

City Council Minutes  
November 24, 2014

Mayor Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Councilors Paul Canter, Ron Thexton (via telephone), Lonnie Koroush and Cindy Canter; and Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard. Councilors Harry Myers and Donna Dillard were excused.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rob Reynolds spoke on his concerns with garbage service from Republic Services. He noted he could not contain his monthly recyclables in one bin and had been denied a second bin. It was noted Republic had offered additional recycle bins last year. Julie Jackson, Municipal Relations Manager for Republic, would look into this problem and gave out her business cards.

**RECONSIDERATION OF LEGION HALL GIVE-AWAY**

Christy Warden asked the Council if it would reconsider and allow the community give-away to occur in the Legion Hall. There were numerous local groups that had been donating and looking forward to this program. The give-away had been set for December 6.

Given past problems with sanitation issues, the Council was not supportive of changing the ban. Councilor Koroush did move to allow the give-away to occur in the old Library with food preparation and serving allowed at the Legion Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilor P. Canter and approved 4-0. Warden expressed her appreciation for the compromise.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Public Works Superintendent (PWS) Dave Claborn gave the public works report; which was sent to the Council electronically. He noted he was having maintenance issues with some of the rolling equipment as well as the compressor at the water plant. It was noted that we should begin budgeting for the replacing some of the heavy equipment. He stated that two of the three "No Parking" signs had been installed on N. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>.

C.O.O Minard gave his report noting:

- ✓ Official elections results had been posted with all the incumbents retaining their seats.
- ✓ The website was being updated more regularly with pictures of elected officials and council packets being added.
- ✓ The deadline for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for engineering services on the Storm Water and Wastewater Master Plans had been closed that day and he was waiting for a response from the City Engineer.
- ✓ He noted he had received offers of \$500 on the two surplus copiers that had been donated to the City.
- ✓ Community Services Consortium will have an outreach program in the Council Chambers on December 10; to assist area persons in qualifying for energy assistance programs.
- ✓ He is still waiting for the Inter-governmental Agreement with ODOT for the pedestrian crossing light at the Library.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Minard noted several new bills had come in after the packets were delivered last week and new payable sheets were in front of them. P. Canter moved to accept the consent agenda as amended, which was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 4-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2014-05: Increasing Solid Waste Collection Rates: Julie Jackson, Municipal Relations Manager, for Republic was present to respond to questions on the requested 2.6% increase in solid waste collection rates. She apologized for the confusion on the recycling bin charges, expressed by Mr. Reynolds under public comment. She would correct this when she got back to the office. She noted that the rate on the 20 gallon garbage bin (predominately for seniors) was the same rate since 2012 and no intent to raise it this year. She explained a newsletter would be going out in January to South Benton County and Monroe residents; and that the company would also be reaching out via telephone to customers on special items, e.g. no Thanksgiving Day pickup.

Councilor Koroush questioned the basis for the rate increase request. Ms. Jackson noted that the new propane trucks were expensive and the Consumer Price Index for several products that they purchased had also increased. Tim Eastridge asked how this fit in with County customers; Mayor Thayer recognized this was outside the City's purview. P. Canter moved to accept Resolution 2014-05; which was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 3-1 (Koroush – NO).

Consideration of Revising Utility Billing Practices. Minard noted that there are several instances in the Utility Ordinances that are either conflicting or contradictory. P. Canter suggested the matter be referred to the Employee and Finance Committee for consideration and a recommendation to the full Council; which was accepted via consensus.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Legion Hall Income and Expenses: Based on the conversation at the Council work session, attended by the full Council, P. Canter had drafted the groups four alternative scenarios to approach the South Benton Nutrition Program (SBNP). There was continued concerns over the financial drain the Legion Hall was placing on the City's General Fund. The four options were included in the Council's packet as a permanent record and incorporated by reference. Generally each option included a rate of compensation to the City for rent or lease of the building, who retained the funds from outside rentals, and who paid for operations and repair expenses.

P. Canter noted the City was basically donating around \$6000 to operate the Legion Hall, which is used predominately by the SBNP. He felt we should figure a way to give them the building and donate money to the SBNP so we could get credit for the gift. Koroush noted the percentage of users residing outside the City far exceeded the few Monroe citizens that participate in the program. P. Canter noted he preferred option #1. Mayor Thayer noted that the City would retain control of the Margret Hull bequest for the Legion Hall. Councilor Thexton suggested the Council vote on an option. C. Canter moved to accept Option #1 as the preferred offer to the SBNP. Koroush seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilor Comments and Committee Reports:

P. Canter note the local trail group was looking at trail development in and around Monroe.

Koroush offered to serve as an alternate on the COG Board, while Thexton was out of town. He also questioned the City having to pay a \$10 monthly service fee on it's investment account with the State of Oregon's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). The Council consensus was look into other investment opportunities.

There was discussion on what was happening with the old library. The Council goals indicated the Mayor would appoint an ad hoc committee. Koroush moved have the Council Chambers be moved to the old Library, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 4-0. Mayor Thayer said he would appoint a committee suggesting that P. Canter and C.O.O Minard be part of any Committee.

Mayor Thayer noted he spoke with an individual that might be interested in purchasing the City owned "Haunted House" on the east side of the Long Tom River. It was suggested the Mayor should explore this more to at least see what kind of offer might be presented.


**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Signed:

  
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Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest:

  
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Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard