

HALSEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Central Linn Elementary School
280 W. 2nd Street
Halsey, OR 97348
September 8, 2009
7:00 P.M.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

The City Administrator took Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Marjean Cline, Council President Wade Doerfler, Councilor Joan Mercier, Councilor Eldon Albertson, Councilor Eric Harless, and Councilor Kathy Parker. Councilor Cynthia Choat was absent.

Also in attendance were Don Ware from The Times, Andrew Beaudet, Woody Edwards, Deputy Traci White, and city employee, Martha Chamberlain.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Doerfler made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 11, 2009. Councilor Harless 2nd and the motion carried unanimously.

Council President Doerfler made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 18, 2009. Councilor Parker 2nd and the motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Report

The City Administrator indicated the lift station project is now on hold until the arrival of the generator and the pumps however some information had been provided regarding some change orders for the electrical improvements. The City Administrator stated the change orders were a result of Pacific Power reviewing the project after the pre-construction meeting. The City Administrator noted that Devco's electrical engineer is reviewing the changes and before anything is authorized talks will take place between Devco, Andy, Jerry and herself. The City Administrator commented the initial bid was under budget however the additional costs potentially impact the budget and could make things very tight if they do become necessary. A brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator reported she had met with the new City Planner, Eric Adams, and provided him with the Halsey Development Code and various other documents. The City Administrator stated Adams also met with Mike Howard from Satre Associates and recovered all of the files they have kept over the years. The City Administrator commented that Adams willingly took over the Halsey Mennonite Church project and appeared to be comfortable doing so. The City Administrator added that Adams is helping resolve an issue with an individual asking about setting up a residential business in a home in the commercial district. The City Administrator commented it appears that Adams will be a great addition to the City. There were no questions.

The City Administrator apprised the Council on the situation in regards to the individual requesting information on a home occupation in a commercial zone as the person recently told Adams there are 11 dogs on her property and she and her husband are selling puppies at this location. The City Administrator stated that Adams was checking to see if this would actually create a second business and whether two businesses were allowed by Code. The City Administrator commented she had talked with the Mayor about the situation earlier because of a concern that the individual may attend the Council meeting and thought they should have some background information. The City Administrator indicated the Mayor commented they needed to be careful in discussing the situation as it would probably be a planning determination and the Council would be the source for appeal should that become a necessity. Council President Doerfler commented he had seen animal control at this location recently. Councilor Mercier indicated the dogs would at the very least need to be licensed.

Mayor Cline referenced the email included in the packets from Adams indicating that dogs of a certain age are required to have a license. Councilor Mercier asked what kind of dogs were at this residence with the City Administrator responding they are behind a fence that has a tarp hanging on it and cannot be seen from the highway. Deputy Traci White had arrived at the meeting and the City Administrator asked if she was aware of any complaints they had received from this property. Deputy White responded they had not but she would be happy to stop and talk with the people and make sure the dogs were cared for and check on licensing. A brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator had included an email from Chuck Gilbert with ODOT rail, along with a phone call, indicating the federal funding for the closure of the D Street crossing has been expedited. The City Administrator commented that improvements to the H Street crossing are part of this funding and would have to be made prior to the closure of the D Street crossing. The City Administrator stated that it appeared the work would still not take place for about a year and a brief discussion ensued.

The City Administrator requested a date change for the October City Council meeting as she has to leave for the Caselle conference the afternoon of October 13, 2009. It was the consensus of the Council to hold the October meeting on October 12, 2009. Don Ware asked where the meeting would be held with Council President Doerfler responding he would like to see the meetings back at City Hall permanently. Councilor Mercier stated she liked having the meetings at City Hall but would like to have them at the school when the meeting warranted a larger audience. Councilor Harless was in agreement with Councilor Mercier. It was the consensus of the Council to hold all future meetings at City Hall unless it appeared a larger space would be necessary in order to accommodate a larger crowd.

