

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM, August 9, 2010**

NOTE: Where stated "Motion Carried" is considered unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES:

**Mayor, Les Paustian
City Manager, David De Mayo
Judy Buschke
Keith Lewis
Joann Burleson
Cody High
John Bowles
Ann Spicer, City Attorney**

**Brian Harmon, Public Works Director
Fire Chief, Rusty Estes**

Absent: Councilor Cindi Doherty

**Members of the Public: David Sykes, Heppner Gazette
Ken Dixon
Ken Dixon, Jr.
Sheryll Bates, Chamber of Commerce**

1. GENERAL BUSINESS.

A. Call to Order. The August 9, 2010 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Les Paustian.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Paustian led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Announcements – Agenda additions and Deletions. Mr. De Mayo identified three additional requests for use of the City of Park.

D. Correspondence.

1) E- Mail, Susan Sheoships, August 2, 2010. Subject: Heritage Plaza. According to Mr. De Mayo, this refers to the proposal to erect a figure in Heritage Plaza on the platforms that were installed when the project was

completed. According to Mr. De Mayo, the tribes are interested, although they are not ready to act on this until the next budget year. Mrs. Burleson asked if the Council and Beautification Commission needed to approve this. According to Mr. De Mayo, they do.

F. Requests.

Requests to use City Park.

1) Request to use City Park, Saturday, August 21, 2010, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Memorial Service for Valetta J. Burt, Alfred Burt, requestor.

2) Request to use City Park, Thursday, August 19, 2010, 5:00 – 8:00 PM for BBQ and going away party for Jodi Waite, Lianne Currin, requestor.

3) Request to use City Park, Thursday, August 26, 2010, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, HES/HHS staff picnic. Matt Combe, requestor.

4) Telephonic Request to use City Park, Wednesday, August 18, 2010, 2:30 PM, for Tea Party Movement meeting with Chris Dudley, Gubernatorial Candidate.

Action: Motion by Mrs. Buschke to approve the requests. Seconded by Mrs. Burleson. Motion Carried.

Animal Permit Renewals.

- 1) Denis Lien – 12 hens
- 2) Kenneth Collins – 20 Chickens, 2 Turkeys
- 3) Liz Pettibone – 10 horses

These are renewals that have been identified during an audit of the animal permits on file and the owners have been contacted.

Action: Motion by Mrs. Buschke to approve the permits for an indefinite period as long as there are no complaints from neighboring property owners. Seconded by Mr. Bowles. Motion carried.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC. None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. Minutes of City Council Meeting, July 12, 2010.
- B. Monthly Financial Statement.

Discussion: Mrs. Buschke identified one error in the July 12 minutes which was corrected.

ACTION: Motion by Mrs. Burleson to approve the July 12, 2010 minutes as corrected and the Monthly Financial Statement. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion Carried.

4. REPORTS.

A. Fire Chief

Chief Estes reported the following:

- 2 Mutual Aid to Gilliam County
- 1 Mutual Aid to Umatilla County
- 1 Mutual Aid to lone
- 1 Wildland Fire
- 1 In-town Wildland Fire
- 1 MVA
- 37 Chief Calls

Mrs. Burleson asked if the hillside by the dam will be burned? According to Mr. Estes, this is on the list. The fire across from the tennis courts was a controlled burn.

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department

Mr. Bowles reported that the hours for Mike Wilson reflect the hours Deputy Wilson has spent in Heppner. Deputy Bowles stated that Deputy Wilson has been very proactive during his time in Heppner. Deputy Wilson is a retired OSP trooper. Deputy Bowles has been handling call-outs in Heppner as needed.

Deputy Bowles reviewed the written incident report provided for July 2010. There have been a lot of animal complaints, mostly involving dogs. Deputy Bowles stated that stray cats are becoming a problem again, and there are a lot of unhealthy cats in the area.

There have also been several fraud incidents. Two Harrassment reports were reported with one arrest made.

Deputy Bowles stated that the current monthly report format will continue. Mayor Paustian stated that this report is satisfactory and explains the reported hours.

