

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 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
Judie Ingham	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: none

Excused: Legal Counsel

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

Dave Fuller, Scappoose, explained he is running for Columbia County Sheriff. He gave Council an overview of his education and work history.

Council President Bernhard arrived.

Consent Agenda ~ March 5, 2012 City Council meeting minutes and appointment of the Budget Committee Member

Councilor Gedlich moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ March 5, 2012 City Council meeting minutes and the appointment of the Budget Committee Member. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Ingham, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye, and Councilor Reed, aye.

New Business

Resolution No, 12-06: A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget Establishing Appropriations within the 2011-2012 Budget.

Building Official Don Sallee went over the staff report. He explained the in the budget last year he did not budget the correct amount for the contracted inspector because he did not believe we were going to have the work that came in. He is here tonight to ask for \$40,000.00 out of contingency to put in that line item. He doesn't believe they will use all that.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Council President Bernhard seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution No. 12-06: A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget Establishing Appropriations within the 2011-2012 Budget. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Ingham, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

Mayor Burge explained Council will recess to set up for the workshop.

Councilor Gedlich explained she has a comment about this agenda item. She stated she talked to several Budget Committee members that she saw over the weekend and both of those members would like to have the Budget Committee be present when Council discusses the goals so that they understand where Council is coming from regarding the Cities future expansions, infrastructure, streets and where the money is coming from. She asked Mayor Burge if he would like to wait and maybe discuss this at the next meeting if we can get the Budget Committee members on board.

Councilor Ingham asked Councilor Gedlich if the Budget Committee members that Councilor Gedlich talk to did not know there was a meeting tonight where Council would be discussing this.

Councilor Gedlich replied one of the persons could not attend and the other one couldn't be present either, because of such sort notice.

Councilor Meres asked if they were notified.

City Recorder Reeves explained she would have to look on her email address list for who all she sends it to since there are several. She explained she knows there are at least a couple Budget Committee members on the list that receive emails regarding Council meetings.

Mayor Burge replied he can understand where the Budget Committee members would want to be present.

City Manager Hanken explained as of right now there is nothing on the agenda for the April 2 Council meeting. He stated postponing this and getting the Budget Committee members here provides the opportunity to do a joint meeting.

Councilor Ingham replied she will not be at the April 2, 2012 Council meeting.

Council President Bernhard stated in the future what he can see is a potential fix is to make sure the agendas for the City Council meetings go out to all the committee members.

Mayor Burge explained why don't we discuss the goals tonight and then have a joint meeting on April 2, 2012 with the Budget Committee to go over the goals we set tonight.

City Manager Hanken replied and an overview of the budgetary process.

Councilor Gedlich asked if staff can send out a notice of the joint meeting to the Budget Committee soon so they can check their schedule.

Mayor Burge recessed briefly so Council could go into the workshop format.

Review of Goals for the City

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained what he would like to do tonight is just kind of review the goals that were established in 2010 and kind of give Council an update of where we are. He explained right now we are in the process of trying to organize our upcoming budget and what has always been his tradition is making sure his budget reflects the goals of Council in terms of activities that we are doing, that we are continuing to do and those new items that may be coming up. He explained we want to make sure if there is a consensus that Council provides the direction so he knows how to appropriate our resources. He went over the four broad goals; Economics, Public Facilities and Services, Transportation, Natural Factors and Local Resources, that were established and some of the implementation factors that were associated with that.

City Manager Hanken explained Judge Wood and he have had some conversations related to concerns over municipal court. He explained Judge Wood has been here over the past couple of sessions to kind of review things and he has some ideas as to what he wants to implement to try to improve our court system situation.

Judge Wood explained over the last couple of weeks he has had a pleasure of being able to sit back and watch the court process. He explained he sees some good things and he sees something's that he thinks we can do better as a court and as a community. He explained first what he would like to do is address two issues that he thinks were pretty clear of him, and those issues are collections of revenue and also being sensitivity to the citizens of the City of Scappoose. He explained one thing he would like to see happen is essentially a diversion program for traffic violations. He explained the benefit of that program would be that we require the base fines to be paid all upfront in advance. He explained also his thought is to ask for people in this program do some sort of course; defensive driving or other appropriate course to educate and hopefully teach how to drive more safe, so there is a rehabilitating aspect to this. He explained at the same time it gives people an opportunity to avoid insurance hassles. He explained it is clear to him that the folks that are involved in the court process do a phenomenal job and are working very hard. He explained he would like to bring in and utilize some volunteer resources to make things go better. He knows some law students that would jump at the opportunity to learn and be involved in the judicial process. His goal is to hopefully recruit 4 or so volunteer clerks to help do things that would be very helpful to everyone. He explained by having the volunteers how it will make the court more efficient. He explained he has been through the files, been through a lot of files and something that he caught at least last week there were two files in particular that said "x" person owed basically a lot more money then what they did owe and what was going on is he thinks it is a glitch in the software what have you, it is not accurate. He spoke with the Finance Manager and he thinks they got that reassessed. He explained he knows Council talked to him about a big outstanding budget and if those files were a representation that big number it may not be nearly as big what it may be. So what he thinks they need to emphasize and figure out is what are the actual numbers that are owing. He explained those are some of the ideas he has in the short term to hopefully get things moving, get things running a little more efficiently and obviously hopefully everyone will be a little happier with the court process in general.

