

ORTING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2009

Mayor Cheryl Temple called the meeting to order with the flag salute at 7:00 pm in the Orting Public Safety Building. Roll call found in attendance Councilmembers Scott Drennen, George Wilson, Dick Ford, Guy S. Colorossi and Joachim Pestinger. Councilmember Pestinger moved to excuse Councilmembers Nicola McDonald and David Inge. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ATTENDANCE:

City Employees	City Administrator Mark Bethune, Administrative Assistant Roxanne Pollard, Police Chief Bill Drake, Building Official Ken Wolfe, Parks & Rec. Director Beckie Meek, Accounting Clerk II Freda Bingham, Accounting Clerk I Jane Helgelien, Public Works Clerical II Laura Post, Maintenance Worker II Jerry Thebeau, Maintenance Worker I Richard Farris, Wastewater Treatment Operator I Ed Huffman, Public Works Supervisor Tim Harpster, Police and Court Clerk Kim Kianoa, Police Officer Dan Drasher.
Professional Representatives	Kenyon Disend Attorney Chris Bacha.
Visitors (signed in)	Margaret O'Harra, Doug Schwarz, Matthew LaLone, Luann Lee, Chuck Morrison, Tom Keiser, Wendy Birnbaum, Barbara Hansen.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of November 12, 2009.
- B. Approval of Claims Warrants No. 14951 through No. 14996 in the amount of \$644,009.92 and Payroll Warrants No. 18808 through No. 18849 in the amount of \$76,570.64.

Councilmember Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared. Councilmember Colorossi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Public Hearing: 2010 Budget	City Administrator Bethune provided the Council with an updated 2010 Budget Proposal. The proposal included the following changes:
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- Replacement Finance position starting January 1, 2009, cost of \$47,800 (including benefits).
- Increase grant to Senior Center by \$2,000. Funds from Skinner.
- Increase police capital budget by \$15,000 to take into account citizen gift a year ago.
- AWC increased insurance bond \$10,000
- Overall decrease in revenues of \$20,000 due to better

knowledge of budget through October.

- Increase Judge contract by \$50/month for a total of \$600
- Increase Prosecutor contract by \$50/month for total of \$600
- Increase light maintenance expense of \$4,000 for Public Safety Building
- Both unions have refused a wage freeze again for a cost of \$32,000

The changes amount to a deficit of \$181,000. To balance the budget the Mayor is recommending the following solutions:

- Anti-Recession fund reduction/transfer of \$124,000 to cover deficit (leaving \$90,000 in fund)
- Fire Contract – \$40,000 reduction in payment (contingent upon successful District 18 negotiations)
- Reduce \$15,000 from Finance Equipment reserves and transfer to police reserves.
- Increase withdrawal from Skinner fund of \$2,000

Councilmember Drennen stated that he would like to discuss any measures related to union contracts and negotiation in executive session.

Mayor Temple stated that the Council should consider allowing employee wages increases per the union the contracts. The City is currently understaffed and the staff is stretched thin. The unions agreed to a wage freeze for 2009 and are opposed to a freeze in 2010. The City agreed to reinstate any wage increases lost as a result of the 2009 budget. In 2009, less than ten Washington cities froze employee wages. She stated that the anti-recession fund was created for use in these situations.

Councilmember Pestinger stated that the City has excellent employees however; the Council also needs to make this decision with citizens in mind.

Councilmember Drennen asked if use of the anti-recession fund is sustainable. He stated that deficit spending is not sustainable.

Mayor Temple opened the Public Hearing for the 2010 Budget at 8:01 pm.

Barbara Hansen, Executive Director of the Orting Senior Center, thanked the Council for considering an increase of \$2,000 for the grant to the Senior Center in 2010.

Doug Schwarz commented that the City has very loyal and involved employees.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Temple closed the hearing at

8:10 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge for Kids
Design

Councilmember Drennen introduced Bob Griebenow, the project lead for the Bridge for Kids Design Project and provided a recap of the project progress. Bridge for Kids has met with the Utility and Technology Committee and gained approval of an evacuation route. The approved route crosses State Route 162 (SR 162) in the vicinity of Rocky Road, follows Rocky Road east toward the Carbon River and passes the Wastewater Treatment Plant on the north side of the plant. The Bridge for Kids Steering Committee has also solicited input from classes at Orting High School and Orting Middle School. On November 19, the Orting Planning Commission met to select the design concept that was the most consistent with the Orting Architectural Design Review (ADR) Guidelines.

Mr. Griebenow presented the proposed designs to the Council. The SR 162 Crossing designs included a bowstring span design, a covered bridge design, a wooden arch bridge design and a steel arch bridge design. The Planning Commission selected the Bowstring Span design concept, with modified ramps and stairs to access the bridge for the SR 162 crossing (Design Concept 1A).

