

BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

November 24th, 2009

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

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: Mr. McDowell added a discussion item he called, "Death, Money and Taxes."

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the minutes of the October 27th, 2009, City Council meeting. Councilor Cole moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and was approved unanimously. The Council reviewed the minutes of the November 5th, 2009, special meeting. Councilor Van Sandt moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chambers and was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS:

1. John Mulder – Brownsville Art Association. Mr. Mulder told the Council that the Brownsville Art Association is interested in using the downstairs engine bay area of the old fire hall. He gave a history of the Art Association and its contributions to the community. He said that the Art Association is in need of a group work space and that the location of the space would be ideal for them. Mr. Mulder said that there are a number of arts and crafts types of groups in town such as quilters and knitters and it would be good to have a common space all the groups could use. The space could also be used for community art shows due to its downtown location. Mayor Ware mentioned the proposal to create a Stand by Me museum in the space. Mr. Mulder said that he didn't believe that would be of as great of benefit to the community as a whole as a community arts center. Councilor Shepherd asked if the group would need City funding for improvements. Mr. Mulder said that the group envisioned doing its own fundraising and making improvements to the space as funds become available. He said that the space would need some kind of heater and he hoped the City could provide that. He said that the Art Association could begin using the space as it is, they wouldn't require any improvements to get started. Mayor Ware said it sounded like an interesting proposal and should be developed further. Councilor Chambers said that she liked the idea provided it wasn't too costly for the City. Councilor Van Sandt said that it sounded better than the film museum proposal to her. Councilor Cole asked what the next step should be. Mr. McDowell said that he would work with Mr. Mulder to further flesh out the proposal before bringing it back to Council. Councilor Cole said that she thought it could be a real benefit to the community.
2. Leann Bell – Jake Brake Signage. Ms. Bell was not present. Mr. McDowell summarized her concern, saying that the Bells bought a home on North Main and are bothered by the traffic noise, particularly trucks using their jake brakes. He said that she had requested that the City install signs prohibiting the use of jake brakes. Mr. McDowell said that he has mentioned that using jake brakes inside the City is already illegal by state law. Adding signage would not do much to change behavior, particularly when the City has no way to enforce them. Councilor Shepherd said that there are already laws in force and the City doesn't need additional signage cluttering up the road. Councilor Chambers said that she lives very close to Ms. Bell and very seldom is bothered by any noise from North Main. Mayor Ware said that it seemed there was consensus not to install any signs and the Council agreed. Mr. McDowell said that Ms. Bell had a second request, asking the City to prohibit all burning inside the City. The Council had no interest in pursuing that idea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. Sheriff's Report. Sgt. Brad Kelley said that there had been some more arrests in the theft and vandalism cases of a few months ago, juveniles were involved. Councilor Cole said that she noticed in the report that the Sheriff's Office had spent more time in town than had been contracted for and asked if that meant extra cost. Sgt. Kelly said that it didn't affect the cost, they normally spent more time than the minimum contract number.
2. Planning. Mr. Sattler told the Council that Linn County is contesting the new flood plain maps developed by FEMA so the new flood plain ordinance would not come to the Council until the maps are officially adopted and the dispute settled. He said that the Historic Review Board grant had been unsuccessful and discussed the Solid Waste Advisory Committee he has been attending on behalf of the City.
3. Public Works. Mr. Frink said that Public Works would be installing Christmas decorations on November 30 and that the leaves in Pioneer Park are scheduled for pickup during the middle of December. Mr. Frink said that Public Works had cleaned up the Cemetery after Veteran's Day and had completed some improvements to the new Community Room. Councilor Cole asked if the animal waste bags were only in Pioneer Park. Mr. Frink said that they are only there but it might be a good idea to expand the program to the other park areas, particularly Library Park. There was discussion regarding the cost of expanding the program. Councilor Van Sandt moved that the bags be installed at Library Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and was approved unanimously.
4. Administrator Report. Mr. McDowell said that he had completed negotiation with the Calapooia Watershed Council for the use of office space and they had agreed to the Council's request for a rental fee to help offset the costs. Mr. McDowell said that he has asked the Calapooia Food Alliance for an official proposal for the Council to consider regarding the commercial kitchen idea, but has not yet received one. He hopes to have one by the December meeting. He said that he met with Jon Erwin and John Cunningham regarding Mr. Cunningham's proposed project. Mr. Cunningham has received a job offer in Redding, California, but still hopes to complete the project. Mr. McDowell said that he didn't know if there would be enough time for him to complete it. Councilor Cole asked if there is an alternative. Mr. McDowell said the only alternative is to hire it done at a cost of around \$40,000-\$50,000. He said that there might be a little assistance from grant funding and he's discussed it with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities.
5. Library Report. Ms. Lemhouse submitted a written report.
6. Court Report. Kathy Nida provided a summary of court activity.
7. Council Reports. None.
8. Citizen Comment. None.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

1. Ordinance 718 Amending Brownsville Municipal Code Section 8.2.040 (Weed Ordinance) First Reading. Councilor Shepherd moved that the ordinance be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cole and approved unanimously. Mayor Ware read the title of Ordinance 718. The second reading of the ordinance was set for the December 22nd, 2009, meeting.

2. Resolution 636 – Appoint Pro Tem Judges. Mr. McDowell explained that this is a yearly resolution to appoint pro tem judges for the Municipal Court in the event Judge Lemhouse is unavailable or has a conflict. Councilor Cole moved to approve Resolution 636. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Appoint Library Advisory Board Member. Mr. McDowell said that there is an opening on the LAB and that Joey Running had applied for the position. Councilor Cole moved that Ms. Running be appointed. The motion was seconded by Councilor Van Sandt and was approved unanimously.
2. Visit Linn Coalition. Mr. McDowell provided a background of the group, saying that it is a coalition of the smaller cities in eastern Linn County working together to promote tourism in the area. He said that they are asking for a pledge of \$250 towards matching funds for a grant they are seeking from the Ford Family Foundation. He explained that the money would only be spent if the grant is actually received and recommended approval. Councilor Cole moved to approve the request. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.


DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Rec Center Agreement. Mr. McDowell said that the agreement is up for renewal at the start of 2010. He said that the relationship between the Rec Center and the City is very good and they have been working closely with the City. Councilor Shepherd asked about some previous comments from Mr. McDowell suggesting that some portions be modified. Mr. McDowell said that he and the Council had discussed having the Rec Center open to the public more but it had turned out that the Rec Board was receptive to the idea and he didn't think the agreement needed to be changed. Mr. McDowell will attend the next Rec Board meeting and start discussions with the Rec Board about the agreement renewal.
 2. December Council Meeting. Mr. McDowell said that the December meeting is set for December 22nd, close to Christmas, and asked if there was a need to change the meeting date. The consensus of the Council was that everyone would be able to attend and there was no need to move the meeting.
 3. Taxes. Mr. McDowell said that staff and Councilors had been receiving questions about property taxes since a newspaper article had said that Brownsville had the highest taxes in Linn County. Mr. Sattler provided the Council with handouts showing the tax rates for various cities in the area and how the property taxes are distributed. While Brownsville's taxes are the highest due to the full assessment for the new sewer project coming due for the first time this year, the difference between Brownsville, Lebanon and Sweet Home was only about four percent.
2. October Financials. No discussion.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: NONE

CITIZEN COMMENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cole moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and was approved unanimously. The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



City Administrator S. Scott McDowell



Mayor Don Ware