

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE
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

Staff:

Jon Hanken	City Manager
Doug Greisen	Police Chief
Norm Miller	Police Lieutenant
Susan Reeves	City Recorder

Press:

Shari Phiel	The Chronicle
-------------	---------------

Excused: Councilor Judie Ingham and Legal Counsel

Also in attendance: Barb Hayden, Planning Commission; Teresa Keller, Budget Committee; Marty Baldwin; Budget Committee; Jason Meshell, Budget Committee, Don Sallee, Building Official; Brian Varricchione, City Planner; Joe Lewis, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor; Terry Andrews, Field Services Supervisor; Steve Wabschall, Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor; Darryl Sykes, Water Treatment Plant Operator; and Jill Herr, Finance Administrator.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda ~ March 19, 2012 City Council meeting minutes

Councilor Gedlich moved and Council President Bernhard seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ March 19, 2012 City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye, and Councilor Reed, aye.

Proclamation ~ National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Burge read the National Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

New Business ~ School Mascot Issue

City Manager Hanken explained to Council as you recall at the previous Council meeting there was some preliminary discussion related to the Oregon Department of Education's effort of implementing rules, basically banning the use of Native American mascots and their likes related to schools. Council asked that he put some information together and come back in terms of some sort of a recommendation that City Council might want to consider. He explained he included with the staff report publication that the State Board of Education has put out. He explained it is pretty much his conclusion that the State is going to implement those rules and by 2017 those 15 schools that have a mascot that's related to a Native American will be either required to change their mascot or lose State funding. He stated the State will be holding public hearings which there will be one in May and there is an opportunity for comment and Council can comment if they so decide. He explained from his standpoint recognizing that this is going to happen the next question gets to be is how can we help the Scappoose School District work through whatever process they are going to work through in order to make this transition a smooth one. He explained as part of the discussions Joe Lewis is here tonight, who is our Water Plant Superintendent and is also the President of the Scappoose School Board.

Joe Lewis stated the mascot issue has never been intended to ridicule or make fun of any Native peoples however there are hundreds if not thousands of Scappoose High School alumni who were proud to call themselves Indians throughout the course of their political and academic time at the school. He thinks we have to lend an ear to human beings feelings, however he does wish the discussion was taking on a community level and not coming from Salem. He would be very curious to see a pole of community Native Americans and see just how they felt about it. He stated he does agree that he thinks it may be inevitable that the Indian mascot will not longer be accessible. He explained it is not on the top of the list of the District's priorities right now; they have contract negotiations with the teachers, a very difficult budget to settle and they are searching for a new superintendent.

Councilor Gedlich stated she thinks that our society is becoming so politically correct that we're kind of ignoring our history. She has to say that she feels really, really bad about this. However she would like to see this body not only support the School District but also the alumni and the current students. She would like Council to write a letter to the Oregon Education Board and she would also like to write a resolution supporting our mascot. She would also like to say that she is also half Native American and in the last 15 to 20 years the whole nation has had history with the Native Americans; whether it's the name of their town, the name of their school, the name of their store, and the name of a special event. She thinks we need to be very sure of what we are doing for our future students and also to think of the alumni. She explained she read an article that it cost one of the districts almost \$400,000.00 to change their mascot. She asked where would the School District come up with that kind of revenue.

Council President Bernhard asked what is the schools stance, where does the Board stand on this issue.

Joe Lewis replied the Board really hasn't had a lot of discussion on the mascot issue, although the feeling is that reading the documents that have come from Salem that it may be something that is enviable in the near future.

Council President Bernhard stated he is thinking maybe we should just kind of go on a holding pattern until the School actually comes up with an official stance on it. He would hate to be in odds with where the School stands.

Councilor Gedlich replied she agrees with him to a point but the public hearings are coming up in the next 3 or 4 weeks and this is suppose to basically go into effect the first part of May or June so we don't really have a timeline here.

City Manager Hanken explained if you read the report that was given they're talking about a 5 year implementation.

Council President Bernhard asked Joe Lewis knowing that the public hearings are coming up do you expect this to be on any future School District agendas coming up.