The Carbon River Crossing designs included a steel arch bridge and a cable stay bridge. The Planning Commission selected the steel arch bridge design concept (Design Concept 1).

Planning Commission Chairperson Margaret O’Harra presented the Council with the Planning Commission Facts & Findings for the Bridge for Kids Design. The Planning Commission made their selections based on cost, impact to neighboring property owners and adherence to the ADR Guidelines.

Matthew LaLone, a student in the High School class asked to give input for the design, stated that the students focused on accessibility and American Disability Act compliance. The students also spent more time discussing the Carbon River crossing.

Councilmember Pestinger asked how long the bridge span will need to be to accommodate up to five lanes of traffic. The bridge span will need to be approximately 125 to 135 feet long.

Councilmember Drennen moved to accept the Planning Commission recommendation for the Carbon River Crossing Design Concept 1. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilmember Drennen moved to accept the Planning Commission recommendation for the State Route 162 Crossing Design Concept 1A.

Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Griebenow announced that Bridge for Kids would hold an Open House on December 8.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2009-11:
Fees for Disconnection
of Water Service

Councilmember Drennen reported that the City does not have a fee for water service disconnection. There has been an increase in this required service. Disconnection of water service has been a rare event until the last year. County buy outs of flood damaged homes have resulted in a significant increase in requests for this service. The Public Works Department estimated that it takes two hours of staff time to disconnect the water service. A service charge of \$100 will cover City staff time and materials.

Councilmember Drennen moved to approve resolution 2009-11, a resolution of the City of Orting, Washington, relating to fees for the disconnection of water service. Councilmember Pestinger seconded the motion and it carried.

Ammons Lane Speed
Bump

Councilmember Pestinger reported that Transportation Committee was presented with a signed petition of the majority of residents on Ammons Lane Southeast requesting a speed bump on Ammons Lane Southeast near the intersection with Calistoga Street East. The major concern was speeding and the lack of ability to see bicyclists or pedestrians at the end of Ammons Lane Southeast. A garage and a fence block the view. A speed bump would slow vehicles as they approach the sidewalk.

Councilmember Ford noted for the record that Councilmember Pestinger and City Administrator Bethune live in Ammons Lane Southeast.

Councilmember Pestinger moved to authorize the placement of a citizen purchased speed bump on Ammons Lane Southeast. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion.

City Attorney Bacha informed the Council that there are several factors to consider when allowing speed bumps including liability, damage to vehicles and access for fire and police vehicles.

Police Chief Drake also commented that he agreed with the City Attorney that speed bumps can be problematic for police vehicles. He offered to create an increased police presence in the area to deter speeders.

The motion failed unanimously.

Back Flow Devices

Councilmember Drennen reported that the City has become aware of a significant number of sprinkler systems with and without back flow devices that were not permitted at time of installation as required by law. The City has required homeowners to come into compliance by paying the permit fee and allowing annual inspections. No fines have been applied.

Councilmember Colorossi moved to send this topic to the Utility and Technology Committee for further review. Councilmember Drennen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Utility and Technology Committee will report back to the Council at the December 9, 2009 meeting.

COMMITTEE AND STANDING REPORTS

River Bar Removal Councilmember Colorossi reported that he will have further information for the Council in 2010

Finance Councilmember Colorossi distributed a schedule of the City's long term debt payments to the Council for review.

The City has its audit exit interview earlier that morning. The meeting went well and the City was given a clean audit report.

Governmental Affairs Councilmember Pestinger reported that Bobbi Allison of Eatonville will Chair the Pierce County Regional Council in 2010.

He also stated that the Health Department has requested letters of support for a grant that they are seeking. Councilmember Pestinger moved to direct City Staff to prepare a letter of support for the Pierce County Health Department. Councilmember Drennen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Safety Councilmember Wilson reported that Fire District 18 recently held interviews for a fire chief. He also reported that the District would like to surplus the Darley Fire Engine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Pestinger moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 8:50 pm for the purpose of discussing union contract negotiations as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(g). Councilmember Colorossi seconded the motion and it carried.

At 9:00 pm, Mayor Temple announced the executive session would last 20 more minutes.

Mayor Temple reconvened the meeting at 9:24 pm.

2010 BUDGET

Council Discussion Following the executive session, the Council discussed the Mayor Budget proposal.

Councilmember Drennen moved to allow for employee wage increases in 2010 with the condition that the Mayor looks for other cost cutting measures. Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried.

The Council also asked for changes to the proposal. The new finance position should start in April. They also asked that money to cover the deficit come from the General Fund Reserves and not the Anti-Recession Fund.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Pestinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried.

ATTEST:

City Administrator Mark Bethune

Mayor Cheryl M. Temple