

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
Regular Meeting – March 27, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Rick Newton, Pam Ackley, Mark Baldwin, Tom Dyer and Mayor Henry Balensifer

Absent:

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Finance Director April Clark, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, Police Chief Matt Workman, Fire Chief Tim Demers, Public Works Operations Manager Kyle Sharpsteen, Interim Planning Director Kevin Cronin, and Deputy City Recorder Dawne Shaw

Some minor errors were noted in the minutes of 3/13/18 which would be corrected for the record.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to approve the consent calendar with the amended regular meeting minutes of 3.13.18. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

COMMISSIONER REPORTS –

Commissioner Ackley gave a brief update on the Hammond marina task force and noted the status of the grant from the Marine Board.

Commissioner Newton stated he met with Bruce St. Dennis, manager of Cannon Beach, and reached out to several others to discuss emergency plans and preparedness.

Mayor Balensifer noted 2 handouts from the timber representative on the CEDR board that were presented at the last CEDR Board meeting; one which talks about forestry and wood products; he stated he would like to draw attention to the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties Annual Report. He noted this item will be on the agenda at tomorrow's county meeting, to withdraw from the Forest Trust Land Counties group. He noted there have been concerns regarding this. He suggested a joint session with the county or to request updates on issues that affect Warrenton. Brief discussion followed and Mayor Balensifer stated he can attend the county meeting and convey that the Warrenton City Commission would like more time, and would like to know the ramifications of their actions. He also noted he attended a meeting with ODFW and

others, regarding the elk issue, and stated he is planning to hold a Town Hall meeting with ODFW, April 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center to discuss the elk. Mayor Balensifer noted an article/paid advertisement in the Columbia Press, from Scott Widdicombe regarding the 8th Street Dam. Brief discussion followed and Commissioner Newton noted he has reviewed 1000's of pages of documents on the matter, and anyone who wants to look them is welcome to. The discussion continued on the article and the city's actions. Mayor Balensifer noted the commission fully supports the City Manager and is following the advice of multiple legal counsels.

Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to add the Letter of Support for the Center of Environmental Studies as agenda item 7-I. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

City Manager Linda Engbretson introduced Interim Community Development Director Kevin Cronin. Mr. Cronin gave a few comments and noted he is pleased to be here, and welcomed the commissioners to stop by his office. He spoke briefly about the Center for Environmental Studies, noting it is a project at the airport, and will be a “super-green” office building. He stated it will be a job creator and will provide work force development opportunities for folks that are in the environmental field. Brief discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Rhonda and Dax Sewell, spoke regarding the street vacation that was addressed at a prior meeting and it was suggested they move forward with a License to Occupy, which she hopes will get approved at tonight's meeting. Ms. Sewell noted the bank stabilization they wish to do to stop erosion, and requested a refund of difference in fees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – Mayor Balensifer opened the public hearing on the consideration of Resolution No. 2517; Approving and Adopting a Supplemental Budget by Making Appropriations for Municipal Purposes of the City of Warrenton for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. Formalities followed and no ex-parte or conflicts of interest were reported. Finance Director April Clark presented her staff report, and noted this budget adjustment is to amend the current budget to allow for additional spending authority in the Building Division Fund for increased costs in professional services. She noted the adjusted figures as outlined in the agenda memo. Mayor Balensifer asked for public comment, and no one spoke in favor or opposition. There being no further comments, Mayor Balensifer closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2517; Approving and Adopting a Supplemental Budget by Making Appropriations for Municipal Purposes of the City of Warrenton for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

BUSINESS – Police Chief Workman and Ariel Young, a representative from The Harbor spoke briefly about raising awareness for child abuse and sexual assault, and upcoming events. Chief Workman noted most people don't see the abuse, so nothing gets done; and noted more awareness helps. City Manager Engbretson noted the CASA pinwheel garden will be in front of the post office in April. Brief discussion followed on abuse.

After reading two Proclamations Mayor Balensifer declared the month of April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month, in the City of Warrenton, and encouraged everyone to join in its observance.

