

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thomas Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

City Recorder Trudy Borrevik called the roll. The following were

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Munroe, City Councilors Kenneth Michael Roberts, Jake Boone, Jeff Gowing, Garland Burback, Amy Slay and Mike Fleck

ABSENT:
YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVE: Henry Lancaster

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Richard Meyers, Finance Director Bert Likens, Public Works Director Jan Wellman, Community Services Director Pete Barrell, City Planner Amanda Ferguson and Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd

CITY ATTORNEY: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Stinnett, The Sentinel, Mohammed Alkhadher, Register Guard

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Sue Rosenthal, 1002 N. 19th, Cottage Grove, said she had attended the last council meeting and still hadn't received any information as to what happened to her trial. She said she would like a response in writing.

Councilor Boone said if there were questions about trial dates, etc. the Municipal Court was the entity that she would want to speak to; the Council didn't know trial dates. He said the Council oversaw the Municipal Court Judge, but questions regarding when a trial date was set for should be directed to the Court.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approve Minutes of July 11, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BOONE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Boone	Councilor Gowing	Councilor Burback	Councilor Slay	Councilor Fleck	Mayor Munroe
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) Resolution Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule

City Manager, Richard Meyers, said the Resolution was similar to the one adopted two weeks ago, however the highlighted section in the proposed Resolution was information that was mistyped.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BOONE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1911.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Boone	Councilor Gowing	Councilor Burback	Councilor Slay	Councilor Fleck	Mayor Munroe
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

- (b) Resolution Regarding Worker’s Compensation

City Manager, Richard Meyers, said the City had changed its worker’s compensation coverage to SAIF and the Resolution was recommended by them for the City to adopt.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR GOWING AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR

BOONE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1912.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Boone	Councilor Gowing	Councilor Burback	Councilor Slay	Councilor Fleck	Mayor Munroe
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Council Meeting Schedule in August

City Manager, Richard Meyers, said a Councilor had commented about how the Eugene and Springfield City Councils had a summer break. He said staff had looked at the schedule of items for Council meetings and there was the potential for nothing on the August 22nd Agenda. He said the Charter only required one meeting a month.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR GOWING AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SLAY THAT COUNCIL POSTPONE THE AUGUST 22, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Boone	Councilor Gowing	Councilor Burback	Councilor Slay	Councilor Fleck	Mayor Munroe
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(b) Local Gas Tax Discussion of Possible Increase

City Manager, Richard Meyers, said several Councilors had asked about transportation funding. He said in order to charge or increase a local gas tax; it had to go to a vote of the citizens. He said Springfield was putting a 3¢ on the November ballot which would raise theirs to 6¢ and Eugene was at 5¢ and Cottage Grove was at 3¢. He provided some charts to Council with numbers showing how much gas tax had been collected and what the increases had been for construction costs for road projects from the Engineering News Report. He said the City had around \$9.4 million in road projects to move them up to the good category. He said a 2¢ increase in gas tax would create around \$200,000 in additional funds which had to be spent on streets. He said the money could only be maintained in the fund for three years and then it had to be spent. He talked about some of the projects that had been done since the gas tax was created in 2003. He said it was getting more and more difficult because costs weren't increasing and the revenue wasn't changing. He said professionally the gas tax wasn't a solution because it would help for several years but then it would go flat again. He said there were also more hybrid and electric cars. He said there

needed to be some kind of solution to funding of transportation to match the modern technology and changes that were occurring.

He said one option was bonding, which funds had to be spent within three years or significant penalties were imposed. He said it was mentioned to go out for a bond to do the entire \$9.4M, however the City didn't have the staff to oversee and supervise all the projects at once. He said another option was a transportation utility fee, which were charged on the water bills and residents paid a flat amount. He said all the options had advantages and disadvantages. He said one advantage of a gas tax was it was paid by people who came into the community and used the roads but didn't live here. He said with bonding, it would be the people who owned property and it would be included in their property taxes. He said with a transportation utility fee, the people who were residents paid the fee, but not others. He said staff would answer any questions. If Council desired to do anything associated with a gas tax at the next election, the City had to have all the information together to put on the November ballot before the beginning of September.

Councilor Burback said he was in favor of a bond which would include projects that could be completed within the three year period. He said it was a waste of time to increase the gas tax and still not have enough money to do anything. He commented about the Oregon PUC.

