

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.  
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON**

**Call to Order**

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

**Flag Salute**

**Roll Call**

The meeting of the City of Scappoose City Council 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
Jeff Bernhard	Council President
Donna Gedlich	Councilor
Larry P. Meres	Councilor
Art Heerwagen	Councilor
Jeff Erickson	Councilor

**Staff:**

Jon Hanken	City Manager
Doug Greisen	Police Chief
Susan Reeves	City Recorder

**Press:**

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Excused: Councilor Judie Ingham and Legal Counsel

**Approval of Agenda**

Council President Bernhard moved and Councilor Gedlich seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Heerwagen, aye; Councilor Meres, aye and Councilor Erickson, aye.

**Public Comments**

None

**Consent Agenda**

**January 19, 2010 City Council Meeting**

Council President Bernhard moved and Councilor Gedlich seconded the motion to approve the January 19, 2010 City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Heerwagen, aye; Councilor Meres, aye and Councilor Erickson, aye.

## **VFW Presentation ~ Ron Urban**

Ron Urban, Scappoose, explained the VFW is here to represent their proposal for the sign to be placed at the Scappoose Veterans Park. He explained they feel the 3 X 3 ¼ foot sign looks better in the proposed location than the 4 foot sign because they don't want a billboard, everyone knows it is the park. Russ Crawford explained what he is holding is the exact size of the 3 X 3 ¼ foot sign that they are proposing.

Ron Urban explained later on the VFW would like to propose having a memorial site at the Scappoose Veterans Park.

Councilor Gedlich asked if there will be a cement pad around the sign. Ron Urban replied that is what they would like to see. He explained it would be about 6 feet in width and 2 or 2.4 feet wide.

Councilor Gedlich asked what is the price of the sign. Russ Crawford replied the cost of the sign which includes installation is \$3,500.00. City Manager Hanken explained he will have something for lighting in the next budget.

Also present this evening from the Local VFW ~ Frank Weber, Jerry Peal and Chuck Welter with the local VFW. Mayor Burge thanked the VFW for their hard work.

## **New Business**

### **Veterans Park Fence**

Mayor Burge explained he was contacted by Mr. Lohman regarding the fence at Scappoose Veterans Park. He explained what Little League has budgeted for is a galvanized fence around the ball fields and the dug out. Mr. Lohman wanted to know if the Council would be interested in doing a black vinyl & black powder coated fence instead of the galvanized fence and the City of Scappoose would have to pick up the difference of approximately \$12,000.00.

Councilor Gedlich asked which last the longest and holds up the best.

Councilor Meres stated he would have to say the galvanized.

Council President Bernhard replied in his experience around the different ball fields he feels the black vinyl and black powder looks good. He explained the galvanized fence over time doesn't look as good. They get rusty looking and seems like it needs more maintenance. He explained he could go either way on this one, but that is just from his experience that the black coated fences seems to look better longer.

City Manager Hanken replied yes it does look nice, however when the black vinyl starts to getting peeled away, and it will, vandalism is always an issue that we are going to be dealing with.

Councilor Erickson stated in his opinion galvanized is fine and if they want black coated powder coated fencing the Little League could probably find \$12,000.00 because the City has bought a lot for that park for baseball.

Councilor Heerwagen explained he would rather see a galvanized fence go in because he doesn't think the black vinyl is worth \$12,000.00 more.

Councilor Gedlich made a motion and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion that the Scappoose City Council is recommending Scappoose Little League go with galvanized fencing. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Heerwagen, aye; Councilor Meres, aye and Councilor Erickson, aye.

Mayor Burge explained he will contact Mr. Lohman tomorrow morning and let him know what the motion was.

**Ordinance No. 809: An Ordinance Relating to Land Use and Amending Municipal Code Chapters 17.26 (Definitions) and 17.84 (Sensitive Lands—Flooding)**

Mayor Burge read the opening statement.

City Planner Brian Varricchione read over the staff report. He explained the City is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is a program ran by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Since the City participates in this program property owners here are able to obtain flood insurance. The City is classified as a Class 7 community, which allows a 15% discount to our residents and that is due to our floodplain regulations. Periodically FEMA comes through and reviews how the City does business. They reviewed our floodplain regulations and compared them to the way they like to see the language written and they have a number of changes they wanted to see to make sure the City's code meets their standards specifications. He explained to Council in front of them this evening is an ordinance that would align the City's floodplain development regulations with those that FEMA requires and with the Oregon Model Code for Floodplains. The Planning Commission did review and they recommend approval. He explained from his personal opinion most of the amendments are more clerical or bookkeeping updates. The way the City does business will not be changing overall.

