

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVE
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON**

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

Flag Salute

Attendance:

City Council Members:

Scott Burge	Mayor
Jeff Bernhard	Council President
Donna Gedlich	Councilor
Larry P. Meres	Councilor
Jeff Erickson	Councilor
Mark Reed	Councilor

Cindy Phillips	Legal Counsel
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Staff:

Jon Hanken	City Manager
Doug Greisen	Police Chief

Press:

Chelsea Bowen	The Chronicle
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Excused: Councilor Judie Ingham and City Recorder Susan Reeves

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comments (this is where the tape started)

Patrick Trapp, Port of St. Helens, explained it has been a couple of months since he has been here and he wanted to do a follow up and give Council an update on a few things the Port is working on. He thanked City Manager Hanken as well as staff for their assistance in the Ports recent application for the Connect Oregon Four grant process in putting together a hope of bringing some infrastructure at the Scappoose Airport; mainly water and sewer opportunities on the left side. He would also like to let Council know the Port has just started their strategic business plan process which is a State requirement. He explained they will be starting an update to their Master Plan for the Airport with the FAA and that will hopefully be completed at the end of 2012. He explained finally some good news they are moving forward they have got secured a loan amount through Business Oregon and will be moving ahead with construction of the 22,000 square foot building at the airport to support the expansion of Oregon Aero.

Council thanked Patrick Trapp.

Barb Hayden wanted to remind everyone to stop by the Watts House, it looks beautiful.

Consent Agenda ~ November 21, 2011 City Council Meeting minutes

November 21, 2011 City Council Meeting minutes are not available at this time.

Old Business

November 8, 2011 Election Results

City Manager Hanken explained what Council has before them is the abstract for the November 8, 2011 Election. Measure 5-220, updates to the Scappoose City Charter was on the ballot. He is asking Council for a motion to accept the abstract.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion that Council accept the November 8, 2011 election results as presented by the Columbia County Clerk's Office. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

Waste Water Update

Steve Wabschall, Wastewater Supervisor, gave an update to Council on this year's budget and some of the projects they have been working on. He explained the last couple of years there have been a major update to the treatment plant and that's being completed. They are now basically in a maintenance budget. He explained on a maintenance budget he likes to start the first part of the budget year when the money is first available and keep some in reserve. He explained the first thing they did was pain the clarifiers, which was about a month and a half project. He explained the fuel station at the treatment plant had some maintenance problems, some mechanical and structural problems that were rebuilt. They used funds from all departments to do that and it made it a little more user friendly. He explained the fence and the gate at the compound were repaired for better security. The 5 stand-by generators at the treatment plant and the lift stations were all services and tested for load. He explained sludge was applied to the City owned fields adjacent to the wastewater plant, this is a yearly project. He explained the collection system that is where a lot of the work happened in this year's budget. This year 38,461 feet of the collection system lines were cleaned and videoed. He explained most of the field services crew did this work. He explained the GIS has been very valuable in identifying the locations of not only the man holes but all the spot repairs and that is the document you will see at the end of the staff report.

Councilor Gedlich thanked Steve Wabschall for his report and said to be sure and tell his staff how much they appreciate them.

New Business

N.E. 3rd Street Extension Project

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained Council needs to authorize moving ahead with designing the N.E. 3rd Street road extension that would connect N.E. 3rd Street with Crown Zellerbach Road. Bidding the construction portion of the project would follow after the design has been approved.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Councilor Meres seconded the motion that Council authorize staff to begin the engineer and design portion of N.E. 3rd Street connection project. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

Judge Shera Taylor's Retirement

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained Council has received a notice from Judge Taylor related to her retirement. Her effective retire date is December 31, 2011. He explained under Chapter 5, Section 18 of the Scappoose City Charter, Council fills the Judges position by appointment. He explained staff sees Council as basically having two options: one we are currently in an agreement with the City of St. Helens for judicial services and the other approach Council would be to end that agreement with the City of St. Helens and go out for contracting for municipal judge on your own. From staff standpoint he thinks it would be in Councils best interest to hire a municipal court judge directly and end the agreement with the City of St. Helens.

Councilor Gedlich asked City Manager Hanken what is his reason for terminating this.

City Manager Hanken replied one of the reasons is because both the municipal court judge and the prosecuting attorney, to some extent he will call, have a little bit closer relationship than what he thinks it should be. He explained in addition he knows there were some issues with the judge and the prosecuting attorney working on Scappoose' clients on St. Helens time and visa versa. That accountability was difficult in order to maintain that. He stated from the financial standpoint in terms of what we are paying for the prosecuting attorney and municipal judge he feels we can do a little better.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion that Council terminate the agreement with St. Helens and begin the process to recruit a municipal court judge and prosecutor.

Councilor Meres stated in some ways he feels it is an asset to have the judge working in both cities because there are a lot of the same people here and in St. Helens.

City Manager Hanken replied part of the difficulty at least from him is maintaining a separate Scappoose Municipal Court. We have our payments that need to be made to the State and to the County. It is very awkward at times when somebody comes in and says they had their case heard in St. Helens.

Councilor Gedlich feels like the legality of it would be her concern.

Legal Counsel Cindy Phillips stated sitting here listening to Council discuss this it seems to her that Scappoose really ought to have their own independent judge.

Mayor Burge explained by terminating the contract now it gives the City of Scappoose the option, we can always renegotiate something at a later date. He feels the City should do an RFP separately for both the judge and the prosecutors. He also liked Councilor Gedlich's idea that she told him regarding having a committee with 3 council members and a staff member go through them and make a decision to choose the tops ones for an interview.

Mayor Burge explained why don't we within the termination of this contract indicate that we are going to terminate it as soon as we have a new judge because in the interim we are going to need to use the contract to have the back up judge come in.

Legal Counsel Cindy Phillips explained Council could also just appoint an interim judge until you decided who your permanent was going to be.

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

Councilor Meres, Councilor Gedlich and Councilor Reed all stated they would like to be on the committee to help sort through applications for the municipal judge.

Announcements

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

Police Chief

Police Chief Greisen reminded everyone that "Donut Day" will be on December 17, 2011 between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Scappoose Police Department.

Council

Councilor Gedlich thanked staff for all their hard work.


Councilor Meres thanked everyone for their hard work on the Christmas lighting the other night, it was fun.

Mayor Burge stated the Watts House lighting was a good event and very fun. He stated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.


Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest: 
Susan M Reeves, CMC, City Recorder