

CITY OF COQUILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2011

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Steve Britton, Councilor E.N. "Corky" Daniels, Loran Wiese, Linda Short, Fran Capehart, Bruce Parker and Tim Spanberger.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Terence O'Connor, Public Works Director John Higgins, Chief Mark Dannels, Finance Director Chuck Dufner, and Deputy Recorder Rene Collins

PRESS: Coquille Valley Sentinel

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Britton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. MAYOR COMMENTS

Councilor Parker said he has enjoyed being on Council and working with them.

- **Swearing in and Installation of new Council Members**

City Recorder Dufner administered the oath of office to Mayor Muenchrath and Council Members Linda Short, Loran Wiese, and Timothy Spanberger.

Mayor Muenchrath presented a plaque to Councilor Parker for his service from 2007-2010 and thanked him for his service.

Mayor Muenchrath presented a plaque to Mayor Britton for his service from 2002-2010, he said he has been a great mentor and has done a lot of good things for the City and we appreciate all he has done.

- **Selection of Council President**

Councilor Capehart made a motion to nominate Councilor Wiese as Council President. Councilor Short seconded the motion. Councilor Daniels made a motion to close nominations; Councilor Capehart seconded the motion. The council vote was unanimous for Councilor Wiese for Council President.

- **Appointment of Committee Members.**

Mayor and Council decided to wait until February to appoint the committee members so Council could review what committees they had volunteered to be on.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Capehart said on January 22, 2011 the 6th Annual Chocolate Fantasy will be held at the community building and awards would be presented to the local businesses and citizens. The tickets are \$10.00 and you may purchase them from Councilor Capehart or at the Chamber Office. Councilor Short said the Valentine Ball will be held on February 12, 2011, with the money raised to benefit the pool. The night will include dinner, dancing and an oral and silent auction. Councilor Spanberger thanked the citizens of Coquille for allowing him to serve on Council. Councilor Wiese welcomed Mayor Muenchrath and Councilor Spanberger. He also said Tony and Lauretta Spenader were made the Friends of the Library Citizens of the year. Councilor Daniels welcomed Mayor Muenchrath and Councilor Spanberger. He was concerned about the amount of water coming down on the front porch of the community building; Public Works Director Higgins said he would look at the situation.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Fire Chief Waddington said the first annual Christmas tree pick up has started and they picked up 22 trees last week and they will be doing it again this Thursday.

Planner Higgins said the preload removal hopefully will start shortly. Mayor Muenchrath asked how the flooding is; Higgins said they are using the green machine for the culverts and at Sturdivant Park.

Police Chief Dannels wished everyone a happy new year and thanked all of those who donated to Shop with the Hero's.

Finance Director Dufner said he has investigated alternative investment accounts; the range is 3 to 4 percent for a 7 to 8 year investment. Our investment company has made purchases of new securities which will have a higher yield than if we had purchased US government securities.

The audit is complete and will be presented in February at the Council meeting. The Utility payment survey had a total of 34 responses; 26 said they would like it, with four paying the fee and 8 said they would not use the system. Finance Director Dufner reviewed the three processes and would like to know what the Council's preference is. Councilor Short said she did not see the notice on the bill about the survey. Councilor Wiese said that the citizens do not want to pay a fee to pay their bill and maybe we should look at a later date. Mayor Muenchrath does not see a need at this time to spend the money but suggested revisiting it at a later date.

5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager O'Connor said we received 4 applications; 3 within the deadline and one arrived this afternoon. The applicants are Bernice Sanders, Bryan Baird and Arnold Hill. Mr. Cooper, the fourth, was received after the deadline. The City Manager prepared some questions and advised council to let him know if they wanted to add any questions and reviewed the process to take place during the interviews.

Councilor Short made a motion not to accept the letter of interest that was delivered or received after the deadline. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor. City Manager O'Connor will notify Mr. Cooper.

The Chamber of Commerce is asking for a waiver of the Community Center fees and the liquor license fee for the Chocolate Fantasy to be held on January 22, 2011. Councilor Wiese made a motion to waive the rental fees at the Community Center for Chocolate Fantasy on being held on January 22, 2011. Councilor Spanberger seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The City does a background check on anyone who is going to serve liquor at a function in the City and the Fee is \$35.00. There was no motion made.

Amanda Davidson requested the waiver of fees to use the Community Center have a fundraising dinner on March 5, 2011 for the eighth grade graduation. Councilor Wiese made a motion to waive the fees as requested for the fund raising dinner on March 5, 2011. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The City received a request to have a 4-way stop at Baxter and 6th Street instead of a 2-way stop. City Manager O'Connor suggested that it be referred to the Safety Committee. Amanda Davidson, 664 N Elliot, said there is no visibility so you have to pull out to see anything. Staff will forward the request to the public safety committee.

A resident is has requested the timed parking on Baxter and 3rd be changed to untimed. City Manager O'Connor said the residence is located in a commercial area and if the parking is changed they would be receiving private parking on a city street.

Councilor Wiese made a motion to deny the request to change the timed parking on Baxter and 3rd. Council Capehart second the motion; all voted in favor.

City Manager O'Connor received a call from Mr. Wilson, the owner of Bills Place and the Liberty Theater. The County reduced the value of the property from \$205,266 to \$115,501. O'Connor said there may be some additional cost to the city to remove all or part of the property and if the theater could be saved asked what it could be used for. Urban renewal dollars could be used, so there are lots of questions. Councilor Short asked if the building was repossessed would the property come to the City; O'Connor said it would go to the county. The adjoining parking lot belongs to the Mexican Restaurant. City Manager O'Connor would like to be authorized to spend some money to see what the options are and costs are to do anything with the building and

bring that information back to the Council. Councilor requested that the O'Connor find out more information without spending any City funds.

The City received a Taxi License renewal requests from Yellow Taxi Cab and Exclusive Transportation. Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the Taxi cab License application from Yellow Taxi Cab and Exclusive Transportation. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

City Manager O'Connor said for the 5th year in a row the City will receive the Distinguished Budget Award and thanked Finance Director Dufner for his hard work.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- City Council minutes from December 6, 2010

Councilor Capehart made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilor Short seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

8. APPROVAL OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN COOS-CURRY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND CITY OF COQUILLE

Ned Beman, Director of North Bend City/Coos-Coos Curry Housing Authority, said they serve hardworking individuals and the elderly of the City. They have 806 people on the waiting list at this time; most are working, elderly or disabled. They bring income of \$113,000 in rents with 14 units into the community and other income in jobs, contractors and utilities. The cooperative agreement is being updated to meet the state standards which will allow the money to come directly to the cities.

Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the cooperation agreement between Coos-Curry Housing Authority and City of Coquille. Councilor Capehart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

9. FRANCHISE EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS VII, LLC

City Manager O'Connor said the Charter franchise expired in 2006, Charter was in bankruptcy/re-organization proceedings, and during the procedures the franchise fees were not affected.

Councilor Wiese made a motion to approve the extension agreement with Charter Communications VII, LLC through March 31, 2011. Councilor Daniels seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Muenchrath adjourned the Council Meeting at 8:20.

Mayor, Matt Muenchrath

ATTEST: _____
Deputy Recorder, Rene Collins