

City of Condon
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2017
7 p.m.

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

Absent:
Councilor Terri Carnine Councilor Michael Cronk

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.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Hassing deleted 7.3 – Review & Discuss Water Master Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Tom Fatland to approve the regular minutes of the February 1, 2017 council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Donald Jamieson and approved unanimously. A motion was made by Councilor Boyd Harris to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2017 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jan Stinchfield and approved unanimously.

CA Greiner noted that the VISA statement was not in the packet, but was on the table for review. Councilor Jamieson asked about the \$175 payment to the Gilliam County Library as the fiber line and CA Greiner said that it was the test fiber and we have been paying for it for months as an item under the city’s strategic broadband plan. She noted that Rachel Weinstein at Gilliam County is working to get e-rate for the library to cut down the cost. Councilor Harris asked who the city why the city was paying for hepatitis shots with CA Greiner stating it is for the public works and transfer station employees.

OLD BUSINESS

The council reviewed the newest plan that was submitted for the City Hall remodel by Gail Sargent with Councilor Fatland asking if the doors will allow for a secure room (locked) and Councilor Jamieson asked if the proposed emergency stairs on the back of City Hall could be folded up. CA Greiner will contact Sargent to clarify those issues. It was the consensus of the council to move forward with the presented plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hassing moved the discussion of the Gilliam County fiber line project prior to the discussion of the Award RFPs for telecom engineering services. Gilliam County Commissioner Mike Weimar was present and said that at the court meeting earlier in the day he presented a plan for Gilliam County to build the middle mile fiber line, own and operate it. The other entities would be the customers of the county, and it would be buried. Councilor Fatland, who attended the county meeting said the cost estimate given by a Home Telephone (HT) representative that buried was similar in cost to aerial fiber didn't not seem to be accurate, and asked Commissioner Weimar to consider a most cost effective aerial line. Commissioner Weimar stated that he felt that to concede to bury the line would move the project forward. Councilor Stinchfield asked if the city moved forward with aerial engineering, could that be considered a contribution of the project, but Weimar stated that after talking to parties from several different entities that one group would not be happy with aerial. Councilor Jamieson stated that the city has been committed to work with Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and suggested that prior to any agreement with Gilliam County, a meeting will be held to see if a buried route was going to fit CBEC's needs. Councilor Stinchfield asked if Frontier Telenet had considered using Home Telephone's buried line that comes to the back of the North Central Education Service District (NCESD) building as an emergency backup system. Commissioner Weimar stated that in his discussions it needed to be a direct route on fiber from NCESD to their digital switch in Sherman County and if they go with HT it would have to go to Portland then back out. Councilor Stinchfield said that the direct route would be aerial and the HT line would be a back-up, so the direct route would be intact unless emergencies occurred. Elizabeth Farrar, member of the city's fiber committee, stated that HT mentioned in an earlier meeting that the Centurylink line that goes from Condon to Sherman County maybe could be split off near Wasco then bury a line to the digital switch alleviating the need for the data to go to Portland. Councilor Fatland stated the need for an open access line and Councilor Mike Cronk asked who is going to market the proposed Gilliam County line. Commissioner Weimar stated that the staffing and marketing will be Gilliam County's responsibility. Councilor Stinchfield asked what the next course of action, may be with Commissioner Weimar stating they will work toward getting an engineer and the city will set a meeting with CBEC. The council thanked Commissioner Weimar for his time and solution to the fiber project.

The council discussed if they wanted to participate in the Oregon Consensus with Gilliam County as presented earlier. Councilor Jamieson stated that he would have to know who is going to be at the table and other details before deciding. It was the consensus of the council to ask if Gilliam County was still interested and who would participate.

The Request for Proposals were presented to the council with the estimated total cost ranging from \$55,000-\$109,700 and they all had similar timelines. With the new information given by Commissioner Weimar, and the need to meet with CBEC the council discussed if it was fiscally responsible to hire an engineer if the project would be buried not aerial as planned. Councilor Stinchfield noted that all three firms were reputable and had experience. **A motion was made by Councilor Jamieson to postpone the awarding of the telecom engineering until a meeting was held with CBEC. The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and approved unanimously.** CA Greiner was directed to set up a meeting with the city's Fiber Committee and CBEC as soon as possible.

The council received information that the fiber being installed by Home Telephone is not a part of either JN Cable or Home Telephone franchise and advice from attorney Wyatt Baum was to either renegotiate either one of the franchise agreements or negotiate a new one for just the fiber using the city's rights-of-way. CA Greiner was directed to ask League of Oregon Cities and neighboring cities if they have had this situation and have Baum work toward negotiations with Home Telephone.

STAFF REPORTS

PW Durfey reported that he discussed with the PW crew the recreational immunity and that they must secure any unsafe conditions at the park if they must leave the scene.

Chief Scobert said he has had a busy month with dog complaints, theft and forgery case. He is also working on safety training updates and asked the council to complete the CIS ethics training class online

CA Greiner reported that she attended the City County Insurance Service conference where she learned that the recreational immunity law has been challenged in court which allows for people to sue individual employees instead of the city. There is a bill in the Oregon legislature that is trying to restore recreational immunity and she will get the councilors the information so they can call our legislators. She also asked to set up a Finance Committee meeting to bring discussions of employee compensation and benefits. She also reported that Gilliam County has been selected by Oregon Solutions as their community housing project with the first meeting scheduled March 20.

COUNCILOR INFORMATION

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting set for Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 7 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

_____ Date _____
Jim Hassing, Mayor

ATTEST: _____ Date _____
Kathryn Greiner City Administrator