Mayor Burge opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Burge asked City Planner Brian Varricchione if the Smith's concerns that were addressed in their letter answered. City Planner Brian Varricchione replied the Smith's did come and testify at the Planning Commission hearing. He explained he doesn't know if they were completely satisfied with the response but they were at least heard. Their concerns were less to do with the updates to the code than with the significant erosion that they are having due to their location on the creek.

Mayor Burge closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Council President Bernhard moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 809: An Ordinance Relating to Land Use and Amending Municipal Code Chapters 17.26 (Definitions) and 17.84 (Sensitive Lands—Flooding) as presented.

Mayor Burge read the title for the first time.

### **Solid Waste Disposal Fee Study for Columbia County**

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained what Council has before them is the Solid Waste Disposal Fee Study for Columbia County. As part of the intergovernmental agreement with the County and all the municipalities the County is required to give each municipality the opportunity to comment on the report before the County holds its public hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the County Commissioners office. He explained this report is related to the disposal fee cost and potential fee adjustments for the Transfer Station. He explained the proposed recommended changes to the operation of the Transfer Station include: discontinuing the Sunday operations which would reduce the overall operational cost of the facility, eliminate the senior citizens discounts, incorporate a fee structure for unrestrained loads and there would be a fee adjustment associated with that. As part of this report Council can choose to make a recommendation to accept the report, Council can choose to not make any recommendations or adopt the report or Council can make comments to the advisory committee. The Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee has recommended that this be brought to the County Commissioners as presented and he believes the City of Vernonia has recommended the findings in this study as well.

Dan Wilson, District Manager for Waste Management, 1601 Railroad Avenue, St. Helens and Dave Huber, Representing Waste Management Columbia County Transfer Station are both here this evening to answer any questions Council may have.

Dan Wilson explained the last rate increase for the Columbia County Transfer Station was in 1998. He explained the County is proposing an approximate \$12.00 increase to the current rate. He explained this increase would fund the household hazardous waste collection facility, dump stoppers and the capital improvements for the facility. He explained approximately \$1.00 of the increase would be Waste Managements portion. He explained the original increase the County proposed was about \$20.00 a ton instead and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee worked through that and tried to lessen that amount. In the state of the economy they didn't want to increase rates anymore than they had too. One of the proposals was to be closed on Sunday.

Council President Bernhard asked why get rid of the senior discount, off all things? Dan Wilson replied the primary problem with the senior discount is it is widely abused. He explained what they have see a lot is people coming to the transfer station will bring an elderly neighbor, they will go get their dad and they will bring them along to try to get the senior rate. He explained trash coming from a senior cost just as much to process as anybody else's waste. He explained overtime we have just seen more and more what appears to be abusive of that.

Council President Bernhard asked if there's any way or any other idea that has come up to police that particular situation. He explained where he is going with this you are targeting a segment group that is normally on a set income and they don't have the ability to increase their wages but yet we are increasing their fees so are there any other ideas of how you can police or maintain the senior discount without the abuse that is currently going on.

Dave Huber stated one thing that they have implemented just recently is for them to verify their age and that does seem to help but yet we still see a lot of misuse. Dan Wilson explained they have a camera system as well and they have tried to monitor it that way.

Mayor Burge asked if they could limit the trips the amount of trips to once a week or something like that. He stated by removing the senior discount because of some bad apples that are abusing the system you are going to punish the other seniors out there that are using it appropriately.

Councilor Gedlich explained she is a senior and if she has her truck full of garbage or full of debris she is going to have her son with her to help, does that mean she is cheating. She stated there has got to be a way to do it without punishing hundreds of seniors in Columbia County. What she would like to see eventually is mandatory garbage service so this kind of stuff won't be happening.

Dan Wilson stated to Councilor Gedlich please accept our apology if we offended you, that certainly was not their intention. He stated they were just trying to explain some of the rationale behind the increase. There has been a lot of discussion over several years trying to work with this so it is fair and equitable. They certainly don't target seniors just as they come through the gate. He explained they see patterns of people that come in alone to the transfer station for awhile and then they learn about the senior discount and then they will bring in an elder friend or what appears to be that way. He stated some of them have admitted that's what they do. Councilor Gedlich stated a lot of them are going to have someone come and help them.

City Manager Hanken explained when he met with County staff they discussed their concerns also when they saw the elimination of the senior discount. He explained one of the things that they are talking about, which Councilor Gedlich isn't too far off, is that they want to approach this in a multi prong type approach. Again what they are primarily talking about here is the self hauler. He explained getting more people to participate in the curbside pickup and trying again to work more towards higher participation. He explained if they can provide the senior discount at the curbside collection it would eliminate the issue at the transfer station.

Mayor Burge stated if he was running it he would try to keep the senior discount but limit what seniors are able to bring in to the transfer station.