Richard said bonds had to be set for specific projects which was why it probably worked for the City of Eugene. He said with bonds you tell the citizens up front what projects you are going to do and what the cost was.

Councilor Roberts asked if there was a list of the projects that the City would want to complete in the next five years.

Richard said there were lists and they were included in the budget. He talked about some of the streets that were in need of repair. He said one advantage of doing a bond was the money could go towards the larger projects and then the gas tax could be used to preserve the streets, before they fail, that had been paved years ago. He said there were also several gravel roads in town that Council would have to decide if they would be paved.

Councilor Boone asked if they put the gas tax increase on the November ballot, was there a way to attach it to inflation to try and match the increase in construction costs.

Richard said he didn't think so but would check and find out.

Councilor Boone asked if there were a bond measure, could the City use the money to fix the infrastructure under the streets. He didn't want to spend money fixing the streets and not fix the infrastructure underneath.

Richard said yes the bond could include a multiple range of projects.

Councilor Boone said if they did a bond measure he was in favor of selecting several of the worse streets and fixing them underground as well as aboveground.

Councilor Gowing talked about how much damage semi-trucks did to the streets and said most of them didn't purchase their gas in Cottage Grove. He asked if the City could make them buy a

permit to use the City streets.

Richard said there were some challenges in State law. He said it was discussed when the tax was created, that the City couldn't go after the trucking companies. He said truckers who purchased gas at the Chevron on Gateway didn't pay a motor vehicle fuel tax to the City because they were taken care of under the PUC. He said in the allotment the City received from the State, there was supposed to be an amount that was taking care of that cost or damage.

YAC Representative Henry Lancaster asked how much the proposed increase was.

Richard said a 2¢ increase was what was being proposed.

Henry commented that he didn't think people would mind paying more for gas.

Richard commented about people purchasing gas where it was the cheapest versus where it was the most convenient.

Councilor Burback said a gas tax wasn't going to solve the immediate problem. He said the only way to fix the long term problem was through a bonding measure.

Councilor Slay agreed with Councilor Burback. She wasn't in favor of a transportation utility fee, she didn't want to see anything else added to the current utility bills.

Councilor Fleck said in all the years he had been involved with Council, the two main complaints he received were regarding the water bill and streets. He supported a bond measure and a 2¢ gas tax, but wouldn't support going higher than Springfield or Eugene.

Mayor Munroe said he recently attended the Oregon Mayors Conference and a gas tax was the topics of one of the sessions. He said an Oregon Senator attended the session and said cities should go for a minimum of 10¢. He said the Federal highway system was in financial trouble and they were pushing to raise the gas tax 40¢ to 60¢ a gallon. He said a bond measure was the way to go.

Councilor Burback said he would like to see something on the next Council meeting with some dollar amounts.

Richard suggested Council direct staff if they wanted to look at a gas tax and if they wanted to schedule a work session to discuss a gas tax and/or bond measure. He said a bond measure would take more staff time and could go before the voters in 2017.

Councilor Burback said he personally thought the gas tax was a waste of time as it wouldn't generate enough funds. He thought a bond measure was a better way to go.

Tim Burns, 78341 Snauer Lane, Cottage Grove, asked who would repay the bonds. He said as a landlord he would be paying an unfair amount because he owned multiple rental properties and people already complained about rental prices. He said the gas tax would spread the cost out evenly and those who drove on the roads would pay their fair share. He said raising the gas tax 10¢ and having a bond measure would take care of most of the projects and help with ongoing maintenance costs.

Travis Palmer, 201 Pond Turtle Way, Cottage Grove, spoke as Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. He provided a scenario as an example and said a gas tax wouldn't generate enough money to do all the projects. He said the solution to him would be to do a hybrid combination. He said a gas tax increase could be used to fix the streets that weren't arterials or collector streets; and a bond measure could be used for the bigger projects for streets that everyone used. He said there wasn't any one answer that everyone would like, but spreading it out over the biggest crowd possible offered more solutions.

Mayor Munroe said he liked Travis' idea of the hybrid combination.

Councilor Gowing asked if a bond measure would be paid back through property owners.

Richard said yes it would be assessed on property taxes.

Councilor Boone said he would be in favor a 10¢ gas tax. He expressed concerns over putting both a gas tax increase and a bond measure on the November ballot.

