

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Session Minutes
May 20, 2011

City Council Members Present: Mayor Gary Williams, City Councilors Jake Boone, Mike Fleck, Victoria Doyle, Jeff Gowing and Heather Murphy. Absent: Councilor Garland Burback.

City Staff Present: City Manager Richard Meyers, Finance Director Bert McClintock, Public Works Director Jan Wellman, Police Chief Mike Grover, Community Development Director Howard Schesser, Community Services Director Pete Barrell (8:27) and City Engineer Ron Bradsby (8:19).

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams at 8:17 am in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Resolutions and Ordinances

6(a) Second Reading of Ordinance 3011 Amending the Comprehensive Plan to Adopt the 2011 Public Facilities Plan (CPA-2-11)

Howard said Council had held the public hearing and first reading and the adoption was the last action needed before it was sent to the DLCD Director for approval.

6(b) First Reading of an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 15.16 of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code Adopting a New Chapter 15.16

Richard said the ordinance repealed the existing ordinance and was prepared using the old ordinance, the League of Oregon Cities sample model ordinance for SDCs and input from the consultant from FCS Group. Also attached was the consultant's report as an Exhibit "A". He said there was one change to the ordinance which would be made Monday night that had to do with the cost index. The old ordinance had the cost index based on the average of twenty cities and the consultant's report was based on the Seattle cost index. It was staff's proposal to have the new ordinance be based on the average of twenty cities. Richard explained what the difference between the two would be.

Councilor Fleck said he favored the broader approach and having it based on the twenty cities.

6(c) Resolution Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule to Amend Planning Fees

Howard explained the resolution was for house keeping purposes on changes that had been made in the Development Code that were found to be listed both as Type I and Type II actions. He said they reduced one fee, nothing was raised.

6(d) Resolution Transferring Appropriations Within the General Fund

Richard said the resolution was the contingency transfers that were done towards the end of the fiscal year. He said one was for Bohemia Park for grants and donations that may come in and needed to be budgeted for, for work that was anticipated to be started before the end of June. The other was for the Broadband expenses. He said there were more users than expected which resulted in additional Broadband expense and there was also more credit card expense as more customers were using their credit cards to pay. He said the Broadband expenses would be paid from contractual services.

Councilor Fleck said he had concerns about the \$119,000 from contractual services. He said at maybe at some point, the City should look into hiring an in house person.

Richard said he had looked at Sandy who had a program similar to Cottage Groves, which was more than \$250,000 which didn't include the band width. He said the City's contractual services wasn't just for OIP but included the broadband and next year's budget it was separated.

Councilor Fleck asked if all the Bohemia Park money was pass through grant money, none of it was matching funds.

Richard said yes it was all grant money and the City had taken care of the match through maintenance.

Business from the City Council

7(a) Concerns from City Council

Councilor Doyle said she attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Wednesday and there was a presentation given on the National Career Readiness Certificate program. She said the program was a national program funded by the federal government through grant monies to states, which was an opportunity for potential employees to be given a test containing several categories. In Oregon the test contained writing, math and comprehension. The tests were graded and depending on the score, the person was given a bronze, silver, gold or platinum certificate. If someone wanted to obtain a higher certificate, they could re-take the test. The certificate was then used when someone was applying for a job to turn in with their application. She said cities could become work force ready cities so when an employer was looking for a place to locate their business to, they knew the community had employees that were ready to work and had skills they could use. She said it was a new program to Oregon, no one was currently using it and there was no cost to the City or employer or the employee to take the test.

She suggested having someone from the Lane Workforce Partnership to come and present the PowerPoint presentation to the Council at a future meeting.

Councilor Fleck said he wasn't opposed to the program, but said the unemployment office did the same thing.

Councilor Doyle said it was actually a different program where the testing was done differently and the person actually received a certificate with their level of tested skills.

Councilor Murphy and Fleck both commented on the program and discussion was held.

Richard said a benefit was when new businesses were looking to locate, the City would be able to say there were X amount of people that had taken the test and what level they tested at, it set a standard. Having a pool of applicants that had tested in certain categories might be something a potential business might consider when deciding where they were going to locate their business.

Discussion was held and it was suggested to contact the Lane Workforce Partnership to see if they could do a presentation at the June 27, 2011 meeting.

Councilor Fleck said the South Lane Fire and Rescue District was imploding and at the last meeting there had been a motion by one of the board members to dissolve the district. He said the next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station. He talked about the district and issues they could be facing if the district dissolved.

Councilor Boone said there was a NW Neighborhood exhibit at the library which was very interesting.

Business from City Manager

8(a) Approval of General Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement

Richard provided a draft copy of the agreement to Council. He said a lot of the language was typical boiler plate bargaining language and some had been adopted in the personnel manual and had been repeated. He said the only real key pieces were the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), a minimum of 2.5% and a maximum of 5% and the HRA increasing from \$50 to \$100 per month. He said the Unit did bargain to have their PERS paid by the City and to have extra steps added to the salary range, which the City denied. He said the Union had ratified the contract and it was now before Council to approve.

Councilor Boone asked what the dollar amount difference was if they didn't receive the COLA and additional HRA money.

Richard said it was hard to answer because it wasn't known what Council would have done if they hadn't unionized, as far as COLAs, something they hadn't received since 2008.

Councilor Boone said to assume Council did nothing.

Richard said he didn't have the exact amount, but thought it was around \$13,000. He said there were benefits to the employee and the City on the HRA as neither the City nor the employee had to pay taxes on that amount.

Discussion was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 am.

Trudy Borrevik, City Recorder

Gary Williams, Mayor