

**City of Condon
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2016
7 p.m.**

Present:	Staff Present:
Mayor Jim Hassing Councilor Donald Jamieson Councilor Michael Cronk Councilor Jan Stinchfield Councilor Tom Fatland Councilor Boyd Harris Councilor Terri Carnine	Kathryn Greiner, City Administrator Dale Scobert, Police Chief Larry Durfey, PW Superintendent

Absent:
None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Hassing called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Administrator Kathryn Greiner took roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Hassing asked for a moment of silence.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Request Main Street Project request by Darla Seale of Country Flowers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Donald Jamieson to approve the regular minutes of the April 6, 2016 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jan Stinchfield and approved unanimously.

Mayor Hassing asked if the fiber line was up and running to the library and CA Greiner said that it was not, but JN Cable ceased the library's internet service so they were working to get an emergency line in while waiting for the final parts of the fiber line. Councilor Jamieson asked the status of the benches on Main Street with Councilor Boyd Harris said that he has left several messages to have them repaired but has not received a return call. CA Greiner asked if the council would want to change the benches in all the planters and suggested that the Community Development Committee look into this option. Councilor Tom Fatland asked if the playground surface material was to be plastic, which CA Greiner said that she checked with K'Lynn Lane and it had on the order wood chips not plastic fill material.

OLD BUSINESS

Sandy McKay of Gilliam County SWCD said that the district had yet to receive a reply on the lease proposal that they had submitted over 10 weeks ago. McKay suggested that the council may want to extend the sales agreement on the property on South Main so no special meeting would have to be held. He thanked the council for their patience and noted frustration with the length of time the land sale was taking to complete. Councilor Boyd Harris asked if an appraisal had been done and McKay replied that it was a cash sale and none was being done. **A motion was made by Councilor Stinchfield to extend the closing date of the South Main Street property to SWCD until July 15, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fatland and yes votes from Councilors Fatland, Cronk, Stinchfield, Carnine and Harris; no vote – Councilor Jamieson. Motion passed.**

The council received an agreement between the city and B.P.O.E 1869 regarding conditions for using their lodge for a back-up venue for summer concert series. **A motion was made by Councilor Stinchfield to approve the agreement with conditions to use the B.P.O.E venue for concert series. The motion was seconded by Councilor Terri Carnine and approved unanimously.**

Fiber Committee update was moved to discuss after the survey presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth Farrar presented the council with the results of the chamber survey that included questions regarding high speed broadband in south Gilliam County. Farrar stated that the chamber did the survey to collect information for a "Come Home to Condon" campaign and the goal is to collect alumni contact information and input for local leaders, which includes the identification of the interest and barriers to alumni returning home. The survey was released March 8, 2016 and to date they have received 120 from local residents and 47 from out of town. Farrar stated that the sample size "instills confidence that this is good data." For the city's fiber committee to gather information to shape their strategic plan they asked questions regarding cell service, internet speeds and bandwidth and whether people were willing to pay more. Also included were the questions if the internet was important for economic development, our schools and does it make Condon a better place to live. Farrar stated that when you have the results show an intense response whether it is "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" then you have data that shows this is important to the respondent. Survey results showed that respondents were in the mid to upper 80% of agree and strongly disagree that high speed internet is important to economic development, schools and provided a better place to live and half of those responses were "strongly agree." This information allows the Fiber Committee to proceed with the work to bring fiber/high speed broadband to Condon and surrounding areas. Farrar touched on the

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internet attitudes of the out of town respondents, but she stated that there were not enough in the sample size (33 received) to be considered scientific results. Farrar said that 23 of the 33 that responded from out of town would think about moving back at some point and that the top two things that make Condon attractive are the slower pace of life and to be close to family. The top

two barriers were lack of job opportunities, and lack of educational opportunities for children which is also the top two things that make Condon an unattractive place to live according to the results. Farrar pointed out that several of the out of town respondents noted that although they “loved” Condon they were settled with their families in their current locations. She said that the next steps are to redouble the efforts to collect more data from alumni, share the data with local leaders, transfer the data to a permanent alumni database and create the “Come Home” campaign plan. Farrar encouraged the councilors to get their children and their friends to respond to the survey for a more comprehensive list.

Several of the Fiber Committee members updated the council on their recent activities. Councilor Jamieson stated that the group had recently attended an informational gathering session with Q-Life and LSNetwork representatives in The Dalles. He noted that Q-Life is partnership of Wasco County and the City of The Dalles to create and offer broadband service and opportunities to residents in their area. Councilor Jamieson stated that there may be a possibility to partner with them to reach the city’s goals in their broadband strategic plan. Councilor Stinchfield noted that LSNetwork presented a draft plan to bring a fiber line from a location at a cell tower just south of the city of Wasco to Condon that would be approximately \$1.1 million. Additional costs of \$100,000 for the POP (connection equipment) and \$300,00 to get fiber by every business and home in Condon was included in the information. She added that LSNetwork may have \$250,000 toward this project. Councilor Jamieson said that this would be an “open system” that would allow dark fiber to be used by several different companies. Councilor Stinchfield said that she felt the meeting was positive information and was impressed that the representatives there did not put down other companies or organizations but gave useful information. She added that two of the representatives are scheduling a meeting with Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer to discuss this option within the next week. Councilor Jamieson asked if the council would consider partnering with Q-Life and also use their attorney Keith Mobley for telecommunication issues if necessary as he is familiar with these situations. Councilors Harris and Cronk agreed that it would be willing to listen to potential partnerships. Councilor Fatland questioned whether there would be a conflict using Mobley if he is a member of the Q-Life board and attorney. It was the consensus of the council to talk to Mobley about legal representation and continue to discuss partnership opportunities..

