

MINUTES
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016
STANFIELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS
150 WEST COE AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Stanfield City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tom McCann at the Stanfield City Council Chambers, located at 150 West Coe Avenue, Stanfield, Oregon.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Mayor Tom McCann and Councilors Pam McSpadden, Don Tyrrell, Lynn Weathermon, and Jack Huxoll. Councilors Manley and Sperr were absent. Also present were City Manager Blair Larsen, and Police Chief Bryan Zumwalt.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Tom McCann led the audience and members of the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Mayor Tom McCann approved the minutes for the February 2, 2016 council meeting as written, then asked for a motion to approve them. Councilors Weathermon and McSpadden moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 council meeting as written. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Weathermon, and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

EOTEC PRESENTATION

Nate Rivera, a volunteer for the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center gave a presentation regarding the status of the project. Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann accompanied him. Mr. Rivera gave an overview of the need for the center, the status of the construction, and the need for additional funding. He said that the old fairgrounds are not up to code, are insufficient for expanding needs, and have no dedicated parking. He said that when the City of Hermiston reviewed the cost of bringing the fairgrounds up to code, it was wiser to build a new facility. He also said that the land where the current fairgrounds are located was needed by the Hermiston School District.

Mr. Rivera said the exhibitor event center will be completed in April, and is taking reservations now. He said that exhibitor center is designed to be expanded in the future. He said the new rodeo arena will also be an improvement compared to the current facility, and is scheduled to be completed in July, 2017. He said the new animal barns are designed to be adjusted based on the type of animals housed, include show arenas, as well as shower rooms and washracks, and will be completed in July, 2017. He said the new facility will be more than twice the size of the old fairgrounds, and will include dedicated parking and extended stay spaces for exhibitors and participants.

Mr. Rivera said that EOTEC was funded by grants from the state, county grants, in-kind grants from the City of Hermiston, a HUD grant, the sale of the existing fairgrounds to the Hermiston School District. Last fall, additional money was contributed by the City of Hermiston, the county, and an increase in the local transient room tax.

Mr. Rivera said that an additional \$2 million was needed in order to complete this phase. He said that the project would still be completed without this funding, but would take away from operating expenses in the future. He said that they are offering sponsorship opportunities, and are seeking contributions from other cities. He said that they have collected over a million dollars in less than two months.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked the Council for listening to the presentation. He said that he hopes that the benefit of the facility spreads to neighboring communities, especially Stanfield. He said that this is a Umatilla County project, not a Hermiston project.

Councilor McSpadden asked if there would be concerts held there. Mayor Drotzmann said that they would like to hold any event that would like to be there. He said that they can erect portable stages, and there is a possibility for an amphitheater in a future phase.

Mayor Drotzmann said that the goal is not to have any debt or mortgage payment, and that way the facility can operate better in the future.

Mayor McCann asked if there has been much response from corporate sponsor. Mayor Drotzmann said that some of the local agricultural corporations have contributed, as has Good Shepherd Medical Center, ConAgra, and others.

Nate Rivera said that the response from donors has been very large, and that the region is very giving.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Larsen said that he put together a potential budget calendar. Mayor McCann said it looked good. Chief Zumwalt said that things were going well at the Police Department, and notified the council that the Bard Park restrooms were vandalized the previous day. He said that he thought that the bathrooms should be locked for a while in an attempt to get the message out that vandalism hurts the whole community. Mr. Larsen said that signs are already on the doors that say "closed due to vandalism." Councilor Huxoll said that the signs should be in English and in Spanish.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor McSpadden complained of speeding on Coe Avenue. Chief Zumwalt said that they would get the reader board out.

Councilor Tyrrell asked about donating money to EOTEC. Mayor McCann said that the City should. Councilor Huxoll said that the City should give some, but needs to take care of its own needs first. Mayor McCann said that something should be put in next year's budget. Mr. Larsen said that no matter what, the City will be able to give something, it's just a matter of how much. Mayor McCann said that EOTEC will be driving the economy in the future.

Councilor Weathermon said that ODOT did a great job with the pedestrian crossing at Harding Avenue, but they need to repaint the rest of the crosswalks through town on US 395. Mr. Larsen said that he would contact them about it. He said that repaving is scheduled in the next five years or so, and he hopes that they don't wait until then to do any repainting.

Councilor Tyrrell said that the roofers started on 170 S. Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Mayor Tom McCann adjourned the regular meeting of February 16, 2016 at 7:52 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for March 1st, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Blair Larsen, City Manager/Recorder

Attest: _____
Mayor

Date of Approval: _____