

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL AND SOUTH LANE SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
March 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

South Lane School Board Chair, Judy Cunningham, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: Councilors Mike Fleck, Heather Murphy, Garland Burback, Victoria Doyle and Mayor Williams

ABSENT: Councilors Jeff Gowing and Jake Boone

SOUTH LANE SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Board Members Tom McVey, Judy Cunningham, Cheryl Mueller, Sherry Duerst-Higgins and Joe Raade

ABSENT: Carrie Gilmore

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: None

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Richard Meyers, Howard Schesser Community Development Director, Mike Grover Police Chief, Pete Barrell Community Services Director, Finance Director Bert McClintock, Jan Wellman Public Works Director and City Planner Amanda Ferguson

CITY ATTORNEY: Sean Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT: Cameron Reiten - KNND Radio; Jon Stinnett - Cottage Grove Sentinel

Superintendent, Krista Parent, presented a power point presentation which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A". Some of the areas which were covered by the presentation were:

- 2010 Statewide Assessment Results, Local Area High School Comparisons in Math, Reading, Writing and Science
- South Lane School District (SLSD) Reading Trend
- New Graduation Requirements

- SLSD Budget Issues & Outlook for 2011-12
- Current SLSD Enrollment
- Loss of Funding in 2011-12
- Education's Share of State Budget since 2003
- Spending since 2003 from State Budget
- Quality Education Model vs. Actual Funding Per Student
- % of Oregon School Jobs Lost Over Last 2 Years
- % Increase in Oregon Class Size Over Last 2 Years
- Inflation-Adjusted Per-Student School Funding in Oregon
- Oregon Per Student Spending Compared to the U.S. Average
- State School Fund Estimates 2011-12
- 2011-12 General Fund Estimate
- 2011-12 "Draft" Cut List
- PERS Facts

Krista said that a lot of school districts in the State were the largest employers in their respective cities. She said the SLSD had dropped from 400 employees to 300 employees since 2005/06.

Councilor Doyle asked if teachers were still paid when they had furlough days.

Krista said they weren't. She said the district had seven furlough days and that the district saved about \$80,000 each day they were closed. She said there were State standards for the number of instructional hours that school districts were required to provide and if the district had one more day off, they would fall below the standard. Districts were allowed to do that for one year with the promise they would be back above standards the next year but run the risk of losing the State school funds if you do it more than one year.

Councilor Fleck asked about snow days.

Krista said districts actually received 2 free days for weather or equipment failure issues, but anything beyond that had to be made up. The district also had to pay the teachers on those days.

Councilor Burback said he had noticed in his business over the last several years, that people were moving out of the area to look for work which made a huge impact on the community.

City Attorney, Sean Kelly, asked about the district's policy on hiring back teachers who had retired.

Krista said it was a good financial practice for the school district as they didn't have to pay PERS and insurance costs and they didn't pay them at the top of the salary scale. She said they wouldn't be doing that this year as they were laying off so many teachers.

City Manager, Richard Meyers, and City Engineer, Ron Bradsby, went over the Utility Rates and System Development Charges (SDC).

Richard said the City had contracted with a consultant, FCS Group, in regards to the City's

utility rates and SDCs. There were several studies done by the consultant over the last three years. He pointed out and explained the maps and improvement information attached to the Council Chamber walls.

Ron presented a power point presentation and explained each slide and the information it contained. The presentation is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "B" and covered the following:

- Rate Study Results
- What Should Rates Do?
- Water Utility - Customer Cost Allocation Results
- Wastewater Utility - Customer Cost Allocation Results
- Stormwater Utility

Richard and Ron explained what bioswales were and how they could affect stormwater utility rates and gave some examples of businesses that had them in place.

Richard talked about meter sizes and how they affected water bills and said most of the school districts meters had been changed out as needed which resulted in lower water bills.

Councilor Fleck talked about the stormwater utility and when the City reached a population of 10,000, changes that would need to be made.

Tom McVey, asked if there was any way that stormwater could be run into holding tanks to be used for watering lawns.

Richard said Bohemia Park was doing that where the pond would be. He said there were some regulations and restrictions from the water resources in the State, but they were potentials as well and a good use of the water.

Sean said water from the down spouts could be used but the issues were with using it off the ground.

Ron said the City had prepared a five year revenue plan and it would be on the City's website soon.

Sean brought up the fact that there had been initiative petitions filed with the City that could affect the current rates.

