

Regular Council Meeting of March 3, 2015

Present were: Mayor Spieth, Councilmembers Koepke, Naillon, Hart and Roley.

Absent: Councilmember Neal.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Spieth. Pledge of Allegiance given. Copies of the February 17, 2015 council meeting minutes were read and approved.

EMS Association proposal to provide ambulance service; power point presentation given by Michael Greene. Presentation items included:

- * Successful service delivery system
- * Status of Oroville EMS
- * Potential options
- * Review of current City budget and proposed association budget
- * Comparisons
- * Possible steps
- * Summary

EMS responders stood and were thanked by those in attendance for the service they provide. Mayor Spieth complimented Greene on presentation of proposal. Janet Allen stated that she is hopeful that the City Council will consider the proposal. Discussion held on cost and time involved in becoming an EMT; more members are badly needed. Several members were present from the Tonasket ambulance crew and expressed their support for the Oroville ambulance service. Dale Gavin, Ambulance Association President, discussed items that need to be addressed before the association could enter into any kind of agreement with the City; need to obtain 501-C status, by-laws and SOP's need to be updated, etc. Greene stated that he would be willing to donate his time to help the association get their issues in order. Lisa Bordwell questioned time-frame for a decision; Mayor Spieth stated that the time-frame is unknown, City needs to look at all options available that are in the best interest of the community. Janet Allen stated that she is aware that the City has received one application for an EMT, wondered if any others had been submitted. Clerk Denney stated that only one application has been received. Discussion on possible EMT class to be held in May; 10 students would be needed to hold the class. Councilmember Naillon discussed that the main issue is the lack of staff. Community members Joanne Morris and Penny Finsen both expressed their gratitude for the Oroville ambulance crew. City Council thanked the public for attending.

Potential utility rate increase discussion; direction needed from Council. Potential increases were discussed during the February 10th workshop, however, final decisions were not made. Council would like to see a tiered-increase over the next three years. Water will increase \$1.00 per month each year; sewer will increase \$2.00 per month each year. Superintendent Noel discussed the Evergreen Rural Water conference he attended; state-wide average on water is slightly over \$50.00 per month. Also discussed presentation that was given discussing that if the rates are not set at 1¼% above the debt service, the municipality would be ineligible to receive assistance. Total monthly increase to utilities over the next three years will be \$3.00 for water and \$6.00 for sewer.

Community Development Director Updates; items included:

- * WA Rural Pathways to Prosperity Conference to be held April 17th to help make small businesses stronger. Chris Branch will facilitate the conference to be held in Oroville; discussed potential sites.
- * Branch attended a meeting held by the Okanogan County Commissioners to address Emergency Management Services; job announcement has gone out to replace Scott Miller. Discussion on the Joint Agreement from 1998 and the structure for membership. Mayor needs to appoint his representative, previous representatives were the Fire Chief and Police Chief. Mayor Spieth stated that he had received an e-mail stating that 3 applicants had been selected for consideration. Mayor Spieth

appointed Fire Chief Noel and Police Chief Hill to service as his representatives, sharing the duties; council confirmed appointments.

- * Streetscape plan to install a 4' x 8' tree grate in front of the Welcome Park. Discussed that the sidewalk is in need of repair as well. Considering the financial contribution made by Streetscape, Branch is asking that the City contribute towards the repair of the sidewalk. Branch stated that he is saving shipping costs for Streetscape by picking the grate up for them. Council approved contributing \$1,000 towards the cost of repairing the sidewalk.

Park Use request received from Vicki Hinze for the Rally at the Border Blues Fest for Deep Bay Park May 16-17. Amy Morris was present to answer any questions; stated that the only change to be made from last year's event is to allow families to attend, not restrict it to over 21 years of age. Official Park Use Application needs to be filed with the City prior to the event. Council approved the park use request.

Letter received from Frank Grunert requesting a reduction to the penalties owing on an account for property he recently purchased at a tax sale. Total City charges on the account equal \$7,606.39. Clerk Denney stated that a lien had been filed against the property in 2010 with the intent to collect outstanding balances when the property sold. When the property was purchased by Grunert, the outstanding charges were not paid. Denney contacted the Okanogan County Treasurer's Office and was told that the City is not eligible to receive funds from the tax foreclosure sale; they note on the terms of sale that the property may be subject to liens. Grunert was not aware that the balance had grown to that amount. Councilmember Hart stated that the City is obligated to collect for actual services, but felt that the penalties could be deducted; council agreed. Motion by Koepke, second by Hart that the penalties be deducted, less lien fees. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hart would like to discuss U-Turns on Main Street; signage and enforcement needed.

Councilmember Koepke questioned the status of Bud Clark Field; Superintendent Noel stated that the crew has begun clean-up and it will be a lengthy process. Noel also reported that he is looking into estimates for improvements to the Bin Lot property.

Councilmember Hart questioned the status of the old Border Patrol facility; no new information has been received. Clerk Denney to send additional inquiries.

Motion by Koepke and second by Naillon the vouchers #18700-18723, \$72,909.99, be paid, manual checks #18600-18604, \$470.23, be paid, the February 28, 2015 payroll of \$69,931.50, #18649-18699, be approved and the January/February 2015 Emergency Aid adjustments and collections of \$9,087.78 be approved and the meeting be adjourned at 8:37 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes approved _____

Mayor

Clerk