Joe Lewis replied he expects it will be in the future but as he says they have some very pressing and serious issues to deal with before they get to this level of involvement. He explained he would really like to hear more public input on the mascot issue.

Council President Bernhard replied he actually is in support of what Councilor Gedlich is saying but he also looking at this from a Council perspective. He stands on what he said previously that he feels Council should take a wait and see stance and see if they are in line with the School Board.

Mayor Burge explained the hearing at the State is the 27 of April and Council will have another meeting before that. He asked if the School Board will have a meeting before then.

Joe Lewis replied they will be meeting in a week.

Councilor Gedlich asked Joe Lewis if he will make sure this is on the agenda.

Joe Lewis replied he will do that.

Mayor Burge explained his opinion is the schools that have these mascots should have the opportunity to work with the tribes to develop a proper messaging so we can maintain the roots that we celebrate. He explained no body created this name to denigrate anyone, it was a way to honor. He stated there is a statement in the handout that states it won't "white wash the history of the Native Americans" but it will white wash the learning opportunity for people in the local schools to learn about local history and local events that effected the area that they live in today. He stated you are doing it to honor these groups of people and if you can find a way to better honor them he thinks that is the best way to go.

Councilor Gedlich stated Scappoose is an Indian name so are they going to make us change the name of our town.

Councilor Erickson stated eventually you are going to lose the Indian title, unfortunately. He stated realistically you could come to middle ground and say such as the "tribe", because tribes existed in every continent in the world at some time and then either tie in the spear or the feather.

Councilor Reed agrees with Councilor Gedlich that we are getting too politically correct.

Councilor Meres stated he actually doesn't have an opinion. He understands the politically correctness of it. He doesn't think we should get ahead of the school.

Mayor Burge stated his biggest concern is for the tax payer because the School District is going to pay a lot of money to make all the changes. He explained he likes tribe or even chinook.

City Manager Hanken explained he feels we should be following the school and what they decide to do.

Council President Bernhard and Mayor Burge replied they are in agreement to that.

Councilor Gedlich would like to send the State Board of Education a nice letter to say that we support the School District; however there are concerns from our constituents about the mascot.

Mayor Burge replied he agrees.

Jason Meshell, Scappoose, explained he thinks Councilor Gedlich has a good point. He stated why did the school choose the mascot they have. He stated we can sit back and say it is a school issue but the school is a part of the community, community is lead by the Council and some times the Council should stand up and say what its opinion is at a particular moment in support of what they believe maybe related to the community. He explained if the Indian is no longer a part of the community then the Police Chief will need to change his badge because there is a spear on the side and all the logos from the cars will have to be removed. He stated what he is asking the Council today as a historical important fact of our town and our heritage and our history can you say as a Council, can you take a vote, to say you would like to put in some public comments in Salem talking about the historical perspective of Indians in public life, as part of our history. He stated you may have different opinions but at least take a stand from a leadership perspective. He does think the window is closing and just because something is "inevitable" doesn't mean we should just throw up our hands. He does support the Council taking a stand at some point.

Councilor Meres stated he likes the tribe.

Chris Waggoner, Scappoose, explained he thinks we are making a much bigger deal out of this mascot thing than we should be. He thinks it should be changed. He would agree with tribe.

Mayor Burge feels we are trying to look at how you honor the people that are in the history of this area versus offending them.

Council President Bernhard stated to Jason Meshell that he thinks he is right that the Council at some point needs to take a stance and that they were voted into this position to do so even on topics, that are understandably not a priority right now for the School District, but he is sure will become a hot button here fairly soon. He also agrees with Mr. Meshell that all of the Council will have to stand up and say what they think is right or wrong as a Council. He doesn't know if tonight is that night. He would like to see the School District talk about it and decide if they are either in support or not in support of the States decision.

Councilor Gedlich moved and (no second) that the Scappoose City Council authorize staff to keep in touch with the Scappoose School District and come back to next meeting with as much information as what he can.

City Manager Hanken replied you have the School Board President right here.