Councilor Fleck said as an elected official he could comment on them and said one initiative talked about forcing commercial and residential rates to be the same. He said they never were in the old system so everyone would now be on a flat rate and it would be astronomical for the residential user. He said people should be informed that these initiative petitions would be going around gathering signatures and they were not well written. He said the impacts might not be known. He encouraged everyone to look at all the initiatives and he recommended not signing.

Discussion was held on the initiative petitions.

It was asked where the new rates sat with other communities the size of Cottage Grove.

Richard said we were higher than some and lower than some. He said it depended on what improvements other cities had done to their systems in order to compare them. He said the City compared to Prineville, Sutherlin and Silverton.

Ron said the City was lower than Creswell, but they didn't charge for stormwater and Sweet Home and Cornelius were higher.

Discussion was held on rates and how improvements to systems and what utilities cities charged for, all affected the rate structure.

Richard invited the School Board to take a tour of the water and wastewater plants if they would like to see them.

Discussion was held on water and wastewater rates and how they affected the school district. The City's water rights with the State was also discussed and how it affected future growth.

Richard said the City would be holding a public hearing on May 9th regarding the SDC rates.

It was asked what the SDCs covered.

Richard said they were water, wastewater, transportation, stormwater and parks.

Mayor Williams asked Richard to explain the construction excise tax.

Richard said the City was collecting the construction excise tax for the school district on any building permits issued by the City.

Krista said the County was collecting the excise tax for the school district as well. She said it increased in 2011 and the district generated about \$120,000 over the last two years. She said the tax was phased in over a two year period at the request of the builders, but that phasing was completed and they were charging the full tax now.

The question was asked if there was still room for the district to increase the excise tax.

Krista said it had been increased by the last legislative session but there was room to go higher if the district chose to do that.

Richard said at the meeting tonight, the Council would be discussing the "If I Were Mayor..." contest. He said it was sponsored by the Oregon Mayors Association and was for 4th grade through college. The 4th grade through 6th grade was a poster contest, middle school, an essay contest and high school and college a power point or video contest. He said there would be cash prizes awarded to the first and second places in each category at the local level and the winners

of each category at the local level would have a chance to win a lap top computer at the State level. He said there weren't a lot of entries last year at the local or State level and the deadline was May 31, 2011.

Mayor Williams said he had been a judge at the State level and had enjoyed it.

Richard said on Saturday, April 2nd from 10am to 1pm, the City was conducting tours of the Armory. The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) would be conducting the tours and there would be other tours during the months of April and May. The City would be asking those who went on the tours to complete a survey to assist the City in preparing a plan for the Armory.

It was asked what the plans were for the Armory.

Richard said currently it was wide open and that was the purpose of the tours, but primarily the City was looking at it to be a community recreation facility. He said the community needed more gym space and larger spaces for meetings and events. He said the Boys and Girls Club and Campus Life were both interested in using the facility for their programs. He said there had been comments about leaving the large space open for larger events and remodeling the kitchen, possibly even as a commercial kitchen. He said there would be a community forum on May 30th to wind up all the tours and present the information gathered from the tours.

It was asked if the survey was going to be on the City's website.

Richard said probably not, that they would like people to tour the facility first and then take the survey. He said there was information about the Armory on the City's website and the City would be posting when tours would be held.

Richard said last week the Census 2010 had released information from the census and the City's current population was 9,686 up from 9,495. He said Cottage Grove was the third largest city in Lane County.

Mayor Williams said Lane County was currently putting together a committee on redistricting and if anyone was interested they should contact the County.

Richard said Cycle Oregon was coming to Cottage Grove on September 11th. They would be using Bohemia Park, Trailhead Park, Kelly Field and Harrison School for the event.

Sherry Duest-Higgins, thanked the Council for their support in the past of the community pool and asked for their support again this year.

Krista introduced Kay Graham, Principal at Cottage Grove High School.

Chief of Police, Mike Grover, provided an update regarding the school resource officer. He said the department had an officer quit and therefore, had to pull the officer from the high school but they were in the process of interviewing for a new officer and once they had someone trained they hoped to replace the school resource officer next year. He provided information about what

kind of issues they dealt with.

Krista said when the new high school was opened in 2003, there were two full-time campus security officers and one school resource officer and they were starting to see issues arise since those positions weren't in place. She said the school resource officer was valuable to the high school and had literally saved kids lives every year they had that position in place.

Kay Graham said in her scope of working with school resource officers, she had worked with five different ones, and Taylor Smith was one of the top officers she had worked with.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Trudy Borrevik, City Recorder

Gary Williams, Mayor