

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 16, 2007
AT 7:00 P.M.
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON**

Flag Salute

Call to Order

Mayor Burge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The meeting of the City of Scappoose was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; 33568 East Columbia Avenue; Scappoose, Oregon with the following present:

City Council Members:

Scott Burge	Mayor
Judie Ingham	Council President
Jeff Bernhard	Councilor
Donna Gedlich	Councilor
Lisa Smith	Councilor
Charles Judd	Councilor
Larry Meres	Councilor

Staff:

Jon Hanken	City Manager
Norm Miller	Police Lieutenant
Susan Pentecost	City Recorder

Excused: Police Chief Greisen and Legal Counsel

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Burge amended the agenda to add “7.0A” an “Announcement by Mayor Burge”.

Council President Ingham moved, and Councilor Bernhard seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Ingham, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Bernhard, aye; Councilor Smith, aye; Councilor Judd, aye; and Councilor Meres, aye.

Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

Council President Ingham moved and Councilor Judd seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2007 Council meeting. Motion passed (5-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Ingham, aye; Councilor Bernhard, aye; Councilor Judd, aye; and Councilor Meres, aye. Councilor Smith and Councilor Gedlich abstained due to not being present.

New Business

Announcement by Mayor Burge

Mayor Burge announced that the City was contacted today and information that we received the \$500,000.00 grant for the Municipal Park. He stated it is probably the best thing that has happen to the City in a while. City Manager Hanken explained receiving these funds helps get this park done in a 24 month time period. He explained the City of Scappoose was rated 6th of all the communities that applied.

Mayor Burge thanked City Manager Hanken, Little League, Community Club and all those who put letters forward for all their hard work. He also thanked the community for supporting the City on moving forward with this.

Councilor Smith suggested sending a letter to the Oregon National Guard letting them know the City received the grant. City Manager Hanken replied he will be sending a letter to the Oregon National Guard letting them know.

Kyle Sallee – If I were Mayor Contest – Middle School

Mayor Burge presented an iPod Nano to Kyle Sallee for winning the If I were Mayor Contest – Middle School. Congratulations Kyle!

VFW Request

Ron Urban read a letter on behalf of the Scappoose Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4362 to the Council regarding naming the Scappoose Municipal Park off of JP West Road. The VFW would like the Council to consider naming the park “Captain Kucera Veteran Park”. In attendance from the Local VFW was Ron Urban, Jerry Peahl, Clifford Kuhl, Frank Weber, Walter Thompson and Richard Burdett.

Councilor Smith asked if the City will be doing a formal naming process for the park. Mayor Burge replied that is what he would like to do and he wants the City to go to the community and ask for ideas.

Council President Ingham agrees that there should be some sort of process to get the community involved in naming the park. She explained if there are a lot of ideas presented there are more parks then this one to be named. She explained the name presented tonight is a great idea but she feels the community of Scappoose should help name the park or different areas of the park.

Councilor Meres explained he feels the same regarding naming an area, not just park. He feels it is just too early right now to just name a park when the public hasn’t heard anything about it.

Councilor Gedlich thanked the Veterans for bringing the information forward to Council. She also agrees with the other member’s that it is a little premature to name the park at this time. She feels the community and this body needs to listen to a lot of the citizens and get some more feed back before the final decision is made.

Mayor Burge explained he is going to start a file and start encouraging people to submit a form for naming the local parks or areas in the park. He explained he will have information on this in a booth at the Farmer’s Market for the next five Saturday’s.

Mayor Burge thanked all the Veterans for presenting their proposal and for being present tonight.

Electronic Meter Reading

Terry Andrews, Field Services Supervisor, read over the staff report. He explained staff would like to move to the automatic meter reading program simply because it frees up staff. He explained the City's current handhelds are becoming obsolete.

City Manager Hanken explained because the electronic version has a tracking mechanism if a customer's water line has a leak staff would be able to know that. He explained this system would provide better information that can be relayed to our customers.

Councilor Gedlich asked about the initial cost. Terry Andrews replied the initial cost would be around \$40,000.00. He explained that would be for approximately 150 meters, two receivers and the software. City Manager Hanken explained the initial upfront cost is going to be a little on the high side but as new homes come in they are automatically fitted with these electronic meters so that they can be read. He explained it is part of our regular replacement program with meters.

Councilor Gedlich asked Terry Andrews if the water rates will go up. Terry Andrews replied no not because of this.

Councilor Bernhard explained he would like to see how long it will take to recoup the upfront costs. He would like to see the numbers on paper. He also asked how the current system is becoming obsolete. Terry Andrews explained the two handhelds that the City currently has are the manual entry. He explained the handhelds have already been rebuilt in 2001 and they can no longer rebuild this particular model.

Councilor Bernhard wants to see the cost savings on paper so he can take a look at that to help make his decision. He stated Mr. Andrews explained it was taking four people five days to do it all and now he is saying it will take one person one day to do it all.