Councilor Gedlich would really like something in the record. She would like something in writing not only for Mr. Lewis but for the interim superintendent and the other board members. She wants the School District to know we are cooperating with them and they know that we are and that we are not trying to over step our boundary.

Mayor Burge stated to Council Gedlich that she is in the middle of making a motion and he wanted to clarify and asked her what does she want her motion to do.

Councilor Gedlich replied she just wants him to bring back some more information and for the people at the School District to know what we are doing.

Mayor Burge asked City Manager Hanken if he can do that for the next meeting.

City Manager Hanken replied sure.

Councilor Gedlich explained she just wants the School District information. She stated that is all she is asking and bring the information back.

Joe Lewis explained he would suggest that they keep the lines of communication open between the District and the Council. He stated any developments that they hear of or actions that they take will certainly be communicated to this body and any actions or decisions that the Council may take you should communicate with us. He appreciates the support of the Council in the Districts efforts to deal with issue, but as he says they have some serious issues ahead of the mascot issue, not to down play the importance of the mascot issue. He explained there was a meeting in Salem and our District was very well represented by High School Principle Eric Clendenin and spoke on behalf of our namesake Indians.

Mayor Burge stated why don't we just bring this back at the next meeting, find out where the school is going and see there is a position we want to take before that hearing because it will be before the next meeting and then we'll move forward from there.

Mayor Burge recessed for a break at 7:50 p.m. to set up for the workshop.

Workshop with Budget Committee ~ Council Goals and Budget Process

City Manager Hanken handed out an overview of the budget process. He explained how the budget process works is every two years we start with a goal setting session and in the staff report there are Council goals. He takes those goals and develops, in terms of our budget, the revenues in which he thinks that is going to help meet these goals. He stated some of these goals may be accomplished in one year and some of them may take longer to do. He explained it is kind of a priority type setting in terms of what Council has provided. He explained one of things he wants to do today is give Budget Committee members the opportunity to ask questions.

Jason Meshell explained he would like to see the bigger vision and the bigger goals of the Council because making decisions on particular line items to him felt like sometimes, in a vacuum, not understanding the strategy. He stated sometimes without the context it is hard to make a decision. So last year pretty much what he did is said yes to everything trusting that the Council did have that

context. He said thank you for bringing us into the forum earlier so they will have a better context in which he thinks to make informed decisions and give Council better feed back from the community. He feels the 2012 Goals put down a tactical road map for 2 years. He would still like to see how the tactical goals fit into the vision for the City. He stated if someone comes to him and asks him to tell them about Scappoose, in his mind he has all the history, but where are we going? He said that is still really his question. He loves the goals but he is still looking for a vision, a direction from the Council that says "In 10 years we want to be here". He knows the Urban Growth Boundary is a piece of that but what he would still like to see is the thoughtful process of moving toward the reasons we do these, is because we are trying to get there.

Mayor Burge explained a lot of our master plans that have longer range visions that he thinks Mr. Meshell is looking for. He stated the recession has really slowed some of the developed at the airport. He stated he thinks our vision is 10 years and you are going to see around the airport more airport related manufacturing and more locally based jobs that keep people living here, working here and playing here, instead of leaving at 7:00 a.m. to go to work and getting home at 6:00 p.m. He stated for him that is the goal he envisions as far as the economic side of it. He stated he has had the passion to make sure we have adequate parks in this community that provides for that recreational opportunity that we didn't have growing up.

Jason Meshell asked if that is one of the Councils goals that they want to be a city that people can live, work and play.

Mayor Burge feels that is in the old vision statements.

City Manager Hanken stated in terms of short term add City's vision statement to the budget document.

Councilor Gedlich stated at the last meeting she requested that City Manager Hanken list the goal underneath the fund.

City Manager Hanken replied right, that will be part of the budget document.

Marty Baldwin, newest Budget Committee member, introduced himself and explained he has a not for profit background as the CEO for the Boy Scouts of America. He explained his past experience sounds like exactly what the City does. He stated he is happy to be here.

Mayor Burge stated welcome aboard.