Councilor Gedlich asked who would fund the diversion program.

Judge Wood replied there really is no funding issue it's just a matter of time.

Councilor Gedlich thinks the idea is wonderful. She asked if the volunteers would have a full background check and they would be covered.

City Manager Hanken replied we would make sure we complied with CCIS requirements.

Council President Bernhard stated to Judge Wood you brought up auditing a couple of cases and obviously there was an incorrectness there in budgetary numbers. He asked are we looking at potential audit for us to review these files again and if we are what kind of financing are we talking to complete this.

City Manager Hanken replied Judge Philips has gone through all the files, in terms of identifying which ones are just so old there probably isn't anything that we are going to be able to do with them. He explained there are some that have issues related to a traffic offense then it went to criminal, nothing has been adjudicated out. He stated like he said we have gone through all the files now is the implementation stage were Judge Wood comes in terms of he now goes through and there will be some where he is going to make a decision as to how he wants to proceed. He explained one of the things he is looking at in terms of dealing with potential back log of cases is budgeting for having additional court sessions to catch up.

Judge Wood talked about the idea of a night court. He explained there are advantages to having a night court like accommodating schedules. He feels this could be a very good thing and another way this court can make things better for the citizens of this community.

Council President Bernhard stated he wanted to go back again and he asked who completed the audit of the files.

Councilor Gedlich replied Cathy.

Council President Bernhard asked so did Cathy complete this audit prior to Judge Wood looking at the files? He stated to Judge Wood you have only been here for a week and you found two files with a large variance of money owed so then that brings questions to him of polices, procedures, process flows. He explained it also brings up the question did we audit correctly and if we didn't audit correctly how much money is it going to cost to audit correctly. He asked are we looking at a larger problem here.

City Manager Hanken replied help me understand what you mean by audit because when he says audit he brings somebody in to audit. He stated if you are just talking about going through the files.

Council President Bernhard replied going through the files. He stated it sound to him that Judge Wood reviewed files and within those files he found large discrepancy in two of those files that he gave examples of. He stated because he found those two files that were large discrepancies he has to question how many more files do we have out there with large discrepancies.

City Manager Hanken asked Judge Wood if he randomly pulled those files or were they files Judge Phillips.

Judge Wood replied there was a stack of files that were in process to be reviewed and of his portion of the files he was looking at he came across two of them.

Council President Bernhard stated as a City Manager he hopes he is asking himself do we have a problem here or do we not have a problem here and if we do have a problem here do we need to look at our policies and procedures and our process flows when it comes to these types of files. He stated because what we are seeing as a Council is a large number of fees and penalties that have not been paid and he is wondering if that large number has been inflated artificially and we don't know that. He stated that has been one of our top goals to get that paid down.

City Manager Hanken replied he understands that but also let him go back to remember we are switching Judges and each Judge has their own style. He explained when somebody makes a decision in terms of putting that from a transportation to a criminal because of missing an appointment that is a judicial act that is not something he has say over.

Council President Bernhard replied maybe this gives us an opportunity to update these numbers or perceived to be our fees and penalties outstanding at this time with Judge Wood. He stated his recommendation is to listen to Judge Wood with his ideas and they may be at time sound outlandish and way out there but to be mindful that we have an opportunity for someone to look from the outside in to see potential change. He stated now at the same time he highly recommends that staff keeps in mind from a budgetary standpoint what's going on too. He does see this as a potential opportunity for us to revamp, relook and look at policies and procedures and what we have going on right now because we have a brand new judge.

City Manager Hanken replied he thinks this is exactly what we are doing. He stated he thinks we are saying the same thing in only two different ways. He stated we had a problem and we made a change.

Council President Bernhard replied he thinks we are on the same page. He explained what threw him off was the large numbers.

Councilor Gedlich explained she think what we have to remember is for years and years people would have a traffic violation and gave excuses and all they could pay was maybe \$15.00 a month and past Judges would say okay. She explained at the end of two months when they should have owed \$30.00 they would only pay maybe \$15.00 if that, so the judge, which was her right legally, could go to the court clerk and say let's just let this guy pay whatever he can and that is why we owe thousands and thousands of dollars because of about 20 years of citations.