Councilor Heerwagen stated they could limit it to 200 lbs or something like that and anything over you pay the full rate. He wondered with a rate increase to this size if there had been any thought of it increasing illegal dumping in the County.

Dave Huber replied it actually was addressed; a certain portion of this increase will go to the Dump Stoppers Program. He explained there is a piece in the study for unrestrained self haul loads and that is one thing they have been working with the County one. He explained there is a fee involved for customers who have an unsecured load and those proceeds go directly to the Dump Stoppers Program.

Mayor Burge asked if there was any discussion in this document on automatic CPI adjustment.

Dan Wilson replied one of the things we are trying to establish is a routine look at this instead of waiting so long. They have discussed coming back every year or every other year at looking at this.

Councilor Gedlich asked if the Sunday transfer station service is completely eliminated what about the people that work. She stated there are so many people that work and if they only have Saturday. Dave Huber replied that is a tough one and we have discussed that in lengths on what the best solution is. He explained on any given Saturday there are 150 to 200 customers and it is generally lower on Sundays. Councilor Gedlich suggested maybe being open one or two Sundays a month. Dan Wilson stated that is certainly a valid point but Sundays by far are their slowest days. He explained they are looking at ways they serve the community and yet try to cut some costs.

Council President Bernhard explained he his not in the position at this time to accept this fees study due to the methodology of the senior citizen portion of this and he doesn't have a problem with the rate increase throughout the document but he does have an issue with that particular piece.

City Manager Hanken replied as a Council if you choose for him to attend the meeting and take Councils views up with the County Commission he can do that or if Council would just rather have their concerns put in a letter and forwarded to the County Commission, he can do that as well.

Council President Bernhard would like to see City Manager Hanken attend the meeting with one of our local senior citizens addressing the issue.

Mayor Burge he would even go a step further and suggest that there is a limit of 200 pounds for the senior discount. Dan Wilson replied that is a good idea.

Councilor Gedlich made a motion and Council President Bernhard seconded the motion to recommend that the Scappoose City Council accept the report with the exception of the senior citizen discount, with the specific recommendation of finding a why where they limit the amount of garbage a senior can bring in based on averages per month to qualify for the senior discount and to provide testimony at the public hearing by our representative City Manager Jon Hanken and a volunteer senior to participate.

Mayor Burge stated he thinks Councils only issue is that one area and the rest we don't have problem with. He stated I think Council wants that conveyed. He stated the report is fine with that one exception.

Councilor Gedlich stated there has got to be a system for seniors whether it is a card that you punch or a little credit card, there has got to be other ways. She thinks the rate for the seniors is outrageous.

Council President Bernhard replied it isn't just about the discount it is politically it is the sound thing to do. We are honoring our senior citizens by giving them some type of discount and he thinks we need to continue to move forward with that. Mayor Burge agrees.

Dan Wilson stated if he may suggest that if Council is okay with the rest of the study maybe that could be in the motion ~ except for the part regarding senior discount.

Councilor Gedlich wants to make sure it is on the record that Council discussed not only the senior rate increase but the hours of the Sunday closure might not be so great and maybe some mandatory service for seniors here in town or Columbia County; that would encourage them to get curbside service. She wanted City Manager Hanken to write up Councils concerns and express them at the meeting.

Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Heerwagen, aye; Councilor Meres, aye and Councilor Erickson, aye.

## **Announcements**

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

## **City Manager Hanken**

City Manager Hanken explained staff has completed the City's portion of the audit and it will be sent to the State tomorrow.

The Scappoose Drainage District will be meeting at Scappoose Council Chambers on February 10, 2010 at 6 p.m.

City/County meeting will be on March 24, 2010 in Clatskanie.

The goal setting session will be on Saturday March 13, 2010.

## **Councilors**

Councilor Gedlich explained there was an ad-hoc meeting last week and it went very well. She thanked staff for all their hard work. She stated she can't wait for the sign to be placed at Scappoose Veterans Park.

Council President Bernhard stated the economic meeting that he and Mayor Burge attended he highly recommends that other Councilors and citizens attend those meetings.

Councilor Erickson thanked Police Chief Greisen for all they do at night when most people are asleep.

Councilor Heerwagen will not be able to attend the goal setting session.

Mayor Burge explained he is going to follow up on the Economic Development Committee he went there to observe and it was very informative, there was some good direction give and great discussion that are developing to citizens. He is really excited about the prospects of the future of business opportunities coming to this community.

Mayor Burge explained Saturday night was the Miss America Competition and CC Barber made it to the final competition. She was chosen by all the other girls to be one of the semi-finalists. Congratulations CC!

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**City of Scappoose, Oregon**

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Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan M Reeves, CMC  
City Recorder