Mayor Balensifer introduced Mary Bosch, Director for Rural Economic Vitality. Ms. Bosch gave a quick overview of the RDI, (Rural Development Initiatives) organization. She presented a slide show and explained the RDI Economic Vitality Roadmap process. Discussion followed and Ms. Bosch noted the involvement is “pretty intense” up front; (the first 90 days) however RDI stays through the process. She noted there is a 10% cash match, which would be approximately \$3500.00.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to authorize staff to complete the Rural Economic Vitality Roadmap Application. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

City Manager Linda Engbretson stated the Commission received a petition to vacate the northern 225 feet of SW Date Avenue, south of SW 6th Street from Rhonda and Dax Sewell at its February 13, 2018 meeting. She noted there were concerns regarding fire access and fire-fighting capability in this area, should the vacation be granted. Ms. Engbretson noted the Sewell's worked with now retired Community Development Director Skip Urling for a simple License to Occupy. Mayor Balensifer clarified that staff will expedite the refund of the overpaid amount. Brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Newton made the motion to authorize the Mayor's signature on the License to Occupy between the City of Warrenton and Sue and Dax Sewell. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

It was noted MS. Sewell's correct name is Rhonda, not Sue.

Commissioner Newton amended his motion to amend the License to Occupy between Rhonda and Dax Sewell and the City of Warrenton. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

Mayor Balensifer noted the City Commission discussed the 2018-2019 Goals at its last meeting but put off adopting these goals until Commissioner Baldwin could participate.

Commissioner Dyer made the motion to adopt the following as Commission Goals for FY 2018-2019: 1) Community Building; 2) Visioning Update; 3) Downtown Improvements; 4) Emergency Preparedness. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

City Manager Linda Engbretson presented the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Warrenton Police Employees Local 2746-1, tentatively agreed to at mediation on February 23, 2018. She noted the proposed agreement includes a 2% COLA effective July 1, 2017, 2.5% effective July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019. She noted other adjustments as outlined in the agenda memo. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Dyer made the motion to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Warrenton and the Warrenton Police Employees Local 2746-1. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

Mayor Balensifer noted City Manager Engbretson wishes to postpone her performance evaluation until the last meeting in April.

Mayor Balensifer presented the Letter of Support of Center of Environmental Studies, and noted it would be a good asset and will bring services to our city. Ms. Engbretson noted this letter is for support of the grant, and stated it would be very interesting to invite Mr. Knight to come and provide more information.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the letter of support for the Center of Environmental Studies to the Port of Astoria. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Balensifer – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Ackley – aye; Baldwin – aye

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Commissioner Newton noted at Mayor’s Coffee people often ask when the blue house on Harbor is going to go away, and asked the Commission to request staff make that happen. Mayor Balensifer stated it should be addressed along with the nuisance property across the street from city hall, on Main. City Manager Engbretson noted funding is an issue; however the city can proceed with a declaration of nuisance. She stated an initial letter has been sent to the property on Main, and the city will move forward. Brief discussion continued on the various nuisances around the city. There was consensus within the commission for staff to move forward as expeditiously as possible.

Commissioner Dyer gave brief comments on his ideas for the Nuisance Task Force, and implementing pride of ownership.

Commissioner Ackley discussed a nuisance property on NE Heron and 1st, by the marina. Ms. Engbretson stated she will have the Police Chief go out and look at it.

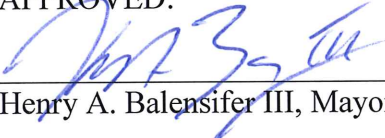
Mayor Balensifer stated he was proud to say Warrenton High Fisheries Incorporated provided its first grant - an \$800 grant for a high school student to develop a living filter to help with solving a problem at the hatchery. He also noted on May 12th Cannon Beach is putting on a festival around emergency preparedness, etc., which may have some applicability to our city.

Chief Workman spoke briefly about the upcoming Citizens Police Academy, which will be April 17 – June 11. He stated applications are available on the city's website. He also noted the Autism Awareness Color Run, which his on April 7th at 11:30.


Commissioner Newton stated in the event of a tsunami, people are to head north and noted visitors may not know where to go, so signs should be easily understandable.

There being no further business Mayor Balensifer adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

APPROVED:


Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dawne Shaw, Deputy City Recorder