

BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

July 28th, 2009

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ware called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Councilors Shepherd, Van Sandt, Gerber, Chambers, Cole and Ginn present. Also present were City Administrator Scott McDowell, City Planner Bill Sattler and Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: Mr. McDowell provided the Councilors with a handout regarding the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT).

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the minutes of the June 23rd, 2009, City Council meeting. Councilor Cole moved that the minutes be approved without exception. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ginn and was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS:

1. Dori Koberstein – OLCC Application. Ms. Koberstein explained that her business, Roots, is applying for a wine and beer license. They intend to sell primarily local wines and beers and there will be no consumption on the premises other than wine tasting. Councilor Gerber moved that the Council recommend that OLCC approve the license and that Mayor Ware be authorized to execute any needed documents to that end. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chambers and was approved unanimously.
2. Linda McCormick – Stand by Me Event: August 15th. Ms. McCormick discussed the recent movie filming that had taken place the previous week. She said that the movie crew had enjoyed their stay and filming had gone well. She said that a number of locals were hired to work as extras in the scenes. Ms. McCormick said that for the upcoming Stand by Me activities the Chamber would like to close one half of each street beginning in the morning and then close the street completely in the afternoon. Ms. McCormick said that she had contacted all the businesses on the affected streets and no one had objected to the proposal. Councilor Shepherd said that with regard to the filming he had received a complaint from a citizen and as a County employee he was required to investigate. He found that the film crew had not obtained a County permit so he contacted the Assistant Roadmaster to see if he could help with getting a permit for them. Mr. McDowell said that he had left two messages with the Roadmaster the prior week regarding the filming and had not received a response so he had assumed there wasn't a problem with the County. Councilor Cole asked what kind of permit was required. Councilor Shepherd said that they needed an "activity permit." Mr. McDowell said that the movie crew descended upon town rapidly and everyone had tried to do what they could to make things work appropriately and be responsive. He said that all of the properties affected had been contacted and that he had attempted to contact the Linn County Roadmaster. Councilor Gerber said that the City needs to be as flexible as possible with these types of activities to make them happen. Councilor Gerber then moved to approve the road closures as requested for the Stand by Me event on August 15th. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ginn and was approved unanimously.
3. Linda McCormick – Stand By Me Museum Proposal. Ms. McCormick said that she had obtained estimates of the cost of some of the work that would be required to convert the fire truck bays into a museum space. She provided the Council with copies of a possible floor plan for the use of the space. Councilor Ware asked where the money for the project would come from. Ms. McCormick said that donations and grants would be needed to fund it. Councilor Cole asked about staffing for the museum. Ms. McCormick said that she already has 10 or 11 people who are interested in participating. Councilor Cole asked what organization would be the sponsor for the museum. Ms.

McCormick said that she is not yet sure. Councilor Ginn suggested contacting Brian Carroll of Linn County Parks. Councilor Van Sandt asked about admission charges. Ms. McCormick said that donations would be solicited and it is planned to have a gift and souvenir shop to help raise money. Mayor Ware asked what the next step would be. Ms. McCormick said that she just needed assurance from the Council that they would be open to the proposal and she would continue to work on the idea. Councilor Van Sandt asked if the museum would pay rent for the space. Ms. McCormick said that they would contribute to the cost of utilities but would not be able to pay rent. Councilor Ginn suggested speaking with the City of Albany as they operate a city museum and might have some ideas on how to fund it. Councilor Cole said that she likes the idea but needs more information before making a final decision, Councilor Ginn agreed. Councilor Cole complimented Ms. McCormick on all the work she was doing on behalf of the City.

