

**CITY OF UMATILLA
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro-tem Fenton called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-tem Fenton, Councilors Stokoe, Meade, Smith and Johnson
STAFF: Manager Ward, Recorder Gettmann, Planner Lunden and Police Chief Huxel.

MINUTES: Councilor Meade moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2011 regular Council meeting as presented and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CHEMICAL DEPOT CLOSURE PRESENTATION: Kathy Eldrige introduced Commander Chris Perkins who gave a presentation with chemical materials agency site project manager for the disposal plant Gary Anderson on the progress of the chemical agent disposal and closure of the Chemical Depot.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Dedrick thanked the police chief and code enforcement officer for taking care of a couple of concerns she had.

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski announced the upcoming community events.

Karen Steen, 1531 8th Street, Umatilla. I was just looking at the paper the Hermiston Herald that came out for tomorrow's edition and I was expecting to see interviews for some type of information on the Council candidates. I'm really disappointed to see that there is no information in the Herald and in fact the mayoral candidates the interviews were just published in Saturday's issue which was three or four days after the ballots were sent out. I would hope that maybe we could put some public pressure on our local paper to have better and more timely coverage, especially because I assume that the City didn't pay for the candidate's statement in the pamphlet. I would think it's reasonable to expect considering the readership of the Hermiston Herald in Umatilla I think it's reasonable to expect timely coverage and coverage of the city council candidates. Those that subscribe to the Hermiston Herald you might want to give the editor a call or e-mail. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA: Discussion items included paint design on police cars and purchase of police equipment. Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the paid invoices and court report. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stokoe and unanimously approved. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Transient Room Tax Committee – The committee met to consider the Chamber of Commerce's grant proposal. The committee's recommendation was to grant \$8,000 to the Chamber of Commerce and staff agreed with the recommendation. Councilor Meade made a motion to accept the Transient Room Tax Committee's recommendation to grant \$8,000 to the Chamber of Commerce and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Pickett RV Residence – Mr. and Mrs. Pickett of 1271 6th Street requested some sort of dispensation from the Umatilla Municipal Code that prohibits the use of recreational vehicles as living quarters. After some discussion, Karen Steen asked to comment. She said "my main concern is that it really undermines the authority and mandate of the code improvement board. I think it's really, I

appreciate the presentation the Pickett's have made and my heart goes out to you for being in this position, it really does. I can understand perhaps why Mr. Smith wanted it put on the agenda but for now my concerns are that it undermines the authority and mandate of the code improvement board. There is nowhere in the charter or code to even allow appeals to the Council. I would like to support the full function of the code improvement board.

Cathy Putnam said that she did write a letter in support of the Pickett's request but she did have mixed emotions because there were limited businesses in Umatilla. But if there were violation of codes and can't solve those issues, then codes must be followed.

After further discussion, Councilor Meade recommended extending a construction permit for 180 days but other Council members voiced concerns and supported upholding and enforcing the codes. After further discussion, no action was taken.

Resolution #02-2012 – Contract with Sterling Codifiers. Manager Ward explained that Sterling Codifiers had originally produced the code book and periodically did updates. Updates hadn't been done for about three years as attempts were made to do them in house. Sterling will also provide a link on the City's website for web access. Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #02-2012 and was seconded by Councilor Stokoe. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #03-2012 – DLCD Grant Support. A grant request was submitted with Boardman to DLCD for funding of updates of Goals 9 and 10 of the Comprehensive Plan. Two communities can hire a single consultant for some economies of performance. Councilor Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution #03-2012 and was seconded by Councilor Smith. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

AgSource Revitalization Grant – AgSource requested funds from the Downtown Revitalization Grant program to update their signs. The Grant Application Review Committee determined the application met the requirements of the program and recommended granting \$375.00 for the project. After some discussion, Councilor Johnson moved to approve granting \$375.00 to AgSource to update their signs. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stokoe and unanimously approved. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

Code Improvement Board Appointment – Mel Ray submitted an application for appointment to the Code Improvement Board. Mayor Pro-tem Fenton asked the Council to consider his application. Councilor Meade moved to appoint Mel Ray to the Code Improvement Board and was seconded by Councilor Stokoe. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: City Manager Ward prepared a report on the street lights for the Council's information.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Libby Bivent, president of the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce for the past three years, submitted her resignation from the Chamber of Commerce and the Transient Room Tax Committee citing the difficulty of working with the City's Finance Officer. Her opinion was that employees were running the City instead of the Council running the City. She asked the Council to reconsider granting more Transient Room Tax funds for the Chamber of Commerce.

Larry Nelson reported that the museum was working to improve the appearance of their building.

Mary Dedrick thanked the council for their decision regarding the Pickett's request and to stand by the City code. She also noted that the City needs to support the Chamber of Commerce.

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski reported the number of visitors through the visitor center in the past month.

Cathy Putnam commended council for making a difficult decision on the Pickett's request and reported that the Lion's Club was planning a haunted house again this year and asked for volunteers.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE: Mayor Pro-tem Fenton asked about the status of Public Works Director Frances and urged everyone to send in their ballots for the September 20 election.

STAFF REPORT: Manager Ward gave updates on meetings with the CTUIR, safe routes to schools grant, the Code Improvement Board and the annual audit. He also reported that an Interchange Area Management Plan meeting was scheduled for September 13 to present a final draft to the public.

COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION: Councilor Smith made a motion to accept Libby Bovent's resignation from the Transient Room Tax Committee and was seconded by Councilor Stokoe. Roll call: Stokoe – aye; Meade – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Other discussion items included Senator Merkley's visit to Umatilla.

ADJOURN: With no further business to discuss, the regular Council meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

PAT LAFFERTY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Linda Gettmann, City Recorder