated currently there are no incentives to provide the business owner to correct the situation, the current code has created the current crises. Some of the amendments fix the problems but the new ordinance would create new problems. He suggested considering amnesty to give an owner one year before requiring the removal of non-conforming signs. Mr. Fleishman reminded the Council that the ordinance before them would repeal the requirement to remove legally existing nonconforming signs, therefore no incentive would be necessary and no amnesty or notice would be needed. Councilor Frank stated the Council needs to revisit the regulations that were put into place in 2007, and asked when vacant sign posts need to be removed. Mr. Fleishman stated that the Code currently requires that sign structures need to come down one year after the sign is removed. Councilor Frank stated the owners should be notified so they would have an opportunity to put another sign up or remove the pole. Councilor Vigil stated as long as the signs are being maintained they should be able to stay.

The meeting was recessed at 8:00 pm, and reconvened at 8:05 pm.

Mayor Aboud suggested Council members put their comments/concerns in writing and forward them to Mr. Fleishman to compile.

Motion: From Councilor Loftus, seconded by Councilor, to schedule a work session and invite Planning Commission members to attend. **Motion passed:** 4:0.

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation Maintenance Fee

a. **Staff Report:** Mr. Kinney reviewed the staff report in the agenda packet.

b. **Council Deliberation:** Councilor Vigil stated a Street Maintenance Fee would just be another fee that won't go away. Water and sewer fees have recently gone up and will continue to do so. Another fee should not be added. Councilor Loftus stated the citizen survey that was conducted indicated that citizens want street repairs to be done, go back to citizens and ask them street by street if they want their street improved, if they do it's a pretty good indication that they would be willing to pay for a bond to see that the improvements get done. Councilor Frank stated a \$2.00 fee could be added to the water/sewer bill, Councilors Loftus & Vigil were not in support of a new fee and Councilor Walters stated he wasn't sure what would work whether it would be a local option tax or a street maintenance fee. Mayor Aboud suggested a three year local option tax and to inform the citizens of where the money would be spent, then citizens would be more apt to approve it. Local options show the tax payers you are a good steward of their money, he said.

Mr. Eubank stated something needs to be done right away as the streets are in need of repairs.

c. Council Decision

Motion: From Councilor Frank, seconded by Councilor Walters, to proceed with a Transportation Maintenance Fee policy recommendations as proposed.

Discussion: Councilor Loftus asked when the city is going to stop nicking people, houses and businesses are for sale, water and sewer rates have recently been raised and people cannot afford another fee. Mr. Kinney stated staff will put together a proposed ordinance in order to see the actual numbers, and bring it back before the Council.

Motion passed: 2:2 (Frank & Walters, aye) (Loftus & Vigil, nay) Mayor Aboud broke the tie vote and voted yes.

STAFF/COMMISSION REPORTS

Community Participation Coordinator – Angie Lehnert

a. **Facebook Page for City of Stayton:** Ms. Lehnert stated a Facebook Page would be another outlet to distribute city announcements to citizens and interested parties. Staff would develop policies for what can be posted in the site. Pictures of parks, schedules of meetings and deadlines, election info etc., it is just another way to get information out to those that don't use the website. Consensus of Council was to move forward with the idea.

Motion: From Councilor Loftus, seconded by Councilor Frank, to allow Ms. Lehnert time to set up the Facebook Page for the City of Stayton, and to limit the maintenance hours by staff to 1.5 hours per week. **Motion passed:** 4:0.

b. **2010 Community Advocate Awards:** Ms. Lehnert stated August 3rd is National Night Out and the 2010 Community Advocate Awards will be presented to local citizens by Councilor Vigil. National Night Out is a time for neighbors to come together and discuss issues with

police personnel. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served up at Westown Park, Pioneer Park, Quail Run Park and Santiam Park.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Referring to Councilor Vigil's comments on water and sewer rates, Mr. Hazelwood stated a lot of empty homes are for sale, businesses downtown are empty and folks need to be enticed to stay in town and not move because of the rising fees. He suggested Mr. Kinney research how much revenue vacant properties would bring in. Mr. Hazelwood pointed out that the Citizen Survey asked if people wanted to see street improvements, it did not ask citizens if they wish to pay for the improvements.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

a. Meeting with Wilco Farmers: Mr. Eubank stated recently he met with the Manager at Wilco Farmers in Stayton regarding the traffic lines at the gas station, and that they are willing to work on trying to coming up with a solution to the problem.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR

a. Council President: Mayor Aboud asked for nominations for the position of Council President. Councilor Loftus stated he was not prepared to make a nomination for Council President. Mayor Aboud stated there are duties of the Mayor that need to be carried out in his absence, and a Council President is needed.

Motion: From Councilor Vigil, seconded by Councilor Walters, to nominate Don Walters as Council President. **Motion passed:** 2:0, (Vigil & Walters, aye) 2 abstained (Frank & Loftus), Mayor Aboud voted yes passing the motion 3:0.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

a. OPI Funding: Councilor Frank asked Mr. Hazelwood what the City could do to ensure continued funding of the OPI in 2011. Mr. Hazelwood stated the State is faced with lack of funds and has to make tough choices when reviewing funds.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – No discussion.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the City Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

APPROVED BY THE STAYTON CITY COUNCIL this 16 day of August 2010, by a 3:0 VOTE OF THE STAYTON CITY COUNCIL.

Date: August 19, 2010

CITY OF STAYTON

By: 


Gerry Aboud, Mayor

Date: 8/23/10

Attest: 

Don Eubank, City Administrator

Date: 08/18/10

Transcribed by: 

Rebecca Petersen, Deputy City Recorder