

HALSEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Halsey City Hall
773 W. 1st Street
Halsey, OR 97348
March 9, 2010
7:00 P.M.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The City Administrator took Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Marjean Cline, Council President Wade Doerfler, Councilor Eric Harless, Councilor Joan Mercier, Councilor Kathy Parker, Councilor Eldon Albertson, and Councilor Lee Johnson.

Also in attendance were Chuck Cook, Lori Robertson and City employees, Karla Caudell and Martha Chamberlain.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Doerfler made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 9, 2010. Councilor Albertson 2nd and the motion carried unanimously.

Delegation

Mayor Cline noted that Sergeant Kelley was not in attendance however she asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the law enforcement documents that were handed out prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Mayor Cline acknowledged Chuck Cook in attendance and granted him permission to address the Council. Chuck Cook stated he is the sponsor of the Central Linn Lions Club which covers Brownsville, Halsey, and Shedd. Cook stated he is asking Council members and interested citizens to join as charter members in order to get the club established and keep in going in the community. Cook noted the Lions Club makes an impact on the community because it is a service organization and their main focus is helping with eyeglasses, hearing aids, and diabetes. Cook stated they are looking for support for this Club and invited everyone that was available to attend a meeting that will be held at the Methodist Church on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Cook handed out some information regarding a couple of events sponsored by the Lions Club such as the Community Showcase that will be held in Junction City and the Daffodil Festival as two examples of what types of things their organization is involved in. Lori Robertson commented that her goal is to get a medical screening unit to come to this area for adults as well as children once the Club is chartered. Robertson added that the Lions Club is involved in helping Sharing Hands with food drives that help with needs throughout the community. Robertson emphasized they are a service organization looking to help wherever they can. Council President Doerfler commented that the Lions Club does not have to sell their programs as they are known worldwide. Council President Doerfler stated he used to work in the schools and assisted with the eye care program brought up earlier by Cook. A brief discussion ensued with Cook again requesting as many of the Council members as possible to attend the meeting noted above.

City Administrator Report

The City Administrator reported she had assisted public works employee, Andy Ridinger, with troubleshooting some problems at the lift station with the sump pump but they have recently learned the pump is no longer working and a new one has been ordered. Mayor Cline asked if the leak had been fixed with the City Administrator responding it had however there is still water down in the dry well and Ridinger has been unable to determine its source. The City Administrator commented there have also been issues with the alarm system as it has been sending out false alarm messages. The City Administrator stated she had asked Ridinger to go disconnect the power source to the alarm system at

8:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2010 otherwise the alarm would call her phone every hour all night long. Councilor Johnson asked if the flashing red light at the lift station meant there was an alarm of some kind at the lift station and what the noise level was for the residents near this location when there are problems. The City Administrator responded the red light does indicate a problem however in the case of the false alarms they have been addressing that light is not ordinarily triggered. The City Administrator commented the noise level is considerably lower in that area than it was prior to the improvements when there are problems as a result of the installation of the generator however Devco Engineering is working to install an insulation kit that will make the generator even quieter due to an oversight in the bid process. A brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator commented the utility bills were computed and mailed with very few problems after working with the new electronic utility reading software for the first time. The City Administrator stated there are two or three properties that will need special processing but for the most part she was pleased with the new reading software. There were no questions.

