

City of Coquille
Council Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2016

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Rowe, Councilors Dennis Graham, Susan Heaton, Fran Capehart, Dave Chappelle, and Linda Short.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ben Marchant, Fire Chief Waddington, Library Director Conner and City Recorder Collins

PRESS: None

AUDIENCE: A roster of those present is on file in the City Recorder's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rowe opened the council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Rowe said the situation of the county jail only having 49 beds available is still a problem, but with the weather being bad, the crooks seem not to be so active. There are no answers from the county on this issue. The business owners, Chamber of Commerce, and the Citizens will stay vigilant. So, if you see anything that looks suspicious, please call the police.

4. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Heaton said she helped with the carousel move from downtown to Jefferson School, and commended Councilor Short on being a great coordinator, and thanked all those who helped. There will be an Emergency Certification course, and she encouraged everyone to attend. She also saw a Senator Merkley presentation at Myrtle Point School, and thought the students had good questions. She attended the Chamber of Commerce Meeting where City Manager Marchant talked about the downtown area.

Councilor Short said the carousel is now located at Jefferson School, and they will be getting out information about the hours and classes that will be offered from the new location. She also saw Senator Merkley speak at Myrtle Point School.

Councilor Capehart said she has been busy with the VFW, preparing for the National President visit, and attending the conference in Newport. Miss Coos County is this Saturday at the Hail Performing Arts Center. She also attended the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce dinner on Saturday.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Library Director Conner said the Library Building Committee made their recommendation to the Library Board, who then made a recommendation to the City Council, which is included in the packet. The library is back to full staff, and all is going well. There is no internet connection on the library computers currently, but the public has been very understanding. She hopes it is fixed in a couple of weeks. The trivia theme will be the Land of Oz. Councilor Heaton said the circulation is down a third from last year, and Library Director Conner said that is caused by people being able to download books from the library, which is not included in the count.

Fire Chief Waddington said Saturday February 27th is the annual Pancakes for Life fundraiser, and the cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for Children. Over the past years, the Coquille Fire Department has donated approximately \$30,000, which would not be possible without the help of the community. Mayor Rowe encouraged everyone to attend. Mayor Rowe asked Jean Ivy for the results she received about reinstating the old mill whistle. Ms. Ivy said there were over 220 responses, with two against, and the rest in favor. Mayor Rowe said he has heard from a lot of people about the whistle. The Fire Chief said he thinks the timer and the valve need to be replaced at the cost of about \$500. In 1992, the whistle was installed and he has heard from both sides. Councilor Short asked if the decibel level could be lowered, and Waddington said it might be possible. Councilor Heaton said she likes the quite. Councilor Chappelle made a motion to repair the whistle to working order. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion. Councilor Heaton made a motion to table the motion until more information can be gathered; motion failed due to lack of a second. Councilor Heaton voted no, all other voted yes. Councilor Capehart asked if the funds could come out of promotions, City Manager Marchant he thinks private money will pay for it.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Marchant said Public Works Director Urban asked about two possible grant opportunities. One to replace the boat dock with a new dock for fishing and boats, and the second is a grant with Oregon State Parks for the area for a soft surface trail on the property east of S. Irving Street. He asked if City Council wants Urban to pursue both grants. Councilor Capehart asked the City if it would be receiving the land just below S. Irving, and City Manager Marchant replied that the property appraisal came in about \$15,000 below what was expected. We have offered the possibility of paying that difference, but have not heard anything back at this time. Councilor Graham asked if a second trail grant would affect the Riverwalk grant, and Marchant replied he did not think it would, because it is two separate agencies applying. Everyone liked the dock grant opportunity, but Councilors Graham and Short were concerned about the Riverwalk grant money being jeopardized.

Saturday April 16th is the Emergency Preparedness Expo. First Community Credit Union is the signature sponsor and NW Natural Gas and Comspan are Silver Sponsors. City Manager Marchant is still working on the downtown revitalization plan costs with the Dyer Partnership. Councilor Capehart asked what is going on at Fairview Road. Marchant replied that a culvert collapsed on the county road, and the City will work with Milke-Way Feed to find an alternate route for their deliveries. The weather is hampering the road repair, and it is up to the Coos County when they perform the work.

Councilor Heaton asked if any has been interested in the Municipal Judge, and Marchant said our temporary Municipal Judge is Pat Davis, and she is interested in being our permanent judge.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Don Delyria, 275 N. Alder St. Coquille, read a letter from Operation Coquille expressing thanks for the support to the Coquille Valley Garden tour. There were 112 visitors and 7 stops on the tour, including the Farmer's Market. It was advertised in several areas, and by various means of media. The Farmer's Market thanked the City for granting access to the GP site for a nominal fee. The attendance was over 5,000, with many from out of the area. The Market generated approximately \$18,293.00, with an average of nine vendors a week.

Kathi Simonetti, Coquille Chamber of Commerce, said they have scheduled a circus act for May 2017, and they will start working on the Gay 90's event this month. The Chocolate Fantasy is Feb 27th at the Coquille Community Building. There will be Emergency Cert program offered in Coquille, and the classes will be on Tuesdays starting February 16th from 6-8:30 for an eight week class. The Chamber of Commerce has a seat on the transit lodging tax committee, and they will be working on getting that passed. City Manager Marchant did a presentation on undergrounding the power downtown, and the business feel this is the first step to revitalizing the area. Councilor Short said she doesn't want the revitalization downtown to go away with all the things happening, and this is a good opportunity to help the people downtown. Mayor Rowe said City Manager Marchant is getting all the information and it will be presented.

Martha Gregor, a member of the Group 15 Now Campaign, advocated raising the minimum wage with a phase in over the next 3 years. There is discussion about a rural wage being lower than the metro areas. They feel more people are working for minimum wage.

8. ACCEPT QUOTES FOR LIBRARY PRE-DESIGN REPORT AND DESIGN

Library Director said the request for quotes was published and 3 packets were received.

Councilor Heaton made a motion to accept the following quotes: HGE not to exceed 21,350.00, Lon Samuels \$36,000.00, Straus & Seibert \$32,600.00. Councilor Graham seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

9. AWARD CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY PRE-DESIGN REPORT AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Councilor Graham made a motion to award the contract to HGE not to exceed 21,350. Councilor Chappelle seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Rowe adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Mayor, Matt Rowe

City Recorder, Rene Collins