

BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

May 19th, 2009

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ware called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Councilors Van Sandt, Ginn, Cole and Gerber (7:09 p.m.) present. Councilors Shepherd and Chambers were absent. Also present were City Administrator Scott McDowell and Cascades West Council of Governments Representative Pam Silbernagel.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS:

Cascades West Council of Governments. Ms. Silbernagel discussed the role of the Cascades West Council of Governments (COG), the regional approach and the mutual benefits that they are able to provide members governments and agencies. Ms. Silbernagel shared her background which includes involvement in Economic Development in the region since 1981. Silbernagel also served as the Economic Development Director in Benton County. She worked with the City of Albany and developed a very successful Urban Renewal Program. She has also worked extensively in Brownsville throughout the last three decades working on the street lights and the alley project behind the downtown businesses.

Councilor Cole was interested in reviewing and incorporating elements from plans the City has done in the past into a new cohesive plan for the future. Councilor Van Sandt discussed the accomplishments with the Community Center and the development of the Gateway Project that is on the horizon for 2010-2011. Silbernagel shared a definition of how the State of Oregon defines Community Development and Economic Development. Community Development is any activity that improves the overall quality of life in a community such as infrastructure systems, land use & development, building partnerships and networks while Economic Development is any activity that brings new dollars or retains dollars within a region such as tourism development, attracting & retaining commercial and industrial business and developing campaigns such as buy local etc. Councilor Ginn asked about the COG and their relationship with the USDA and how certain grants and loans would work based on a hypothetical situation. Silbernagel talked about the macro approach the State is taking to attract quality business to Oregon. She shared some thoughts on niche approaches being utilized on the coast.

Mayor Ware felt that a lot of effort has been made in this area but stated that he feels Community Development is really the discipline the City should focus on. Silbernagel shared her thoughts about downtown and town in general. She was pleased to see that several businesses have really done a fantastic job sprucing up their buildings and mentioned the quality of displays in windows.

Some discussion was entertained regarding the Central Linn School District and the possibility of re-opening the Brownsville School. The many events held by various civic organizations throughout the year were discussed. Silbernagel suggested gathering data

from those events to try to help local businesses determine what approach to take to attract the most dollars.

Silbernagel indicated there were two approaches, 1) to update the City's Comprehensive Plan or 2) to work toward Code updates and design manuals that more clearly define Brownsville. Silbernagel indicated that the City would talk to their representative with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to determine the details and understand the overall scope of the undertaking of updating the Comprehensive Plan. She also suggested meeting with Theresa Connelly who has worked very successfully with several communities in the area; most recently Siletz.

Action steps for the next discussion include 1) Review Comprehensive Plan, 2) Entertain a discussion with the DLCD Representative Ed Moore, 3) Figure out Scope of Work and funding sources, and 4) Establish process for moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT: The Council meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



City Administrator S. Scott McDowell



Mayor Don Ware