Councilor Meres asked City Manager Hanken if he could email Council how many outstanding cases we have.

City Manager Hanken replied yes.

Mayor Burge stated we have the goals from last year and he would like Council to list three things that we could accomplish in next couple of years what would they be.

Councilor Erickson ~ Keep it affordable to live and operate a business, Economic Opportunity, and finish the UGB.

Councilor Ingham stated obviously she thinks those are the top three. She thinks about livability in the community and recreation in the community. She thinks recreation is important as in skate park, trails, bike trails, etc.

Mayor Burge stated he assumes the things that we didn't accomplish from 2010 are just rolling over.

Council President Bernhard stated it is the economics that are at his heart more than anything else, so it would have to be the UGB. He explained just in general it would have to be economic development. He stated one of the goals on the list was maintain fiscal management; something new that he was thinking of was our staffing levels here in the City. He stated the first question he would have is are we running as lean as we can run. He stated as a citizen of the community he wants to make sure that my City is running as efficiently as possible and if we aren't he would like to look at those numbers and if we are a commitment to staffing that we are able to keep staffing on board. He stated public safety/public facility is near and dear to his heart since he has been on Council is to maintaining police coverage 24/7.

Councilor Gedlich stated probably the most important to her is the 24/7 police coverage and of course economics is number one. She would like to find out about the updates of our water, sewer, transportation and storm, storm water master plans. Also she thinks we need to really create a profit and loss statement for public utilities. She would also like to explore, along with Council President Bernhard's comments regarding staffing, as far as the number of employees versus consultants or combining job descriptions to meet the level of services for the community because the services are going up and up and up and she thinks we owe the community the most economic (hard to hear) that we can.

Councilor Meres stated tablets. He stated the UGB is going to take care of itself. He stated one of the things that he thinks is very important and he is very glad is that we have a new judge. He stated he would really like to get into the court to get this thing running and we don't have things that are 15 years old and we can feel that things are current. He stated we really need to consider doing some road improvements and one of them is just as simple as doing some new striping. He stated just some safety stuff improvements on the striping. He stated we are almost there ~ the quiet zone with the railroad.

Councilor Reed explained he was going to expand on the livability issues; there are some deteriorating roads in town and sidewalks. He stated there are some areas in town that could use street lights and he thinks we should move forward with Judge Woods ideas.

Mayor Burge replied his are going to be economic development number one; marketing the City of Scappoose. He explained he feels they need to study the quiet zone with the possibility of more trains. He feels affordability and reviewing our rules and asking the question "does this rule do what it was intended to do".

Council President Bernhard explained he was trying to think on ideas on how to get the community move involved is he would like to consider terms limits for the council.

Councilor Ingham replied we just had a Charter Review process and that issue was discussed in depth and she thinks probably what the committee could have used ahead of time was probably some consensus from Council ahead of time.

Councilor Gedlich replied she agrees to a point but she also thinks that over the years the people who have served on this body for two or three terms have done a wonderful job.

Councilor Meres explained he supports term limits. He explained he would like to see Mayor be able to serve 4 terms and Council serve 2 terms and then sit out 2 years then they could come back.

Council President Bernhard replied he would agree with that.

Mayor Burge stated just scanning over the items here it looks like, interestingly enough, our goals are still the same. He stated it looks like the things that are added would be profit and loss statement he thinks we should move up and try to get that out this year. He thinks it is good for the community to see a profit and loss for sewer and water. He explained he thinks the quiet zone is a new one. He stated economic development is the same but maybe we might add what we want to do with an economic development. He stated maybe we should have a work session on just what we want to do within economic development. He stated maybe they should have a workshop on that. He asked City Manager Hanken to include that discussion in the next meeting.

City Manager Hanken replied not a problem.

Mayor Burge stated there is a lot of talk about affordability whether it's the rates people pay, fees or regulations that cause the cost of doing something to go up. He wants to make sure that people should come to Council before walking away on rules and regulations. He doesn't know exactly how they go through the rules. He thinks staffing efficiency is a good new one. He explained Judge Wood's programs in on there as a new one and tablets.

Council President Bernhard replied he wants to clarify on the staff efficiency; he wants to make sure that everyone understands he is not looking at staff cuts. He explained all he is asking for a review of our efficiency and that could equal that we need additional staff. He explained he doesn't know the answers to the questions and so as a concerned citizen he wants to make sure that his City is running as efficient as possible. He explained when he is going down this list perhaps there are a couple things that they should be taking off the list also. He feels there has been change and they can take off the airport staffing off the list. He asked if Council should consider changing the language regarding the skate park with the school district. He asked if we should update the language to delete the school district.