4. Pets in Pioneer Park. Mr. McDowell explained the background of the Council's discussion on this matter. Mayor Ware asked for comments from the public. Mr. Brad Ramshur said that he has three dogs and likes to take them to the park to play in the river and they can't do that if they have to be on a leash. Mr. Sattler said that he would like to comment as a park user and member of the public. He said that there had not been any actual dog attacks in the park and that he would like to see a reasonable compromise that would accommodate everyone. He said that during the winter there are almost no park users other than those that are there walking their dogs but that during the summer when the park is busy it is reasonable to limit dogs in the busy areas of the park. He suggested that during the summer dogs be required to be on a leash except in the far south end of the park along the river while during the rest of the year dogs continue to be allowed off leash. Kaye Fox suggested that signs be put up delineating the off leash area. The Council agreed by consensus that this seemed like a reasonable compromise and asked Mr. McDowell to draft some ordinance language to that effect.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

1. Jay Marsh. Not present.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Brad Kelly said that there had been a couple of problems downtown recently. He said that the deputies are doing some foot patrols in the area to be able to cover it better. Councilor Chambers asked about the significance of shoes being thrown over power lines. Sgt. Kelly said that in some areas it might be linked to gang activity but he didn't think that was the case in Brownsville.
2. Planning. Mr. Sattler told the Council that he was continuing to work with the planning consultant representing Ms. Farley, who is proceeding toward submitting an application for a subdivision off Hume Street near the City Shops. He said that the main activity in the last month had been pursuing numerous abatements around town. Mr. Sattler said that most of them were for tall grass and weeds but there were also some for illegal vehicles and attractive nuisances. Mr. Sattler said that he had recently met with a group who will be assuming ownership of the partially developed property off Depot Avenue and they are hoping to be able to proceed with a project there.
3. Public Works. Mr. Frink said that a water meter has been installed in Remington Park and the irrigation system is now working. Councilor Cole asked about the library sign. Mr. Frink said that Lee Smith is working on it and he's not sure when it's expected to be done. Councilor Van Sandt asked Mr. Frink about the status of the downtown water fountain. He said that Jay and Jason Curtis had mentioned working on it in the past. Mr. Frink said that the part needed is not obtainable and they are trying to make a replacement.

4. Administrator. Mr. McDowell said that Senator Merkley had been in Lebanon recently and that he had had an opportunity to meet with him. Mr. McDowell said that he had discussed the City's recent issues with the EPA, namely unfunded mandates, and the LT2 rule. Mr. McDowell said that he believed that when public facilities such as water plants are permitted they should be able to operate under their original permit for the useful life of the facility. This would limit some of the far reaching implications of unfunded mandates. Mr. McDowell said that he had also met with Nick Batz from Congressman DeFazio's office. He said that Mr. Frink is working with the engineers on the warranty process for the wastewater improvements and that he is still going over the accounting for the project. He said that all invoices for the project have been completely paid, though the City is finalizing the reporting requirements. Councilor Van Sandt asked about the outcome with Stutzman regarding the cross-connected sewer line north of town. Mr. McDowell said that they had agreed to pay. He said that the dust control had been applied on Holloway Heights and everyone had paid their share towards the cost as agreed. Ms. Kaye Fox said that the properties near her had been cut during the abatement process but that the cut grass hadn't been removed and she was concerned about the fire hazard. Mr. McDowell said that the City has done what it has legal authority to do, there was no basis to require the area to be raked. Council will be discussing the ordinance again this Fall.
5. Library Report. Ms. Lemhouse submitted a written report.
6. Court Report. Kathy Nida provided a summary of court activity.
7. Council Reports. None.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

1. Resolution 635 – Supporting the 2010 Census. Councilor Cole moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Authorize Advertising. Mr. McDowell asked the Council to approve advertising for an RFP for the water plant telemetry/communications upgrades planned for this fiscal year. He said that the work had been approved by the Budget Committee and the funds included in the budget. Councilor Ginn moved to authorize the advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerber and was approved unanimously with Mayor Ware and Councilor Cole abstaining due to potential conflicts of interest.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Nuisance Abatement / Liability. Mr. McDowell explained that many citizens and several current and past Councilors have mentioned the old manufactured homes that have been stored along Hwy. 228 on the west side of town. The question is what can be done about them. He said that he has discussed the issue with the City Attorney and obtained an opinion about the City's legal options. Mr. McDowell said that during the weed abatement process, the property owner worked very well with City and had been very cooperative. He said that the thought the best course of action would be to try to work with the property owner before trying to go through an enforcement action. Mr. McDowell said that he would try to find out what kind of assistance could be provided to help the owner resolve the matter. Council agreed by consensus.
2. June Financials.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CITIZEN COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



City Administrator S. Scott McDowell



Mayor Don Ware