Councilor Slay said she would be comfortable with a 5¢ increase. She said people were just getting comfortable with the gas prices to where they might be okay with the increase.

Councilor Fleck said the price of gas was low currently. He said the gas tax was a regressive tax, those who had the least gas mileage vehicles typically were the lowest income individuals. He said the tax actually hurt the lowest income citizens versus those who drove hybrid vehicles. He said he would consider a 3¢ increase but nothing higher.

Councilor Gowing asked if a gas tax did pass and gas jumped back up to \$5 a gallon, could the tax be removed.

Richard said he didn't know. He said Florence made a proposal last year to have a gas tax that would change with the season. He said a parameter could be put in the adoption that if fuel prices reached a certain level then it would reduce.

Councilor Boone said his concern with that was a truck or car didn't do less damage to a road per mile whether or not gas was \$1 or \$10 per gallon.

Councilor Gowing said if the economy got so outrageous that people were having trouble purchasing gas, the thing that Council could do to help the citizens was cut the cost. He said even if it were 10¢ a gallon, it would be helping give back to the citizens.

YAC Representative Lancaster asked how much a 10¢ increase would provide in resources to use.

Richard said it would bring in a little over a million dollars a year.

Mayor Munroe said in the past the petroleum companies had said they would take anyone to court that raised the gas tax over 5¢.

Richard said they had fallen silent. He said if an increase were put on the ballot, there would probably be some money being spent in opposition. He said the reason the legislature put the bill in

that required everyone to have to vote on a gas tax increase was due to lobbying by the petroleum institute.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR GOWING AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FLECK TO ASK STAFF TO PREPARE THE MATERIAL TO PUT A 3¢ GAS TAX INCREASE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Boone	Councilor Gowing	Councilor Burback	Councilor Slay	Councilor Fleck	Mayor Munroe
AYES	X	X	X		X	X	X
NAYS				X			
ABSTAIN							

(c) Concerns from Council

Councilor Roberts said Bohemia Mining Days went well and he thanked the City and all the volunteers. He said he attended an event in the Armory last weekend and hadn't seen that many people in the Armory before and was looking forward to when it was renovated. He said he wasn't able to attend the symphony as he had worked 12 hour days during BMD and was wiped out. He also said he had some medical tests on that Monday to determine if his cancer had returned.

Councilor Fleck asked if Richard would send a memo to Judge Fisher asking him to let Sue Rosenthal know the status of her case.

Councilor Boone confirmed she was cited to appear and not arrested.

Richard said that was correct.

Mayor Munroe thought the Council should contact the Judge and not staff.

Bert said there was probably something in the Court file that the Court Clerk could provide.

YAC Representative, Henry Lancaster, provided a YAC update. He said he worked the Root Beer booth at BMD for YAC. He said YAC also had a booth at the symphony regarding smoking.

He asked about debris in the river and asked if the objects were of environmental concern.

Richard said the thought was that it probably caused more damage to remove it than to leave it.

Mayor Munroe said that Pat Patterson's son, PJ just recently passed away and his service would be Saturday at the high school football field at 11:00 am.

BUSINESS FROM CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

Richard commented about BMD. He also talked about a cycling tour company that was in town BMD weekend. He said they were from Seattle and there were about fifteen to twenty people and they would be coming to Cottage Grove every Saturday for the rest of the summer.

Richard talked about an App called Periscope which someone from Seattle had used while in Cottage Grove several weeks ago.

Richard said the symphony was a success. The City made \$939 in button and raffle ticket sales and \$125 from the vendors.

Richard said PakTech had purchased the Kwikiee building and showed a video about the company. He said they would be expanding into Cottage Grove and hoped to be operational by the end of the year. He said EPUD was updating their transmission and distribution systems to accommodate PakTech.

There was discussion on PakTech and employment opportunities that might be available for Cottage Grove residents.

Richard said on August 13th there would be a showing of The General at Bohemia Park in the amphitheater. He said it was the 90th Anniversary of the filming and would be accompanied by an orchestra with an original score composed by Mark Orton from Oregon. He said there would also be a model train show at the Armory Friday through Sunday, August 12th to 14th.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from the City Attorney

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Munroe adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 8:18 p.m.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held August 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Trudy Borrevik, City Recorder

Thomas C. Munroe, Mayor