

City Council Minutes
July 25, 2016

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Claborn presented his report. Councilor Thexton noted the Public Works report had not been distributed; Minard noted he had received it, but must have failed to forward it. Claborn noted he had the sewer line cleaned again that served the apartments on Kelly Street. It was suggested that additional investigation into the cause was warranted and grease traps might need to be installed.

C.O.O. Minard updated the Council on the "Tiny Homes" recreational vehicle park that was being considered for the old "Brick Mill" sight north of Mill Street. It appeared that no hearings would be held on this matter until September 2016. He had resolved concerns with the consulting engineer and the grant payment for the Utilities Master Plan should be received in the near future. He advised the Council of the on-going sewer overflow at the private residence in town, which he understood was finally resolved. He has posted the opening for the Council and Mayor positions on the city web site as well as notices around town. He updated the Council on the Red Hills subdivision that was still in negotiations with the State and Federal governments over wetlands. He had heard today that the 8th Street development would be submitting plans for infrastructure improvements to be reviewed by staff and the City Engineer. He met with Energy Trust of Oregon for upgrading the lighting in the city facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stan Salot spoke about his concerns with a recreational vehicle park in town. Liz Hayler expressed her opposition to the proposed RV park.

Tim Eastridge asked about playground equipment in Reservoir Heights Park. Minard noted that there were no plans currently on the books for additional improvements.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minard noted that a few additional bills had come in since the packets were put together. Councilor Thexton moved to accept the consent agenda, as updated, which was seconded by Councilor Cindy Canter and approved 4-1 (Koroush – No).

NEW BUSINESS:

Recommendation on Liquor License for Benny's Pizza @ 225 N. 5th Street: Thexton moved to recommend approval of the liquor license, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 5-0.

Amendment to Gleaners Contract for old library: Thexton noted the good work the Gleaners were doing in the area and moved to keep the rent at the current rate. Councilor Cindy Canter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Street Light Upgrade: Minard noted the report from Mr. Williams indicated the cost of the street light upgrade had gone from \$2727 to \$4044. Thexton noted the delays on getting these lights upgraded; despite the increased costs he felt we needed to have the lights upgraded as previously approved by the Council. Koroush moved to approve the upgrade at the higher expense and move forward with the upgraded street lights, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 5-0.

Request Corp of Engineer's Funding for Long Tom Watershed Improvements: Minard noted that he had been approached by the Corp of Engineers and Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) about having study done to look at improving fish habitat and water quality in the oxbows created by changes to the Long Tom River. This would be a study funded by the Crops with no City cost and administered by the LTWC. C. Canter moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the request, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 5-0.

Minard noted there were three additional items he would like to bring the Councils consideration. They were another letter in support of a different grant to look at improving the water quality upstream of Monroe; salary increases for staff, and an application for the vacant Planning Commission seat. C. Canter moved to table these items until the Council had a chance to fully review the material, but withdrew her motion to allow consideration.

Myers moved to accept the application of Laurie Reynolds to the Planning Commission, which was seconded by C. Canter. Mayor Thayer noted that she had previously served on the City Council and was familiar with the community. The motion carried 5-0.

Minard noted that while the budget had been approved with increases for staff salaries, he felt it appropriate to get Council confirmation. The increases included \$30 per month for him and Mr. Williams and \$1000 per year for Mr. Claborn, as accepted as part of his hiring process. Thexton moved to accept these increases as presented, which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 4-1 (Koroush – No).

This LTWC matters was only a letter of support for a different grant to look at improving water quality upstream of Monroe. Councilor Myers noted his experience and understanding of pollutants that could be found in area streams and rivers. He moved to support the request for DEQ funding the grant, which was seconded by Thexton and approved 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

C. Canter updated the Council on recent park issues at the Toddler Park. She noted she had requested the park be evaluated by an outside source and several safety issues were identified. She contacted PWS Dave Claborn and asked that the park be closed. She was informed by Mr. Minard that she had overstepped her authority, but she felt she had a duty to respond. Minard noted that many of the concerns had been resolved, with the fall protection remaining. There was testimony from the audience noting concerns with this park and its facilities.

She noted that despite her efforts no grants had been applied for the past few years and she was looking into funding equipment improvements at the Toddler Park. Minard explained that he felt compelled to clear the previous park grants before taking on new projects, without the consent of the Council. There was discussion on what grants and time frames and conditions of awards. C. Canter moved to have Minard begin looking

for new park grants. The motion was seconded by Koroush and approved 5-0. It was also voted on and passed to lock the Toddler park immediately following the Council meeting until a professional parks inspector reviewed our park, reported back and we have eliminated the dangers.

Koroush asked about Dollar General; Minard noted there was nothing new after the work session with the Board of Commissioners. C. Canter noted she was identified in the recent news article on this matter, and, while she served on the recreation committee referenced in the article, she had been and remains a supporter of Dollar General coming to Monroe.

P. Canter noted he spoke with Carl Deaton, who was interested in constructing a public batting cage outside left-center field of the ballfield in City Park. He was seeking Council approval and support for Mr. Deaton to research cost and funding for this improvement. P. Canter moved to support this effort, which was seconded by Thexton and approved. 5-0

ADJOURN: There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____
C.O.O. Jim Minard