The City Administrator reported that most of the Councilors had probably seen the progress of the construction at the Halsey Mennonite Church School however the City still has not received a permit back from the County for this project. The City Administrator commented she had contacted John Hixson with Linn County Planning and Building regarding the amount of construction that is taking place without a permit however Hixson responded he is keeping an eye on the situation and the permit should be completed soon. Councilor Johnson expressed a concern that the City could have some problems with the situation however the City Administrator responded the problem would be between the contractor and the County however they are continuing to build without the City having received any revenue at this point in time. A brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator reported that the FY2010 Appropriations Requests had been sent to Senator Wyden's and Senator Merkely's office as well as Congressman DeFazio's office and asked Mayor Cline for her comments on the issue. Mayor Cline stated that she had short conversations with both Dan Whelan from Merkely's office and Juine Chada from Wyden's office at the High Speed Rail Summit earlier that day. Mayor Cline expressed a concern that Whelan had commented that the appropriations could be cut for this year. Council President Doerfler asked if the funding were cut this year would the projects remain on the list or would a whole new request have to be submitted. Mayor Cline responded she hoped they would remain on a list and only the dates would have to be changed and hopefully it would include the letters of support that were submitted. Mayor Cline commented it has paid to attend some of the functions as it has provided a valuable networking opportunity with both representatives. Mayor Cline stated there was a call between herself, the City Administrator, and the Assistance City Recorder with Whelan and Chada which lasted approximately one and half hours whereby they assisted in fine tuning the appropriations request prior to the City submitting it. Councilor Albertson questioned whether they could earmark our project however Mayor Cline responded that appropriations money is already in the budget and the representatives from Oregon are just trying to get money for their area in proportion to what is sent to the Federal government. A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Cline initiated a conversation with Caudell regarding the last item on the City Administrator report regarding the temporary closing of the Highway 228 crossing. Caudell responded there had been several phone calls from citizens as well as a few truck drivers. Caudell explained the initial problem was that the ODOT signage was unclear and once a sign was placed near Falk Road things quieted down some. Caudell stated that one truck was stuck on H Street for a short period of time which disrupted the flow of traffic even more but between the City and the construction crew at the Halsey Mennonite Church School the truck was removed as quickly as possible. Caudell added that the Sheriff's Department became very active a bit later in the morning and several citations were issued. Councilor Mercier commented that one driver hit a power pole later in the day near the H Street crossing. A brief discussion ensued. Mayor Cline commented she spoke with an administrator with the ODOT Rail Division at the Summit explaining the lack of communication regarding the process to close the Highway 228 crossing for a short period time. Mayor Cline stated the person was

in charge of crossings therefore it was great timing that she was a speaker at the Summit. There were no other questions or comments.

Public Works Department

Council President Doerfler asked about the conditions of the lagoons with the City Administrator commenting they were a bit high however the City had started discharging again as of the first of the month. There were no other questions.

Planning Commission

Councilor Harless stated a meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2010. There were no questions.

Park Committee

Councilor Mercier stated there was nothing new to report on the Park however Council President Doerfler commented the Park looks nicer than it ever had. Mayor Cline commented how pleased she was that the pathway had been completed as that was something they had hoped to do when the Park was created but did not have the funding to do so at that time. Councilor Mercier commented it is nice to see mothers and their children riding around the path on bikes. The City Administrator reported that Bunce Equipment had called letting her know that the sides for the skatepark equipment were finished. The City Administrator reminded the Council that Bunce Equipment had donated his time and material in order to have the “weathered” sides refinished. Council President Doerfler asked the City Administrator if she could contact The Times in order for them to put something in the paper about his contribution with her response being she would be happy to do so. Councilor Johnson expressed a concern that one of the pieces of equipment appeared to be potentially dangerous. The City Administrator commented she was not aware that Ridinger had installed any of the refurbished sides which appeared to be the issue but would talk with him about the concern. There were no questions.

Finance Committee

Council President Doerfler reported it was hard to imagine but before long the fiscal year would be coming to a close. Council President Doerfler stated there were several documents in the packets regarding the finances and he or the City Administrator would be happy to answer any questions regarding the information. Mayor Cline asked how the City was doing in regard to collecting tax monies with the City Administrator responding the revenues received are higher than budgeted at this point in the fiscal year. There were no other questions.

Street/Utility Committee

Council President Doerfler commented no meeting had been held with Councilor Parker stating the next meeting was scheduled for March 25, 2010. There were no questions.

Intergovernmental Committee

Council President Doerfler reported no meeting had been held. There were no questions.

