

City Council Minutes
October 26, 2015

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

STAFF REPORTS:

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and operational updates. He also noted the new raw water pump was working great and finding a new leak of about 2-3 gallons per minute. Mr. Claborn excused himself from the meeting.

C.O.O. Minard reported he:

- ✓ Had met with two veterans that hoped to reinvigorate the local VFW and offered to take on a number of maintenance projects at the Legion Hall.
- ✓ The parks project was complete excepting a couple of punch list items that Claborn would be completing over the next few weeks. The reimbursement request had been sent to the State and he hoped to get the grant funds of \$18,600 in the next month.
- ✓ Mr. Martinenko, our web administrator, has proved to be very punctual in posting or deleting materials on our website. Minard requested the Council let him know of any additional items that needed to be included or managed.
- ✓ He was still working with Benton County on getting the Baily Branch railroad right-of-way, inside the City's UGB, deeded to the City as he was working with a company that would like to build in Monroe.
- ✓ The Red Hills Subdivision was making little progress and they would be requesting another extension from the Council.
- ✓ The lighted pedestrian crossing construction by the library would begin on November 2nd, with substantial completion by November 22nd; and final completion not until January 2016 due to back-ordered parts.

Councilor Myers noted some of the pedestrian crossings in Corvallis were equipped with radar speed detectors. Minard would look into a possible change order and the costs.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Myers moved to accept the consent agenda, excluding the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 4-0. Myers moved to pay the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 3-0-1 (Dillard abstained with a conflict of interest).

NEW BUSINESS:

Benton County Extension and 4-H Tax District: Derek Godwin (West Central Regional Administrator Oregon State University, Outreach and Engagement) informed the Council of the nature of this request. He explained the declining revenues for the Extension Service

program and the County Board of Commissioners were looking to develop a new taxing district that would fund the programs and staffing. Godwin noted that 24 of the 36 counties in Oregon had already passed such tax levies. Several area adults and youth testified in support of the resolution to call for an election on the district. They spoke of the positive benefit the programs, and particularly 4-H, offered area residents. The programs included the Master Gardener, Master Preserver, 4-H horse club and the 4-H program in general.

Mayor Thayer asked about how this levy might affect services. Godwin explained that the levy would provide for a certain amount of continuity and stability. He indicated that many of the part-time staff could have their positions increased to full time, it would also provide some assurances of future employment, and he hoped it would double the 4-H program and expand other offerings from the Extension Service.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08: Resolution Approving Benton County Order to Initiate Formation of Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District: C. Canter moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08, which was seconded by Myers and approved 4-0.

Resolution No. 2015-09: Authorizing Cooperative Planning and Implementation of the South Benton County Recreation Plan. Mayor Thayer opened the conversation on this matter given Jay Dixon, Chair of the County Commission was in the audience. Minard noted that the resolution provided the Council in its packet had been modified for the signatures and title, since County Council had recommended that the resolutions be adopted independently as opposed to jointly. There was conversation on the purpose of the resolution. Minard noted it was to allow for any future joint request for outside funding to plan or construct a trail system connecting Alpine, Bellfountain, Monroe and area recreation sites.

P. Canter noted that he and Cindy Canter were participating in the planning group's effort to develop a trail concept. He noted one priority was a safe route to the local schools via the abandoned railroad right-of-way.

Commissioner Dixon noted his support for turning over the ownership of the right-of-way to the City, but noted there could be restrictions. The Board had however, decided to lower the asking price of foreclosed properties from 80% to 50% of the assessed value. He still hoped the County could give the foreclosed property on Hwy. 99W to the City, as had been discussed for years. He felt it would be beneficial for the Council to again request and identify those properties the City was interested in.

Additional Signatures: Minard noted that the auditors had identified that we did not always have two signatures on our checks, which occurred occasionally when the Mayor was unavailable. P. Canter moved to add Councilor Donna Dillard as a signer on the City's account; which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 4-0.

Finance Officer Hours Reduction: Finance Officer Dave Williams provided background to the Council on his request to reduce his hours to four days per week. The request would save the City around \$7000 per year. P. Canter moved to accept the request for reduced hours; which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 4-0.

2015 Goals Update: Minard noted the update of the Council goals was in their packets. It reflected that some goals were successfully completed and some had yet to be started or are behind schedule. Mayor Thayer noted the need to seek additional water sources and suggested that he and Mr. Minard undertake contacting area farmers for water rights. It was recognized that, particularly given the current drought, this might be difficult to acquire, but we need to try.

Council Attendance at School Board Meetings: One of the Council goals was to interact with the local School Board, with an elected official attending the school board meetings. P. Canter offered to attend the next board meeting and the Council could determine who would attend subsequent meetings. Minard would contact the District to get the dates, agenda and minutes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor C. Canter informed the Council that the Beautification Committee would be having three new banners installed, but the colors had not been finalized.

Councilor P. Canter informed the Council of the need to update the Personnel Handbook; he had received a model and the City's current document and suggested the Employee Committee could begin looking into this update after the first of the year.

Mayor Thayer raised the issue that planning should begin sooner this year on the MonroeFest and new volunteers to work on it needed to be developed. There were questions as to who was still on the Committee, given Mr. Clark's personal tragedy. There was some debate on the when and how this committee came to be formally recognized. Mr. Minard noted he would send the Council the minutes on this matter.

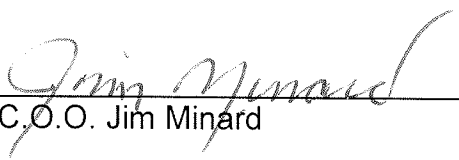
ADJOURN:

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Signed: _____


Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____


C.O.O. Jim Minard