Councilor Gedlich asked if staff has ever considered reading half the town one month and the other half read the next month. Terry Andrews replied it would be a change in our billing policy and yes they have briefly talked about that. City Manager Hanken explained the way the City has our system contracted out it would be very difficult to do simply because bills would be sent out on a sporadic basis and you are not getting the accuracy if you wait with some bills for a month before you send them out.

Councilor Gedlich would like staff to bring back some information on other agencies that are using this system versus the handhelds. She would like to see what the pro's and con's are and see what they like and what they don't like about this system.

Councilor Meres asked how many people does the City service on the hook ups. Terry Andrews replied around 2,100. Councilor Meres asked if it is known what the technical life of this system would be. Terry Andrews replied it comes with a 20 year battery life, 10 year is full replace and after that it is prorated.

Councilor Smith would like to know the cost of contracting for manual reading. She would like to know what it cost for our staff to read it, what it cost to contract, what it would cost for the new system.

Council congratulated Nichole Andrews (Terry's daughter) for winning Miss Oregon Rodeo. Congratulations Nichole!

Councilor Judd asked if this system could be logged on through the web by the home owner. Terry Andrews replied he would check in to that.

Terry Andrews explained there is one representative who said they would gladly meet with Council to explain their system if Council so chooses to have them present.

Community Contributions

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained Council has before them the St. Vincent de Paul request. He explained it was submitted on time but he had it attached to the "If I were Mayor Contest" paperwork. He explained there is basically \$50,000.00 in requests.

Council President Ingham explained she appreciates the requests and everyone was validated in her mind and she did a simple math on this. She felt to make it simple since the proposed contributions are 40% over the budget she went through and removed 40% from each request.

ReAnna Sharp, Scappoose, Historical Society, showed the Council photos and a book with the restored photos. She explained this is one of the projects that they just completed with the money they received last year and along with the money from fundraisers and a grant. She went over her community contributions program 2007 and explained what the money they are requesting would be used for.

Councilor Gedlich feels the \$500.00 for watering the museum grounds shouldn't fall on the Historical Society it should fall on the City. She feels the water responsibility should fall strictly on our water department. She feels the \$5,000.00 for the museum being open in Saturday is a must.

Councilor Meres feels the history of Native American Indians should be included in all of our history. ReAnna Sharp replied she agrees. She explained they are aware of that but don't have access to the Indian history. She explained just a couple of weeks ago they received a phone call from some one who is planning on attending the Historical Society Meeting regarding putting together a Native American Indian display.

Julie Stephens, Scappoose Senior Center, went over the letter she submitted to Council. She explained during 2006 their Nutrition Programs they served over 11,800 meals at the center and delivered over 5,800 meals to home-bound clients. She explained there is a group of people that glean at stores and get items to put in the Thrift store. She explained the items are available to anybody in the community and over 1,000 people walk through the door every month.

Councilor Gedlich thanked Ms. Stephens for the information. She also thanked her for all the work she and the volunteers do.

Councilor Meres replied he feels this is a worthy program for our community and he has no desire to cut anything on these food programs.

Rick Weber, Fourth of July Children's Parade Founder and Organizer (Member – Scappoose Kiwanis), is requesting funding to assist with the expenses for the parade. He explained his biggest expense is music. He explained he did ask the local band director about having the band at the parade, but they weren't very interested in doing that. He explained someone recommended that he ask a local musician, so he did. He explained he gets a lot of compliments on the music and he would hate to cut that out. He asked Council if there is any way the event could be funded prior.

Councilor Gedlich thanked Mr. Weber for continuing to do this. She thinks the parade is great and what he is doing is good for the kids in his area however she feels the music and what he is paying for the music is absolutely outrageous. She stated she would be more than happy next year to bring him over a patriotic cd and a cd player. She stated to Mr. Weber to keep up the good work.

Councilor Meres thanked Mr. Weber for the parade and he really enjoys it and would hate to see it disappear. He feels we need more community events like that.

Karen Stoel, Director, Scappoose Youth Recreation Center, thanked Council for their support in the past and stated the City has made it possible to have the recreation center for the kids. She explained if there were to be a cut to the \$6,000.00 donation to the recreation center, since the City is the major contributor in making it happen, would probably need to at least double the cost of the fee. She explained one of the things she has prided herself on and one of the things Council should pride them selves on is the current cost. The current cost is \$15.00 per student and \$5.00 per activity which makes it pretty much affordable to any child. She explained kids can't wait to get old enough to attend and for a lot of kids this is their summer. She would really hate to double the fee. She hopes Council will keep this in mind when they are considering things. She explained in 14 years the fees haven't had to be raised that much. She explained the initial fee use to be \$10.00 now it is \$15.00 and the trip fee use to be \$2.00 now it is \$5.00. She explained Sean and her wages haven't gone up in 13 years but it is not about the money it is about giving our kids a place to be.