Councilor Erickson replied he thinks we should just stick with the land we have and do the skate park ourselves.

Councilor Gedlich feels Council should revisit parts of the nuisance's ordinance because there's still an awful lot of nuisances that are in the City's public right-a-way that aren't being taken care of. She explained a perfect example is the house on SE 3rd and Maple where he has huge stacks of fire wood in the public right-a-way. She stated to her that shouldn't be necessarily a nuisance issue by complaint of a citizen it should be a police safety issue for pedestrians and people parking their automobiles and driving up and down the street because that particular street is very very busy because of school buses and kids. She stated there are several other nuisances where you start getting involved in public safety issues and she thinks we might need to check some of those areas. She explained her reasoning behind that is because a citizen will call her up, and she is getting so many complaints about the location on SE 3rd and Maple, and she keeps telling everybody to call the City. She has even taken pictures of 80 nuisances in the public right-a-way and she brought

them to Council so everybody could see; most of them are still out there. She explained what she would like to do regarding public way right-a-way issues is make it a police issue and not a citizen complaint issue because we are all helping to pay for the streets, or lack thereof and if you can't park a car or drive down the street safely. She wants to know why this guy has got 15 cords of wood on SE Maple Street.

Councilor Meres stated he hates to go down that road because if you look at the maps that show the right-a-way a lot of people are using the right-a-way for a lot of things; flower beds, for planting and stuff like that.

Mayor Burge replied he will put it down as a review of the nuisance ordinances in the next year.

Mayor Burge stated in reviewing everything, most of the stuff is going to be what hasn't been accomplished ~ Jon has the list that has been accomplished and those will be taken off. Also taken off will be taking over the Scappoose Industrial Airport, rewording the development of a skate park, dropping "with the Scappoose School District" and just put continue to work and develop the skate park. He thinks those are the drops that were not completed that were on the list.

Mayor Burge explained additions would be pursuing the "Quiet Zone" with the railroad through Scappoose, review rules and regulations, review the possibility of implementing term limits, implementing supporting the judges idea of a diversion program and volunteer law students coming in to help with the process, review of staff efficiency ~ that doesn't mean hiring or firing anyone, it's saying are we providing the services at the best possible way, economic development still appears to be number 1, affordability of the City review ~ reviewing issues that we can work with community members for making it more affordable to live here. Another on is roads, lights, sidewalks and street lights. And maybe a review of how the City gets reports on potholes. Review of the nuisance ordinances and then discussion on that. Beyond that it's the goals that haven't been accomplished that were in the 2011 goal packet.

Councilor Gedlich moved and Council President Bernhard seconded the motion that Scappoose City Council accept the following as the goals for 2012: The goals that haven't been accomplished from the previous Goal list, with taking over the Scappoose Industrial Airport removed, rewording the development of a skate park, dropping "with the Scappoose School District" and just put continue to work and develop the skate park. Additions to the Goals would be pursuing the quiet zone with the railroad through Scappoose, review rules and regulations, review the possibility of implementing term limits, implementing supporting the judges idea of a diversion program and volunteer law students coming in to help with the process, review of staff efficiency ~ that doesn't mean hiring or firing anyone, it's saying are we providing the services at the best possible way, economic development still appears to be number 1, affordability of the City review ~ reviewing issues that we can work with community members for making it more affordable to live here. Another on is roads, lights, sidewalks and street lights and maybe a review of how the City gets reports on potholes. Review of the nuisance ordinances and then discussion on that. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Council President Bernhard, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Ingham, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

Announcements

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

City Manager

City Manager Hanken explained he is out of the office this next week. He reminded Council the Oregon Ethics commission form is out and needs to be returned by the deadline.

Council

Councilor Erickson stated he would like to support the Scappoose Indians.

Councilor Ingham won't be here on April 2.

Council President Bernhard asked if Council should as a City be taking a stance on the Scappoose Indians mascot discussion that is going on right now.

Councilor Gedlich explained she would like to do something in support. She thanked staff and said they do a great job.

Councilor Reed talked about the Community Club Spring Clean up on April 21, 2012.

Mayor Burge explained he would like something on the next agenda regarding the mascot.

City Manager Hanken replied he thinks the mascot is a valuable discussion because you can think of Scappoose without the high school mascot, they go hand in hand.

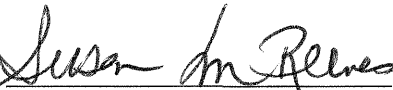
Mayor Burge explained he and Councilor Reed ran in the Shamrock Run yesterday.

Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest: 

Susan M Reeves, CMC, City Recorder