The council received a revised ordinance for animals that Chief Scobert drafted with edits from City Attorney Wyatt Baum. Chief Scobert stated that this is a comprehensive ordinance that address all animals within city limits and is much more clear of how violations will be addressed. **A motion was made by Councilor Stinchfield to read Ordinance 2016-03 – Animals by Title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jamieson. Roll Call – Yes Councilors Harris, Cronk, Carnine, Stinchfield, Fatland and Jamieson. Motion passed.** CA Greiner read Ordinance 2016-03 by Title. **A motion was made by Councilor Jamieson to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2016-03 – Animals. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jamieson. Roll Call – Yes Councilors Harris, Cronk, Carnine, Stinchfield, Fatland and Jamieson. Motion passed.** Chief Scobert discussed the idea of a kennel to house the dogs and said that he would take care of the dogs when he is here and had no qualms about finding volunteers to take care of the animals when he was not in town.

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The Personnel Committee met earlier in the month and recommended that a personnel agreement with PW Larry Durfey be entered into for half time services of \$30,000 a year salary and \$12,000 toward his retirement; 3% raise for all employees with the exception of the swimming pool staff, park attendant and utility billing clerk; raise park attendant and utility clerk to \$14 and hour up from \$13 and a 10% one-time raise for CA Greiner; and insurance to remain paid by city at 100%. CA Greiner explained that the insurance raise in rates was minimal and would only cost the city approximately an additional \$1,700 per year for all employees. CA Greiner also stated that she had asked for a one time pay raise of 12% to get her to comparable salaries in the region and that she offered not to look for other employment for three years. She stated that three other

employees had received a one-time bump in salary and she has proven that she has done a job that justifies the raise. She also said that the budget could easily withstand the raise and she continues to take on more projects for the city in her role of administrator. A short discussion was held with support of CA Greiner and asked about evaluations. She said **A motion was made by Councilor Stinchfield to approve the Personnel Committee recommendations with the exception of giving CA Greiner a 12% raise instead of the recommended 10%. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fatland. Yes votes – Councilors Harris, Carnine, Stinchfield, Fatland and Jamieson. No vote – Cronk. Motion passed.** CA Greiner thanked the council for approving the raises.

Darla Seale of Country Flowers submitted a request for replacement of her awning for \$1,916. CA Greiner stated that it has not been made clear that the main Street Project is ending and asked the council to approve the request. Councilor Harris asked if this was the second awning paid for by this program which CA Greiner stated that the city has not paid for an awning for Seale. **A motion was made by Councilor Harris to approve \$1,916 for Darla Seale's Main Street Project request. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stinchfield and approved unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

PW Dufey reported that the generator at City Farm is still not hooked up as they are waiting on the electricians to finish their work. The city crew assisted a company to TV 7,000 feet of sewer line for the master plan study and it will help them prioritize lines to replace. He is working on securing a paver for Summit Street from Main to Oregon Streets but is having trouble getting companies to bid on it. PW Dufey is also gathering information for the water master plan to start and heard that the city engineer is trying to contract with a company to test pipe quality and the only companies are in Colorado and New Jersey. He also said that he has checked into switching to LED streetlight but it would not affect the city's charge as it is by wattage, but there may be a program to offset the cost to make the change.

Chief Scobert reported that he is working on the kennel project and that after seeing Gibb Wilkins at the park work with an edger he thinks he has located a commercial edger for a good price. Chief Scobert continues to work on dog complaints and is investigating a fraud case that involves internet scam. He noted that he had attended several valuable trainings in the last month.

CA Greiner reported that she had submitted a Gilliam County Special Projects grant to obtain the services of a representative from the Small Business Development Center at Columbia Gorge Community College once a month at Condon. The services are free and confidential and it may include business classes. She reminded the council that community clean-up was Friday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. CA Greiner also said she fielded a request to see if the council was interested in writing a letter to the Gilliam County Court to request several hours a week of

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Rachel Weinstein's time as community development staff to assist the city with grants and special projects. It was the consensus of the council to have CA Greiner write a letter to make the request for economic development time.

COUNCILOR INFORMATION

Information regarding Gilliam County's recycle rate from Michelle Colby.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting set for Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 7 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

_____ Date _____
Jim Hassing, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____ Date _____
Kathryn Greiner, City Administrator