

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING
OF
CITY COUNCIL AND
WASCO COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 19, 2013
12:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Steve Lawrence

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Dan Spatz, Tim McGlothlin,
Linda Miller

COMMISSION PRESENT: Chair Rod Runyon, Scott Hege, Steve Kramer

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker,
City Clerk Julie Krueger, Planning Director Dick Gassman,
Engineer Dale McCabe, Finance Director Kate Mast

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Tyler Stone, Public Works Director Marty
Matherly, Finance Director Monica Morris

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lawrence at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding Proposed Ballot Measures for City Street and/or County Roads Operation and Maintenance

City Manager Young reviewed the options presented in the staff report, noting the staff recommendation to the City Council was to proceed with preparation of a ballot measure to increase the local fuel tax. In response to a question from the Mayor, Young explained that the City had a philosophy to avoid property tax measures to allow for other taxing entities to use that method.

Mayor Lawrence said there was some concern about placing a tax measure on the ballot that may compete with other measures, such as the Parks and Recreation District's proposal for a swimming pool tax measure.

Councilor Wood said she could see an advantage of forming a special district for street and road maintenance with the County. She said several operating districts in the region had been very successful in the past.

City Manager Young explained that a property tax measure would impact compression, but it was unknown at what level at this time. He explained it would have a positive impact on Urban Renewal tax increment, possibly making additional funds available for projects. He said it would be an Agency decision as to how that money would be expended, but if the Plan was amended, funds could be used for street projects.

There was a discussion regarding the differences between a major and minor amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan. City Attorney Parker explained a minor amendment would require adoption of a resolution by the Agency, while a major plan amendment would require notification to the other taxing entities, a public hearing, and adoption by ordinance.

There was discussion regarding the time line for placing a measure on the November ballot, which election may be most appropriate or successful to place the measure on, and whether a double majority would be required to pass the measure.

Councilor Spatz said he believed a fuel tax would be more equitable and those who used the streets would be the ones to pay for the repair.

Commission Chair Runyon said with declining revenues for road maintenance in the County, a committee had been established to work on recommendations to help solve funding issues for the

County. He said the Committee had done extensive work and interviewed many citizens. Runyon said the Committee had prepared a draft report with their findings, and had made numerous presentations to civic groups throughout the County. Runyon said the County would be hearing the final report in the near future, but was not prepared to proceed with formation of a road maintenance district until they had received the full information from the Committee. He said it seemed the County and City were not on the same time schedule at this time.

It was the consensus of the City Council to take no action at this time regarding the fuel tax measure. The City Council agreed they wanted to see the results of the County's study and meet again in the future to discuss the options.

Update Regarding Shared Resources Between City and County (taken out of order)

Commission Chair Runyon commended County and City Public Works Departments for their partnership in sharing resources and equipment.

Discussion Regarding Status of County Roads Within City Limits

Councilor Wood said the City Council and County Commission should meet when there may be disagreement regarding street or road classifications.

It was noted that the City did attend meetings of the County Commission regarding the proposed vacation of a portion of East 12th Street, and the change in status of various roads within the city limits. City Manager Young said testimony had been provided in opposition, but the vacation had been approved and roads re-designated.

Commissioner Hege said the County had followed the correct process, notifying agencies and property owners, conducted hearings and taken testimony. He said removal of County status on the roads was their only option, noting the City would not accept the roads that had been annexed if they had not been brought up to City standards.

Discussion Regarding City's Current Annexation Policy and Current City/County Urban Growth Area Management Agreement

There was agreement that the Urban Growth Area Management Agreement was a document that should be reviewed by the City and County Planning Departments together.

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Regarding the City's Annexation Policy, Commissioner Hege noted that with County status removed on the roads, once they were annexed, the City was then required to take responsibility for maintaining them.

County Public Works Director Matherly clarified that the removal of County status of the roads would leave the decision to the City regarding the level of service they wished to provide once the areas were annexed.

Commission Chair Runyon said at the time the roads were built, they were probably built to City standards of the time. He mentioned a letter had been sent to the City requesting them to take responsibility for some of streets.


City Manager Young said the City had replied to the letter from the County staff, noting that if a formal request was received from the County, the City Council could consider the request.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST:



Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk