

City Council Minutes
March 23, 2015

Mayor Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Councilors Paul Canter, Harry Myers, Ron Thexton (via telephone at 6:30 PM), Lonnie Koroush, and Donna Dillard. Staff present included Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard and Public Works Superintendent Dave Claborn. Councilor Cindy Canter was excused on business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tim Eastridge voiced his concerns about the continued use of teleconferencing with Councilor Thexton; the issue with marijuana grows in the City; and water billing practices on past due charges.

STAFF REPORTS:

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and operational updates.

C.O.O Minard noted things were progressing well in the office as he and Mr. Williams were becoming more familiar with the Municipal Court matters; he was working with the Jackson Street Youth Shelter in Corvallis on opportunities to assist city youth; he was working with the web administrator to get audio files on the website but was being limited by the file size and the telephone company; the Red Hills Subdivision was progressing slowly with limited reports or action on the wetlands; ODOT would be processing the first installment payment of about \$67,000 to cover the City's on-going expenses for the pedestrian crossing; he met with our liability insurance representative on surveying the City's "best practices" actions; the sheriff's contract would be on next month's agenda; and he and the Mayor met with Commissioner Dixon on the abandoned railroad right-of-way and maintaining county foreclosed lands in Monroe.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minard noted two new bills had come in after the packets were delivered last week and new payable sheets were in front of them with the additions noted. Councilor Koroush moved to accept the consent agenda as amended and excluding the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Councilor Myers and approved 4-0. Councilor Myers moved to approve the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 3-0-1 (Dillard abstained).

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Metal Detecting on City Lands: The Council considered a request from Kenneth Guisto to conduct metal detecting on city property. Councilor Thexton joined the meeting. Councilor Koroush moved to accept the request subject to repairing any holes, no digging within the ball field fence, communicating with the Scare and Share, and C.O.O. Minard coordinating any liability or waiver issues with the City's insurance company. The motion was seconded by Myers and approved 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02: Resolution Authorizing Three Percent (3%) Increase in Base Water Rates. Minard noted this was a carryover from the Resolution presented in February and explained the reasoning behind the proposal as reflected in the staff report, which is incorporated by reference.

Myers moved to approve resolution 2015-02, which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 4-1 (Koroush – No)

Budget Committee Vacancies and Designation of C.O.O. as Budget Officer (Minard): Minard advised the Council that it is three members shy for the lay citizens on the Budget Committee. Former Councilor Carol McGlasson has agreed to serve and Mayor Thayer nominated her to fill one position. Councilor Dillard moved to appoint her to the Budget Committee, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 5-0.

Statements of Economic Interest (Minard): These statements should have been received by all the elected officials and need to be returned to the State by April 15, 2015 or financial penalties could be, and have been, imposed. Minard noted that if returned to City Hall he would track and verify compliance and mail them to the State. Thexton noted he had not received his yet, but would check upon his return.

OTHER BUSINESS:

P. Canter noted that he and Minard had reviewed remodeling the old library for the Council Chambers, but noted their still may be some outside interest in this portion of the building. Koroush moved to table this matter for the time being, which was seconded by Myers; approved 5-0.

Mayor Thayer noted a final date for the Monroe Fest had yet to be set and therefore no sign had been developed.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Signed: _____

Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____

Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard