

City Council Minutes
August 24, 2015

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Christy Warden of the South Benton Nutrition Program presented the Council with its annual contribution of \$2000 to the City for its use of the Legion Hall. This was in addition to its monthly rent.

Tim Eastridge expressed concerns with the street paving last summer that resulted in some rain water crossing over the sidewalk in the Fire District's driveway. Minard noted that was an unexpected result, but it had not created any issues to date; if it did he could have the asphalt ground down a bit as had been done at the catch basin in front of the Fire Station. Eastridge also asked about the flashing school sign on Orchard that was not working. Minard noted they had looked into it, noting the power cord had appeared to have been cut, but that Orchard was not a City street and we had no direct authority over the right-of-way signs. He would contact the County or School District to see if it could be reactivated.

STAFF REPORTS:

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and operational updates. He also noted he had preliminary word on a likely water quality violation on some chlorination issues; he had addressed the cause by lowering the amount of water stored in the reservoir and would keep the Council posted.

C.O.O. Minard reported he was working with some area developers to see if we could get some residential development started; the highway pedestrian crossing at the library was moving forward through ODOT bureaucracy; park improvements on the hill were being installed by PWS Claborn; the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan was at Oregon DEQ for review and response and the Council should see this and the Storm Water Master Plan in the next couple of months; and the auditors would be here Wednesday – the earliest he had ever seen.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Thayer noted 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. Minard noted he had received that day the bill from Councilor Myers for purchase of the security system at the Legion Hall in the amount of \$699.99. Councilor P. Canter moved to accept the consent agenda as amended and excluding the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Councilor Thexton and approved 4-1 (Koroush – No). Councilor Thexton moved to approve the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 4-0-1 (Dillard abstained).

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation from AFRANA on Area Trail System: John Greydanus, of AFRANA (an area committee working with Benton County Parks on recreation and trail opportunities) updated the Council on the groups planning efforts to connect local recreational opportunities via safe pedestrian routes. The

planning process was near completion and the group would be looking to fund improvements with outside funds. This included developing the old railroad bed for trail purposes. Another option included installing a pedestrian bridge across the Long Tom River. Cameron Bishop, Natural Resource Specialist with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, was working with this group and offered his insights and support for this project. Mayor Thayer asked if he had any information on who actually owned the dam across the river. Mr. Bishop advised him that the Corps owned the dam, but that the fish ladder and spillway were actually on private property. He noted that the Corps also had some bridge spans that could be available for the pedestrian bridge and hoped to be able to evaluate options to partner with the City on this project.

Beautification Committee Update: Linda Fredricks of the Beautification Committee was present to seek a letter of support for application to the State's Main Street Program. Mayor Thayer asked about coordination with past committee members. Councilor Dillard noted that the prior Beautification Committee had disbanded after the funds had been spent and the projects completed. C. Canter moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter in support of the Committee's application for the Main Street project. The motion was seconded by Koroush and approved 5-0,

Reduction of Court Operations: Minard noted that with the reductions in citations it was impractical to continue holding court monthly, as provided for in the contract with Judge Blake. Minard suggested the Council approve amending his contract to hold court on a bi-monthly basis. Thayer noted he had spoken with the Sheriff's department to express local concerns with the significant decline and hoped to see higher numbers in the near future. Koroush moved to approve amending the Judge's contract to bi-monthly court dates. The motion was seconded by C. Canter and approved 4-1 (Thexton – No).

OLD BUSINESS:

Removal of Mid-Block Street Lights: Thexton moved to remove the six, mid-block street lights as presented in staff report as unnecessary. The motion was seconded by C. Canter and approved 3-2 (P. Canter and Dillard – No).

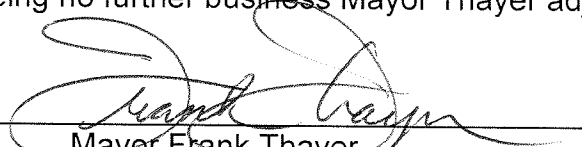
OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Thayer noted that there would be no MonroeFest this year. Given the tragic death of Dudley Clark's son, Chance, the planning was too distracted given the critical role Dudley played in this project.

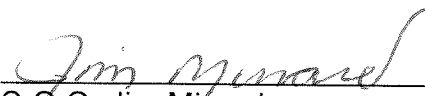
ADJOURN:

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting.

Signed:


Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest:


C.O.O. Jim Minard