

MINUTES
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015
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, Del Manley, Jack Huxoll, and Jason Sperr. Also present were City Manager Blair Larsen, Public Works Director Scott Morris, Police Chief Bryan Zumwalt, Librarian Cecili Longhorn, and Finance Director Jerry Carlson.

FLAG SALUTE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mayor Tom McCann approved the minutes for the October 6, 2015 council meeting as written.

RESOLUTION 10-2015: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SPECIAL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITIES OF STANFIELD, HERMISTON, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Scott Stanton, Chief of the Hermiston and Stanfield Fire Districts introduced the resolution. He said that in 2011 Stanfield and Hermiston looked for a way to be more efficiency and provide better service in the western part of the county. This effort resulted in a push toward consolidating the two fire districts. He said that the Fire Districts approached the City with a resolution 18 months ago, and that the vote passed in Stanfield, but not in Hermiston. He said that they are back again with a lower requested tax rate, which would be 31 cents less per thousand of valuation, which is even better for Stanfield than the last effort. He said that an administrative merger is already in place, which is how there is a paramedic stationed in Stanfield now. He said that this resolution is requested to show support for the measure that will be on the ballot next May. He said that this will only be a name change and tax rate change, and all the people, stations and equipment will be the same. He said that the reason this is needed is that volunteerism is down, and there are not enough professionals to do the work. He said that this is causing delays which will eventually result in a fatality. He asked for the Council to adopt the resolution. He said that this will prepare the area for future growth, and future growth would result in better service for Stanfield at a lower tax rate.

Councilor Sperr asked if decrease in taxes will lower coverage. Chief Stanton said that coverage will be the same or improve. He said it will result in more resources coming to Stanfield.

Councilor Sperr asked where the funds would come. Chief Stanton said that everyone will pay \$1.75 per thousand of valuation. He said that there would be an increase in the county areas outside of Hermiston, but it would stay the same in Hermiston, and be a tax cut in Stanfield.

Cecili Longhorn said that last year more money was requested, and she asked how the district would function without that funding. Chief Stanton said that they restructured and learned that they could function with less, and that the feedback from the public was that the cost needed to be lower. He said the previous rate would have helped replace equipment faster, but this rate will work.

Eldon Marcum said that the consolidation would allow the station on Diagonal to be staffed, which would result in better service in Stanfield.

Chief Zumwalt asked what the governing board would be like. Chief Stanton said that it would be a five member board, as required by state law, with 2 members from Stanfield and 3 from Hermiston, initially. He said once the board is in place, they would decide if there would be wards or at-large board members. Mayor McCann said that there never has been a problem between City and rural members. Eldon Marcum said that they are looking at the whole district as being one, not one city or the other.

Councilors McSpadden and Sperr moved and seconded to adopt the resolution. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Weathermon, Manley, Huxoll, and Sperr. Nays: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF STANFIELD MAIN STREET PLAN

Mr. Larsen said that he wanted to get this document out earlier, but it was not ready yet. He said that the document contained all the improvements brought up at previous meetings of the Main Street Revitalization Committee, and the Open House that was held last summer. He said that this document was necessary for the application going to ODOT for a grant to fund the improvements. He said that the Council could adopt this tonight if they wished, but it could wait until the next meeting. He said that if they would like any changes made, he needs to know about them a week before the next Council meeting. He said that the plan incorporates the improvements discussed, namely, curb bulb-outs, improved street lighting, a median by the park, stamped and colored concrete intersection at Coe and Main, stamped and colored concrete crosswalks, street furniture, etc. He said that it also includes a plan for a bus stop at Coe and Main, which would help the chances of the application being granted, because it encourages other modes of transportation. He said he would love to hear their feedback. He said that Anderson Perry is working on cost estimates for the application.

Councilor Huxoll asked how much parking the bulb-outs would remove. Mr. Larsen said that it would only remove parking on the corners, where no one currently parks, and near the alleyways, where it is illegal to park anyway. He said it would be harder for big semi trucks to park, as they require much larger spaces. Councilor Huxoll said that the City needs to be careful with removing parking spaces.

Mayor McCann asked if any business owners on Main Street had expressed opposition. Mr. Larsen said that the only things anyone was opposed to were medians and the raised intersection.

Mayor McCann asked if ODOT had any other suggestions for slowing down traffic. Mr. Larsen said that this plan was the best he had seen. He said the only thing he heard of was reducing travel lanes or the speed limit, which would both be difficult to do, and which the public would probably oppose.

Councilor Sperr said that the Revitalization Committee would discuss this next Tuesday, and the Council and public are welcome to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Court: Chief Zumwalt submitted his report in writing. There were no questions or comments to his report or the court report.

Public Works/Building: Mr. Morris said that they are blowing out sprinklers, fixing leaks, and getting ready for winter. He said that City Hall was painted, as well as the two buildings at Coe Park. He said they are still working on getting the gate fixed at the compost yard, but there is electricity there now.

Finance/Administrative: Councilors Sperr and Manley moved and seconded to approve the bills for the month of October in the amount of \$107,436.41 as funds become available. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Weathermon, Manley, Huxoll, and Sperr. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Councilors Sperr and Manley moved and seconded to approve the finance report for September 2015. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Weathermon, Manley, Huxoll, and Sperr. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Safety: None.

Library: Still going.

Councilors Weathermon and Sperr moved and seconded to approve all committee reports. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Weathermon, Manley, Huxoll, and Sperr. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Susan Whelan said that she and her husband appreciate the work that the Public Works personnel have done on the City property with the pond on Ball Avenue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Larsen said that he has reached a verbal agreement with the owners of the property next to City Hall for \$65,000, and he is working out the financing now. He said he received a bid to fix the roof for \$16,000, which is below the previous estimate. He said that he is looking at options for paying for the property, one of which is to refinance the loan for City Hall to include the

other property. He said that the City could also look at loaning money to itself from the Sewer and Water funds. He said the options all seem to be equal, and was open to hearing the Councilors' preferences. He said that depending on what option was used, a supplemental budget may be needed, not to increase funding, but to move funds to the right place.

Councilor Manley asked what the property was worth. Mr. Larsen said it was hard to say, but a realtor had told him that she could sell it for \$100,000 if the roof and mold were remediated. He said assuming that price would allow the City sufficient money to fix the roof and the mold issue.

Mr. Larsen said that the Council should also discuss what they would like to do with it. He said that he would prefer to sell or lease the property, as it is valuable Main Street property, and the City doesn't need to have a desirable location for its activities. He also said that if the City wanted to use it, it would take more money to make it into something.

Councilor Sperr said that he is leery of buying the property, because there hasn't been a lot of investment in buildings in the City. He said he didn't want the City to become trapped in the building. Mr. Larsen said that is a valid concern, but he thought that if no one else would invest in the City, then the City should, within reason.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Sperr said that he appreciated the work the City has done at the pond as well. He also thanked the City for allowing them to host the Creepy Crawl and Fall Festival. He said Movies in the Park will continue next summer, and they will be looking to add some other activities as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Mayor Tom McCann adjourned the regular meeting of November 3, 2015 at 7:41 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for November 17th, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Blair Larsen, City Manager/Recorder

Attest: _____
Mayor

Date of Approval: _____