

**CITY OF UMATILLA
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lafferty called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Lafferty, Councilors Dedrick, Stokoe, Fenton, Smith and Johnson
ABSENT: Councilor Meade
STAFF: Manager Ward, Recorder Gettmann, Police Chief Huxel, Finance Director Glover and Public Works Director Frances

MINUTES: Councilor Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2011 regular Council meeting as presented and was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Larry Nelson commented on the speed limit request on Highway 730 and the request to continue with the Christmas tree tradition in McNary. He noted that a lift for decorating the tree may be obtained for little or no cost.

John Nichols asked about a permit for a semi-truck wash-out business that should have a trap for sand, oil and sediments. He also commented on citizen involvement and that he and the Mayor and City Manager had a meeting with Pacific Power regarding the street lights.

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski announced upcoming events in November.

Jack McWhinnie talked about people walking along Umatilla River Road at night and the need to improve lighting on 6th Street.

Cathy Putnam thanked everyone for community support of this year's Lion's Club haunted house.

Hasmukh Mistry asked what could be done to improve communications and the City.

Gary Walls noted slow responses and problems with 911 calls for Umatilla.

CONSENT AGENDA: Discussion items included Sterling Codifiers and the police department's firearm upgrade. Councilor Fenton moved to approve the consent agenda which included the paid invoices and the court report. Motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and unanimously approved. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution #05-2012 – Establish a Health Reimbursement (VEBA) Plan. Manager Ward explained that this was a mechanism to save the city some money without hurting employee benefits. Estimated savings would be about \$40,000 for first year with savings up to \$80,000 annually after that. Mr. Ward recommended adoption. Councilor Johnson moved to adopt Resolution #05-2012 and was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

McNary Christmas Tree – After some discussion, the Council's consensus was to keep the community Christmas tree in the downtown.

Planning Commission Appointment – David Trott and Joshua Roberts submitted applications for appointment to the Planning Commission. Mayor Lafferty proposed to appoint Joshua Roberts. Councilor Smith moved to confirm the appointment and was seconded by Councilor Stokoe. Roll call: Dedrick – no; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried by majority vote with 1 no vote and 4 yes votes.

Acquire CSEPP Camera Equipment – Manager Ward explained that with the upcoming closure of the chemical depot, CSEPP has offered to make the security camera system available to municipalities along with the necessary servers to make the system work. The Police Department and Public Works have identified a need for the security. The security systems

would be available to communities after the depot closure. The only down side would be maintenance cost of the system which was unknown at this time. Staff recommends acceptance of the security system. Councilor Fenton moved to accept the CSEPP camera/security equipment. Councilor Dedrick seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

CORRESPONDENCE: Oregon Department of Transportation and Umatilla County submitted responses to the speed zone investigation request.

Parks & Recreation Committee Resignation – Pat Lafferty submitted his resignation from the Parks & Recreation Committee. Councilor Smith moved to accept the resignation and was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen Hutchinson-Talaski complimented the City on the improved website.

Larry Nelson announced that according to his communication with ODOT, their plan was to begin repair construction on the Umatilla River bridge the first quarter of 2012, depending on weather.

John Nichols expressed a need to have a Parks & Recreation meeting and commented on the playground equipment.

Jack McWhinnie commented on the lights for the steps to the city hall building.

Judy Simmons expressed her appreciation for addressing the Christmas tree issue and asked about the newspaper report of Lifeways moving to Hermiston.

MAYOR’S MESSAGE: Mayor Lafferty commented on the women’s safety summit, contact with Kathleen Cathy regarding possible funding for gang awareness, etc. He also contacted the Umatilla County Commissioners regarding sidewalks & bike trail improvements on Powerline Road and Mayor David Burns of Irrigon on gang issues.

STAFF REPORT: Manager Ward gave an update on the 3rd Street garbage issue, the Rehmke mobile home issue, sesquicentennial planning, and the community survey. He also reported on a business license application from Columbia Basin Compassion Center to connect Oregon medical marijuana card holders with growers and he announced that Public Works Director Frances had returned to work.

Police Chief Huxel reported on the gang awareness programs, task force and activities for addressing the issue.

COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION: Discussion items included the League of Oregon Cities grant availability for planning and energy alternatives, Beach Access Road, and medical marijuana policy development.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:42 p.m. the regular Council meeting was adjourned to Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i) to discuss the City Manager’s annual performance review.

RECONVENE: The regular Council meeting was reconvened at 9:10 p.m. Councilor Fenton made a motion to extend Manager Ward’s contract for 2 years and to increase his personal leave by 40 hours annually, effective October 25, 2011. Motion was seconded by Councilor Dedrick and unanimously accepted. Roll call: Dedrick – aye; Stokoe – aye; Fenton – aye; Smith – aye; Johnson – aye.

ADJOURN: There being no further business discussion, the regular Council meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

PAT LAFFERTY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Linda Gettmann, City Recorder