Nancy Harwood, RSVP Director, explained they are very active in Scappoose. They are currently working on a new program, which would help put 175 72-hour kits in Seniors and Special Needs Citizens homes in the City of Scappoose.

Council President Ingham stated she feels this is a great thing that RSVP is doing.

Councilor Meres asked Ms. Harwood if she has contact the Scappoose Fire District regarding funds that might be available through grants.

Councilor Gedlich explained regarding St. Vincent de Paul she would like to make sure that any dollars that may get donated to them goes to Columbia Pacific Food Bank for St. Vincent De Paul towards food purchase only.

Mayor Burge recessed for a break at 8:23 p.m. and reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

Councilor Bernhard explained he has been involved some way with the City now for about 6 years and during those times the City had some really rough times. He stated this is by far the best budget he has ever seen. He explained during the bad times certain groups that had come before us have suffered along with us when we had to cut back. He feels this is one of the few times that maybe they don't have to cut back, maybe there are something they can do and support the community just a little bit better. He thanked everyone who showed up tonight and he appreciates all their time and effort and everything they put forth in the community.

Councilor Bernhard moved and Council President Ingham seconded the motion that Council approve \$38,000.00 in Community Contributions, to be distributed as follows: \$7,500.00 to Columbia County, \$6,500.00 to Historical Society, \$5,000.00 to Historical Museum on Saturday, \$5,000.00 to Scappoose Senior Center, \$1,000.00 Kiwanis 4th of July Parade, \$7,000.00 to Youth Rec Center, \$3,000.00 Columbia County RSVP and \$3,000.00 to St. Vincent de Paul. \$8,000.00 will come from contingency.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Council President Ingham seconded the amendment to the motion to add that the payment to St. Vincent DePaul payment gets made out to Columbia Pacific Food Bank for food credit for St. Vincent de Paul.

Councilor Meres expressed his concern with the money going to the Watts House. Councilor Bernhard explained he use to feel that way about the money going towards the Watts House, but he has realized that the money is being spent wisely and it is such an asset to the community. He stated he is very proud of the Watts House and feels it is money well spent. Councilor Meres replied he agrees it is a beautiful place and he supports it 100% but he just doesn't want to take food out of somebody's mouth.

Councilor Gedlich thanked the Historical Committee for all the work they have done at the Watts House.

Mayor Burge explained he is very happy to have the Watts House open on Saturdays.

Mayor Burge would like to discuss the community contributions in June along with the final budget as it has been done in the past.

Motion on amendment passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Ingham, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Bernhard, aye; Councilor Smith, aye; Councilor Judd, aye; and Councilor Meres, aye.

Motion on main motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Ingham, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Bernhard, aye; Councilor Smith, aye; Councilor Judd, aye; and Councilor Meres, aye.

AFSCME Union Contract

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report.

Council President Ingham moved and Councilor Judd seconded the motion that Council ratify the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME Union Local 1442-1 as presented. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Ingham, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Bernhard, aye; Councilor Smith, aye; Councilor Judd, aye; and Councilor Meres, aye.

Announcements

Mayor Burge went over the Calendar. The next meeting will be on August 6, 2007.

City Manager

City Manager Hanken handed out some draft ordinance for a future workshop regarding noise and special events.

He handed out to the Council a drawing of what the "Scappoose Jet Center" is proposed to look.

He explained the carpet in City Hall and the Council Chambers needs to be replaced. He wanted to give Council a heads up that there may be a Council meeting that will need to be cancelled due to the replacement.

He stated he is really excited about getting the Grant for the park.

Councilors

Councilor Gedlich thanked Mr. Hanken and staff for the wonderful presentation when applying for the park grant. She also congratulated Susan Pentecost on her conferences and schooling and told her to keep up the good work. Susan Pentecost replied thank you for your support.

Councilor Meres thanked Mr. Hanken also. He also thanked the Oregon National Guard. He commented on the marching band that is practicing, he thinks that is great. He loves to see things happening in our community.

Councilor Bernhard is also happy about the progress of the park. He will be gone for the August 6, 2007 meeting.

Council President Ingham is happy about the park. She thanked City Manager Hanken for the good job on the grant. She won't be here at the August 6, 2007 meeting. She thanked Susan Pentecost for saving money on training because of getting two scholarships. She stated she appreciates all her hard work and tenacity.

Councilor Judd congratulated City Manager Hanken.

Councilor Smith would like when the carpet is replaced that they use low fume glue. She explained she went to the Derik Anderson football camp. She explained members of the community came up to her and thanked her as a Council for going ahead with the park without the grant funding and not using that for an excuse no to build that park. She knows there are going to be a lot of people ecstatic when they hear the new about the grant. She thanked City Manager Hanken for all his work.

Mayor Burge thanked City Manager Hanken for his hard work on the grant.

Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

City of Scappoose, Oregon

Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest: _____
Susan M Pentecost, City Recorder