Delegation

After introducing herself to the City Council Deputy Traci White was asked by Mayor Cline to report on any incidents that might have occurred in August they should know about. Deputy White responded that the recent Brownsville festival had kept them pretty busy therefore time spent in Halsey was limited. Deputy White reported that several cars were broken into and some campsites were vandalized and several arrests were made in the Brownsville area. Deputy White stated that with summer coming to an end things have slowed down some, although there continues to be problems at the apartments. Mayor Cline asked if there had been any issues at the skatepark with Deputy White responding there have not been any in Halsey yet however they have had some incidents involving drugs at the Harrisburg skatepark. Deputy White indicated the biggest problem might be curfew violations. Councilor Mercier asked about an incident involving an ATV near East 1st and East G Street recently with Deputy White responding she is pretty certain the person involved in that incident had been arrested. A brief discussion ensued.

Public Works Department

Mayor Cline asked if there were any questions regarding the public works report. Council President Doerfler asked if there were still problems at the water plant. The City Administrator responded there had been some trouble with the chlorinator but that issue has been resolved. The City Administrator commented the earlier water plant problems have not ever been totally resolved however things are running smoothly at this point in time. There were no other questions.

Planning Commission

Mayor Cline asked Councilor Harless to report on any planning issues with a reminder that a meeting was held to select a new city planner. Councilor Harless confirmed a meeting had been held for that purpose in August, 2009. Mayor Cline asked the City Administrator if a quarterly meeting would be held or if there were any issues on the horizon that would warrant a meeting. The City Administrator responded at this point in time it appeared a quarterly meeting would be scheduled. There were no questions.

Park Committee

Councilor Mercier requested that the Park Committee report be deferred until the discussion on the ordinance however Council President Doerfler commented he was pleased to see the activity at the skatepark. Council President Doerfler stated he had seen approximately 15 kids and a couple of adults at one point and was pleased to see some older “supervision”. This began a discussion on the skatepark therefore Councilor Mercier reported some new concrete had been added to the area and the public works employees and the City Administrator had met up at the Park earlier in the day and discussed placing some planters in front of an area near where the picnic table will be located.

Councilor Mercier noted that a section of cement will be added between the basketball court and the pathway and another area will be cemented near the northwest corner of the basketball court toward West 3rd in order to provide an ADA access from this area. Councilor Mercier commented she has been at the park on several occasions and is impressed with how the younger kids and older kids are taking turns when using the skatepark equipment. Councilor Mercier stated she was glad the skatepark went in as the kids needed something to do. Councilor Mercier noted she was disappointed however to see a small amount of graffiti on the equipment and signs of smoking but hoped it would not get so bad that actions would have to be taken to close the Park. Mayor Cline acknowledged the letter included in the packets from City County Insurance giving the City a “clean bill of health” regarding the facility. A brief discussion ensued.

Councilor Mercier requested a discussion on a date for an official opening of the skatepark. Mayor Cline suggested Thursday, October 1, 2009. Councilor Mercier asked when Halloween was and asked whether that date could be considered. Mayor Cline expressed a concern for the weather therefore Saturday, October 3, 2009 was suggested. It was learned that the City Administrator would not be available for that date therefore after some discussion the opening was set for Saturday, October 17, 2009 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Andrew Beaudet stated he may be able to get a small band to play and would check to see if that date would work for them and also offered the use of a microphone. Councilor Mercier stated she intends to have a some kind of drawing for someone to be selected as the winner of the Tony Hawk skateboard, however she needs to pick up some wheels for it. Mayor Cline indicated she had a roll of tickets that could be used for that purpose. Councilor Mercier added that if there were music available it might be nice to “advertise” it as a costume event even though it would not be on Halloween. Martha Chamberlain stated there had been some talk about making some kind of memorial in the name of Erika Metcalf because she was so heavily involved in the planning stages of this project. Mayor Cline responded she has anticipated having a plaque in her honor at the Community Center/City Hall. A brief discussion ensued.

Finance Committee

Council President Doerfler reported the City is in a good financial position at this point in time however we are awaiting the arrival of tax revenue in early November, 2009. Council President Doerfler acknowledged the financial documents included in the packet for review by the Council. There were no questions.

Street/Utility Committee

Council President Doerfler acknowledged a document regarding the high speed rail included in the packets that was discussed by Councilor Parker at the previous Council meeting. Council President Doerfler recommended the Council review the information at their leisure. Councilor Albertson noted that the bridges are still not finished between Halsey and Harrisburg. There were no questions.

Intergovernmental Committee

There was no report.