Old Business

Mayor Cline asked for comments on the complaint/issue log included in the packets and Council President Doerfler stated he thought it was interesting that someone wanted to do something about preventing the grain elevator from being taken down. A comment was made that it would probably be awhile however the City Administrator stated they have heard it would be sometime over the summer. Mayor Cline commented about a problem with a dog on East 1st Street after seeing a report of a dog concern at another location listed on the log. Mayor Cline indicated a citizen told her that the dog went after someone at the store on a Saturday and she asked if they had contacted either the Sheriff’s Department or Linn County Animal Control however they had not therefore the City could not do anything about that particular incident. Councilor Harless commented he found the comments regarding the conversation with Don Durden interesting. There were no other questions.

Mayor Cline granted permission for Councilor Mercier to speak on the issue of the Bookmobile. Councilor Mercier commented she no longer wants to be involved in operating the Bookmobile because she spent a lot of hours for the few people that made use of it. Councilor Mercier commented it would probably work better in a different location which would take the effort by someone to move it and also someone should take some time and effort to go through the process of bringing some of the books that are in storage into the Bookmobile and remove some of the existing books. Councilor Mercier stated she does not normally give up and would be willing to help but she prefers not to be the primary person responsible for making the Bookmobile available to the community. Council President Doerfler asked if anyone had expressed an interest in operating it with the City Administrator responding a couple of people had indicated they were willing to help however she was unsure if they were still interested. The City Administrator stated they had placed a form in the newsletter for people to respond about preferred days and times for the operation of the Bookmobile but confirmed with Caudell that no responses had been received to date. Council President Doerfler asked if the Bookmobile were started once in awhile with the City Administrator responding affirmatively. Councilor Mercier commented the Bookmobile is some expense to the City. Councilor Johnson asked if the Bookmobile belonged to the City with Mayor Cline responding that it was given to the City at no cost and the City is free to operate it as they deem fit. Council President Doerfler thought it might be good to place it near the Park during the summer months. Mayor Cline commented it is a resource that needs to be used and stated she has thought of contacting the owner of the Halsey Select Market to see if it could be parked in that lot one day a week. Councilor Parker indicated the problem with lack of use is it is “out of sight, out of mind” in its current location. Councilor Albertson expressed the need to make use of the existing City Hall as the library as has been discussed previously. A brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator commented a pre-construction meeting had been held regarding the proposed development of approximately four lots owned by Gerald Birky which actually face East 3rd street in regard to bringing all the utilities to this location. The City Administrator commented that approval had been given to Birky to pave the portion of East 3rd Street that would run in front of the lots however beyond those lots south to East G Street that portion could be graveled. The City Administrator stated that Pacific Power opposed running the powerlines from East G Street because they may be asked to move them in the future, at their cost, if the City wanted to pave that section of the road. The City Administrator reported a pre-construction meeting is required prior to any infrastructure improvements on this type of development however the contractor indicated he did not know when they would begin work on this project. There were no questions.

New Business

The City Administrator handed out the budget calendar for the fiscal year 2010-2011 and apologized that she had neglected to include it in the packets for their review. Mayor Cline commented that Pacific Power and Light is seeking a 20% increase in rates and asked the City Administrator to keep that in mind when determining the budget figures. There were no questions.

Mayor Cline reported that she and the City Administrator had attended the Summit on high speed rail earlier that day. Mayor Cline stated that Oregon is way behind on the process of making this a reality as there has been no planning to date. Mayor Cline commented the planning process can take up to two to four years which must include an environmental impact study. Councilor Albertson commented the high speed rail is very efficient in Europe however it is very, very expensive. Council President Doerfler commented that he thought most of the high speed rail in Europe was nationally owned however Mayor Cline commented that companies actually invest in them as they are very profitable. Mayor Cline noted that Commissioner DeFazio has been a large supporter of transportation and has pushed for beginning this process for years however he has expressed his displeasure with the lack of concern regarding this issue from the prior administration. Councilor Albertson stated a dedicated track for high speed rail would be preferred rather than combining it with train traffic hauling freight. Councilor Mercier commented it would be better for Halsey to focus on trying to get some kind of

business in town with Councilor Albertson stating he and Councilor Johnson had had that conversation recently. A brief discussion ensued.

Adjournment

Council President Doerfler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The entire Council 2nd therefore the motion was unanimous.

Marjean Cline, Mayor

Judy Cleeton, City Administrator