Jason Meshell talked about the 24/7 police coverage in the community; he loves the fact that was outlined last time when they were going through. He stated that was like a long range strategic goal that was important to Police Chief Greisen and important to the Council. He explained before we go into the budget process his thoughts are obviously we could be safer, there is always room for improvement. He asked Police Chief Greisen where do you feel we are as far as the safety goes.

Police Chief Greisen replied there is a lot we don't publish. He thinks we are doing very good over all in this bad economy. He asked do we have 24 hour coverage; yes we do. He stated is it every day; well you have to take into consideration you have employees that are on vacation, injured on or off duty, because of that we don't have 24 hour coverage. He explained just like all the other departments we had to take a cut during the bad economy, we just don't have the funds. He stated

he would like to see the officers come back on the budget, but he thinks every single manager out there from public works to water says the same thing. He stated we are doing okay, he is just grateful to have the officers that he does have.

Jason Meshell asked about transportation. Stated as we create a community; about 75,000 people come through Scappoose daily and he realizes he brought this last time. He asked are we just conceding that we will forever be a City that is divided by a four lane highway and if so what are we doing to change that. When he looked through the transportation report it looked like we were talking about pedestrian safety getting across the streets, looked like we were talking about more carpools to get more traffic off of Highway 30. His questions comes down to in the bigger plan of the City is there a way to address the fact that we have 74,000 migratory workers moving through our City every day at what he would consider the expense of the children trying to cross the street, anybody trying to cross the highway in a vehicle, not just the time but the safety concerns. He knows this is a big issue but he thinks it's one at some point that Council needs to think about ~ live, work and play. Live, work and play in a city that has 74,000 migratory commuters in it every day. He said this is more of a comment ~ in the master transportation plan he sees a bunch of 2012 type goals that he thinks are good. He addressed his concerns again about 74,000 vehicles traveling through Scappoose a day.

City Manager Hanken asked Jason Meshell in a round about way is he suggesting a bypass.

Jason Meshell explained a bypass around the City would have some interesting effects on the businesses, some interesting effects on the City itself and the ability to have a long term, what he would call, a long term livability plan were you wouldn't have an east and west divide, where you wouldn't have the safety concerns of the traffic. He thinks a bypass is something that could be at least invested again. He stated at least if you put a bypass in the actual thinking, maybe you don't ever achieve it but at least you improve what you have because you implemented some of the concepts of what a bypass would actually achieve.

Councilor Gedlich explained a bypass was discussed years and years ago and it was going to go along the agricultural area and none of the property owners at that time were willing to give up any land to do that. She explained what she has envisioned over the years on southeast side of town is the extension of 2nd Street at Havlik Road all the way south to Johnsons Landing.

Mayor Burge replied he feels what Jason Meshell is looking at is conceptually and visually what would the impacts of a bypass over the next 20 to 50 years and what would it look like. He explained he thinks the 2nd Street extension, which he thinks will ultimately happen in the next 20 years, is something that is also necessary as this community continues to grow, in which it will.

Jason Meshell asked if the PCC footprint is still part of the plan?

City Manager Hanken replied PCC is interested but they are waiting to see what happens with the UGB process.

Mayor Burge explained the multiple conversations he has had with PCC they recognize how their votes come down for bond measures in Columbia County every single time and it has been explained to them by multiple people that they have no presence here so why would people want to vote to send you money for building a new school in SE Portland. He said several people, including himself, have explained to PCC unless they have a program out here people aren't going to see the

money that they would be taking from their taxes. He explained the airport would be a perfect area for them to have a program.

Marty Baldwin explained he wanted to make sure he's understanding that the strategic long range plan and the vision that the City has drives the budget.

City Manager Hanken replied correct. He explained based upon these conversations as we prepare the budget document, he's the one who puts the numbers in, and that is something you get when he presents the budget. He explained hearing how the budget gets prepared that's what he is getting out of this conversation, so this is all right on track. He explained knowing how you as a committee want to see the goals associated with the departments and make sure that is outlined. He explained for him what's coming out of this discussion is how does he prepare a better budget document so the committee can understand what staff is trying to implement.