C. Heppner Housing Authority.

Mrs. Buschke reported that there are two vacancies. Three apartments sustained water damage from hot water left running in one apartment. The apartment below the subject apartment had serious water damage. The tenant's insurance will pay for the damage. Tenants have been advised to obtain their own renters insurance. The air conditioning in the kitchen and dining areas is not working. The area has been without air conditioning for two weeks. This should be replaced later this week. Two bids were obtained and the low bid was from a company in Pendleton.

D. Public Works.

Mr. Harmon reported that Public Works is working on the leak up the creek. They have received the right-of-way permit from the County to do excavating. They should be able to work on this later this week.

Demand for water has not been excessive this summer, although it did go up this last month.

The crew is going a good job, although there are some isolation problems on Cowins Street. This was difficult to solve, since the maps did not show the locations.

There are still quite a few meters that need to be changed out. The information on a price quote should be available for the Utilities Commission.

Mr. Harmon stated that in the future, he would like to hire a part time worker to work on the parks during the summer.

With regard to vehicles, Mr. Harmon stated that they plan to keep the Crown Victoria currently in possession and will be receiving the Durango soon. During the next rotation year, the current Crown Victoria will be declared surplus and replaced by a newer one.

Council members complimented the Public Works crew on their excellent work.

E. City Managers Report.

Mr. De Mayo reported the following:

1) City Hall Remodel. Mr. De Mayo reported that there was no local interest in the proposed remodeling of the upstairs of City Hall and requested permission

to contact contractors outside local areas. Council members agreed to allow him to contact other contractors.

4) Draft copy of proposed ad for The Oregonian. Mr. De Mayo previously discussed advertising Heppner in The Oregonian and provided information received concerning advertising rates for the Oregonian for Council members to review. He would like the Council to review the information prior to the next meeting. He will also consult Mr. Sykes for his expertise. Mrs. Bates stated that Heppner could be advertised on the web and in a new brochure. This will be discussed further at a meeting she is attending on Friday.

6) Barratt Blvd. Mr. De Mayo attended a meeting last week in La Grande and learned that the same group who tried to overthrow the project in the last election are trying to do this again in a different manner. It was explained that they will let the projects stand in the STIP but the funding will be removed. He is unsure how this will be dealt with. The initiative requires more signatures than the last one. ODOT is researching different options. This is currently in a holding pattern.

Questions: Mr. High asked how far away in the future these projects would start if funding was obtained. According to Mr. De Mayo, once everything is in place, it would be about a year before a project would commence.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Ken Dixon asked about the abandoned vehicle permit process. Mr. De Mayo explained the process. The registration process begins on September 1. He informed Mr. Dixon that he could come to the office during the week and obtain a permit prior to September 1. A permit will allow a vehicle to be stored on a property for one year. Mr. Dixon has two vehicles that he intends to restore as funds are available.

Mr. Dixon also has concerns about a large accumulation of grass and weeds next to a vacant house which is a fire hazard. According to Mr. Estes, he needs a request to burn the grass, etc. from the property owner. The property is located next to the Wenberg property.

6. COUNCIL ACTION.

A. OLD BUSINESS. None.

B. NEW BUSINESS.

1) Heppner Advertisement.

Action: Motion by Mrs. Buschke to table this action until the next Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Burleson. Motion Carried.

2) Presentations.

Mayor Paustian presented a plaque to Mrs. Buschke as President, Heppner Housing Authority expressing appreciation for the support and hard work during the Senior Center renovation. He also gave Mrs. Buschke a plaque to be presented to Joyce Kay Hollomon, as Treasurer of the Heppner Housing Authority.

Mrs. Buschke presented a plaque to Mayor Paustian in appreciation for his work on the Senior Center project.

8. REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY. None.

9. REPORT FROM MAYOR/CITY COUNCILORS.

A. Mr. Bowles inquired about the blue-green algae at the Willow Creek dam and whether people can swim in the water. According to Mr. De Mayo, this information would have to come from the Corps of Engineers. The algae this year is a different type than years past. Mr. Estes mentioned that there are no warning signs posted. This is a problem for out of town visitors. The Solar Bees that were rented in the past are expensive.

B. With regard to the two expiring Council positions, the incumbents have decided to run again, although no one else has applied to run.

10. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.