

STAYTON TOWN HALL MEETING
Santiam Memorial Hospital – May 12, 2011

INTRODUCTIONS

6:30 p.m.

Mayor Scott Vigil

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Scott Vigil

Councilor Jennifer Niegel

Councilor Larry Emery

Councilor Henry Porter

Councilor James Loftus

Councilor Brian Quigley

STAFF:

Don Eubank, City Administrator

Christine Shaffer, Finance Director

Rich Sebens, Chief of Police

Dave Kinney, Public Works Director

Dan Fleishman, Director of Planning & Development

Louise Meyers, Library Director

Rebecca Petersen, Deputy City Recorder

Accentuate the Positive/Eliminate the Negative:

Mr. Eubank stated that he and Mayor Vigil had had several conversations over the last few days and had come to the conclusion that we all need to work together no matter what our opinions are. During the budget process there were questions and comments made, the committee members, council and staff worked together to get the budget done, and now its time to more forward and focus on the positive things of Stayton. "Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative" is the theme they would like to follow and encouraged others to do the same.

Power Point re: Public Works Updates:

Mr. Kinney reviewed various improvements that have been made to Santiam Park recently. All of the old ground cover was removed and relocated to Stayton Riverfront Park by high school volunteers, and was replaced with a new rubber type playground surface. A picnic shelter will be added as well as restrooms to serve all ages. Funding for the improvements was provided with grants from Oregon Park and Recreation, Oregon Community Foundation, Frank Foundation, Slayden Construction, Bethel Excavating and the City of Stayton. Several favorable compliments have been received from the neighbors in the area, thanking city staff for making the much needed improvements to the park.

The Park and Recreation Board would like to focus on one park a year to make improvements. This year they are proposing improvements to Pioneer Park, and will be holding an open house Wednesday May 25th for the public to view various concepts of park improvements. The board would then like to take components from the various concepts and incorporate them into one final design. They would also like to focus on the entrance to the park and update the appearance. Mr. Kinney reviewed upgrades taking place at the Waste Water Treatment Plant; Street Projects proposed for N. First Avenue, from Ida to Water Streets, High Street from N. First Avenue to N. Second Avenue, and the N. Tenth Avenue upgrades that will be designed in 2011 and constructed in 2012.

Discussion from Mayor & Council:

Councilor Loftus stated that it was disheartening that only a few citizens had shown up to the meeting. Councilor Emery pointed out that the good weather might have had something to do with the low turnout. Councilor Porter stated he would like to review potential street projects, as he is concerned with several utility cuts being done after new street work is completed. Mayor Vigil stated that he had heard from citizens in the community that N. Fourth Avenue between Florence and Ida Streets is in very poor condition. Mr. Kinney provided a presentation of routine maintenance and projects planned for streets. Mayor Vigil stated that after riding his bike on Regis Street he determined that the street is breaking down and needs work. Councilor Porter asked how much of the needed repairs are the result of utility cuts. Mr. Kinney stated that the majority of the utility cuts were on Third Avenue, from Washington Street to Fern Ridge Road, and some on Regis Street. Councilor Quigley asked the public for general feedback as to whether the Council has connected with the community or not. There was no feedback given. Councilor Emery stated that the Council and Budget committee got through the budget process and though things look rough, Stayton is in a much better position than other cities in Oregon. Councilor Loftus pointed out that the Stayton Public Library had received an award from the State of Oregon, and he felt it was due to the great person running the facility. Councilor Emery stated that during resurfacing of the pool, the water table was down and the pool had to be refilled. The resurfacing will be finished in September when the pool is scheduled to be closed for maintenance. The Santiam Community Endowment has stated they would fund the remodeling of the changing rooms and that if a configuration is found that would accommodate a family dressing room that too is proposed.

Open Discussion:

Ken Cartwright, resident of Stayton asked when the Footbridge would be open and what the status was of the five street lights that were proposed to be placed on Third Avenue. Mayor Vigil stated that in preparing to replace the street lights it was determined that due to wiring instead of five lights needing to be replaced it was actually ten lights. From the audience, Susan Horvat (Wampler Family) stated that as soon as the needed paper work is complete the bridge would be open. Mr. Kinney stated that he had not seen the survey and that public works needed to review it. Ms. Horvat stated it was her understanding that the paper work was at the title company and that they were also waiting for the survey. From the audience, Mark Doucette stated that in respect for the American Flag, he brought to the city's attention some time ago two flag poles that should be lit, one at City Hall and one at Pioneer Park. Also, when notifications are given from the Governor's office to fly flags at half staff, the city should comply. Chief Sebens and Mr. Kinney stated that to their knowledge the flags were at half staff and that they were lit, but that they will check to make sure. Mayor Vigil reminded folks that a Firemen's Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, May 15th, 7:00 am until Noon.

Forum Ends: Mayor Vigil thanked those in attendance for attending the forum; the meeting ended at 7:05 pm.

Respectively Transcribed by Rebecca Petersen, Deputy City Recorder this 13th day of May 2011.