Old Business

Mayor Cline asked if there were any questions regarding the complaint/issue log or the vehicles/junk records included in the packets. Mayor Cline noted the canopy near the corner of Highway 228 and Highway 99 is still there and the pickup is no longer at the "Mexican" restaurant however the small trailer is still at this location. There were no questions.

Mayor Cline reported that she had been on the website for the 2010 Appropriations and it appears only two projects from Oregon will be funded; one for Pendleton and one for Coos Bay. Mayor Cline indicated when Karla returned to work she would have her contact Senator Wyden's office to make some inquiries regarding the funding decision. Mayor Cline stated the Council should review the Community Center/City Hall project at the next meeting and determine the next steps that the City can take to continue with this project. There were no questions.

New Business

Mayor Cline stated the City Administrator informed her that she had received a card in the mail from Councilor Cynthia Choat and upon opening it she learned that the Councilor is resigning. Mayor Cline reported the note indicated she would be staying longer in Idaho than planned and could no longer serve on the Council. Council President Doerfler made a motion to accept the resignation of Councilor Choat. Councilor Mercier 2nd and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Parker made a motion to declare a vacancy on the City Council. Council President Doerfler 2nd and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Albertson stated he had spoken with Lee Johnson who has recently retired from a supervisory position involving the offloading of oil and he expressed an interest in getting involved in the community. Councilor Albertson noted Johnson had recently been ill and could not attend this meeting therefore Councilor Albertson indicated to Johnson he could come by City Hall and pick up an application for the vacant position. The City Administrator commented they would advertise the vacancy in the Halsey Happenings and The Times. There were no other questions.

Mayor Cline commented she stopped by the Halsey Select Market and introduced herself to the new owner. Mayor Cline reported there are plans to put in a deli which will be a nice addition. Councilor Mercier commented that should move some of the congestion from the front where they currently have chicken and pizza and a few other items. Mayor Cline indicated she thought those items would be relocated to the deli area when it is completed. A brief discussion ensued.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Mayor Cline noted there were two ordinances to review; one which was read for the first time last month that does not allow BMX bicycles and a second ordinance that does allow bicycles. The City Administrator stated the two ordinances were distributed more than a week prior to the meeting and notices were posted that copies were available at City Hall. The City Administrator advised the Council these rules were followed by the City Charter in order for either ordinance to be adopted in one reading. The City Administrator reported that she has been at the skatepark on several occasions and it is apparent that the kids work well with one another to allow both skateboarders and bicyclists to use the equipment. The City Administrator added the equipment is designed to be used by both skateboarders and bicycles. The City Administrator indicated she had spoken with some of the kids and stated that she has to follow the rules of the Council as do they, however she encouraged them to come to the City Council meeting and express their desire to open the park to bicycles. Councilor Mercier agreed with the comments by the City Administrator; again stating that she is impressed with how the kids take turns and everyone seems to get along. Mayor Cline commented she had seen some kids on her street carrying bikes without tires on the back and was concerned about the potential abuse of the equipment. A brief discussion ensued regarding the graffiti and cigarette butts mentioned earlier and the care of the equipment and enforcement of these issues. Councilor Mercier suggested putting something in the newsletter announcing a meeting she would have with the kids to express the concerns. Councilor Albertson commented that something might be added to include only well

maintained bicycles could be used however Mayor Cline noted the ones she saw were a case where the tires were purposely removed. A brief discussion ensued. Council President Doerfler made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-383 which included the use of bicycles at the skatepark. Councilor Parker 2nd. Mayor Cline called for any discussion. Councilor Harless noted that items “F” and “N” were duplicates on page 2 of the Ordinance. Councilor Harless asked if the reference to no personal music boxes meant that they were not allowed at the skatepark but would be allowed at the basketball court. Councilor Harless asked if there were general park rules that covered the entire park. Neither Mayor Cline nor the City Administrator recalled seeing any rules for the entire park. The City Administrator agreed to make certain there are no rules currently in existence. Mayor Cline suggested if there are indeed no rules then some should be formulated in the near future. With no further discussion the motion carried unanimously with the amendment noted by Councilor Harless.

Adjournment

Council President Doerfler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Councilor Parker 2nd and the motion carried unanimously.

Marjean Cline, Mayor

Judy Cleeton, City Administrator