Council President Bernhard explained he thinks as we are going through the budget it would be good to have the goal sheet in front of you and say is there a line item here that correlates with these goals.

Councilor Gedlich replied that is what she wanted goals on the funds.

Council President Bernhard stated when he was on the budget committee a long time ago was also during a tough time for the City we really didn't have any monies what so ever. He explained during those tough times people wanted to have more details on where the monies were going. He thinks that is something we need to consider in this upcoming budget. He does believe a little bit more detail is needed within the budget.

Councilor Gedlich explained she used to do the general fund years ago and in the mid 80's the City had no money. She explained a lot of the constituents don't understand the over all budget because of the general fund, all of the reserve monies, the dedicated funding and all they see is where their tax dollars are going. She thinks when people understand the budget more every year it will get easier. She stated Mr. Hanken and his staff have been so good about the summary of the funds so when you read them it is very understandable. She thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Mayor Burge explained he remembers the Police Department when Chief Greisen came on board as the Police Chief. He explained at that time the cars were falling apart and Chief Greisen literally was working with the military where he got free equipment. He stated we were literally happy to get free equipment from the military. Then we were buying cars from the City of Portland with 100,000 miles on. He explained Chief Greisen found a program in Utah where we can get one and two year old vehicles with very little miles and that let us to just another year leap and we can rotate to a program to where we rotate cars in. It was a long term process but it was well worth it and the money we save and the risk to our officers that we have reduced.

City Manager Hanken replied the money we've saved part of that comes by sometimes saying no. He stated you can budget the money but you don't have to spend it or sometimes things come in under budget. He explained you build up your savings in terms of reserve funds so that later on down the road you can manage that and it will carry over.

Jason Meshell asked about the tennis courts and the City was going to provide a certain amount of money and the School District was going to provide a certain amount of money. He asked is there a

strategy where the School District and the City actually work together on maximizing the public assets, even though they are two different public bodies for maximum leverage of those dollars being spent.

Council President Bernhard replied he thinks we are so much better than we were in the past. He thinks we have grown leaps and bounds in the last 10 years then what we have ever seen from a partnership from the City and the School District standpoint.

Mayor Burge agrees with Council President Bernhard.

City Manager Hanken explained he just had a meeting with the School Superintendent today and the tennis courts are budgeted. The School District has partial bids; they will be getting the other bids and copies to him. He explained once that is done we will issue our portion of the check to them and they can go through their budgeting process.

City Manager Hanken stated this is just a personal comment but he hopes the Park and Recreation District gets resurrected because based upon his views of how to finance a swimming pool you are going to need to have that District in place because the citizens within the City of Scappoose, if he remembers that number correctly, only represent 40% of the overall district voting population.

Mayor Burge asked City Manager Hanken when are the Budget Committee meetings going to take place.

City Manager Hanken replied we will probably have the budget documents prepared late April and meetings first part of May.

Council President Bernhard stated to Jason Meshell that he appreciates his ideas.

Councilor Gedlich stated she thinks just having this workshop has helped before the budget process and that is why she wanted it so those who are noncouncilmember's would be able to ask questions before the budget process starts.

Mayor Burge closed the workshop at 8:53 p.m.

Announcements

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

City Manager

City Manager Hanken reminded Council of the City/County meeting tomorrow night in Rainier. He explained he will be out of the office this next week. He reminded Council the Oregon Ethics Commission forms are out and they need to be returned by the deadline.

Council

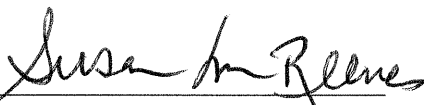
Councilor Gedlich thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Councilor Reed explained he has a very good friend who a couple of weeks ago had the misfortune of dropping her keys into one of the City storm drains. He wanted to convey her thanks for those workers who went out in the pouring down rain, laid flat on their stomachs over a storm drain and fished her keys out. He stated she had nothing but good things to say about it.

Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.


Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest: 
Susan M Reeves, CMC, City Recorder