

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
Regular Meeting – December 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, Or 97146

Mayor Kujala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and then led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a moment of silence for Seaside Mayor Don Larson.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Legal Counsel Akin Blitz, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Public Works Director Jim Dunn, Finance Director April Clark, Assistant Harbor Master Jane Sweet, Public Works Foreman Craig Walter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Kyle Sharpsteen and Administrative Assistant Dawne Shaw

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mayor Kujala spoke briefly on the loss of Seaside Mayor Don Larson and congratulated Commissioner Ackley for her reelection to the City Commission. He also congratulated Ryan Lampi thanked him for his support on the Planning commission.

Commissioner Ackley stated it was a really tight race for her Commission seat and noted the city is lucky to have Mr. Lampi on the Planning Commission. She noted she had the chance to work with Don Larson in the past and he was a “gentleman among gentlemen” and he will be missed. Commissioner Ackley stated there is a wrapping party at the grade school Saturday morning at 9:00 and volunteers are needed to wrap gifts from ~~the giving tree~~, noting there are 206 kids. Mayor Kujala thanked Commissioner Ackley for all her work with the Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids and noted Commissioner Newton has worked for years with the Fire Department to provide toys and gifts that go out with the food baskets.

local donations from individuals and businesses.

Commissioner Balensifer echoed the sentiments on Mayor Don Larson.

Commissioner Dyer welcomed everyone and noted Mayor Larson will be missed.

Commissioner Newton Rick stated he was sad to hear of Mayor Larson’s passing. He also noted Crest has meeting Thursday and requested to attend and represent the city. Mayor Kujala agreed noting that Commissioner Newton is the delegate.

City Manager Engbretson stated the county sent information on tsunami evacuation modeling of the Warrenton Clatsop plains, noting people can go online and estimate walking times from locations in the community, and see evacuation routes, etc. This information will be put on our website. Ms. Engbretson noted she also received a request for a letter of support for a FEMA grant for signage for tsunami evacuation routes, etc., and suggested it be put on the agenda.

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to add item H to the agenda, a letter in support for a FEMA grant. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

City Manager Engbretson also reminded everyone of the City Hall holiday closures. Mayor Kujala noted the December 27th city commission meeting and with no items pending, it may be appropriate to cancel and the Commission agreed.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to add item I regarding the December 27th City Commission meeting cancellation. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer asked if the City Manager had received his email from the airport committee regarding a letter of support for Life Flight. City Manager Engbretson confirmed.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to add agenda item J, a letter of support for Life Flight to the Port of Astoria. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – ^{abstained} aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Mayor Kujala stated Gary Nevan, of the Columbia Press has been a voice for the community for 28 ½ years, and appreciates his working with the city and reporting on activities. Mr. Nevan has sold the Columbia Press and is moving to Central Oregon. Mayor Kujala note he will be missed and wished him all the best.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – 11.22.16
- B. Community Center Advisory Board Minutes – 4.21.16
- C. Community Center Advisory Board Minutes – 11.17.16
- D. Official Canvass of Votes from the November 8, 2016 General Election

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to accept the consent calendar presented. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

BUSINESS

Amy Baker, Clatsop Behavior Healthcare Executive Director thanked the Commission for allowing her to speak this evening and gave a brief presentation on the North Coast Crisis Respite Center. She spoke about mental illness and addictions, noting statistics and gave specifics of the services provided. Mayor Kujala asked what the average length of stay is and Ms. Brown stated the average length of stay is 22 days, but it varies depending on the individual and what their needs are. Ms. Brown clarified there are 12 beds that are voluntary and there are 4 beds that have the potential to be “secure”, however they are not licensed for secure beds yet. Discussion continued on the benefits of having a mental health facility in the area.

Ms. Baker introduced Cindy Daly, President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, (NAMI). Ms. Daly noted NAMI works very hard to make sure they are stigma free and to remind people to “see the person, not the illness”. She gave statistics on mental illness and also noted many famous people that have suffered with mental health issues. Ms. Daly stated she also volunteers with Judge Matias’ treatment court. The goal is to keep people out of jail and on medication and/or in treatment. The discussion continued on the best ways for the Commission or public officials to support this cause/organization. Ms. Daly stated it is helpful to give out cards and make referrals. Ms. Baker noted the need of a van for the North Coast Crisis Respite Center, for food delivery service, client transportation for services and occasional outings, as it is beneficial for clients to have normalized activities. Discussion continued on the Governor’s budget and how it may affect services.

Legal Counsel Akin Blitz gave a presentation on the 8th Street dam action. Mr. Blitz stated there were attempts to bring the parties together to at least have a discussion, or possibly mediation but was not successful. SWCD is consulting with Special Districts Association of Oregon and are not prepared at this time to talk or engage in meetings. Mr. Blitz noted he has consulted briefly with Beery, Elsner and Hammond and with counsel at the US Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE). Mr. Blitz has prepared a resolution for consideration. The purpose of the resolution is to recite facts, declare an emergency, direct City staff and legal counsel to take appropriate action, and requests the assistance of the USACE. Mr. Blitz outlined the details of Res. No. 2472. He also stated the City has obtained 2 of the 3 tide gates and is moving forward with acquiring a 3rd tidegate so the City is prepared. Mayor Kujala noted for clarification that the City is asking for assistance from the USACE; outlining the terms that make this an emergency, which is flood risk and levee certification; but we are not seizing the structure, simply asking the Federal government to come in and assist in getting it re-established. The discussion continued on the

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timeline for the USACE to respond. Mr. Blitz stated there is a process where the USACE can act first and do the permitting later. He stated the resolution was requested by the USACE. He further clarified the resolution will not preclude the City from suing for quiet title. The discussion continued on the mediation efforts and the next steps. Commissioner Balensifer asked for further clarification on item number 2 on the resolution and Mr. Blitz clarified that he will not go forward with legal action without discussing with the Commission first. Mayor Kujala noted Mr. Blitz is working closely with the City Manager who then coordinates with the Commission. The discussion continued over the current ownership/control over the structure and liability. Commissioner Balensifer stated for the record the city is waiting for the Corps to make a ruling or issue some direction to us, before we do any other litigation or suits. Mr. Blitz concurred. Brief discussion continued.

Commissioner Dyer made the motion to approve Res. No. 2472; A Resolution to Take Necessary Steps to Restore 8th Street Structure, Declaring an Emergency, and Directive to Staff and Legal Counsel. Motion was seconded and approved with all in favor.

Kujala – aye; Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye

Finance Director April Clark presented Resolution No. 2471 to amend Res. No. 640, creating a Community Center Board and providing rules for operation and repealing Res. No. 2372. She stated the Community Center Advisory Board wishes to make a change to its Bylaws and Rules for Operations to allow for additional members. Ms. Clark noted the advisory board was established in October of 1987. The goal of the Community Center is that it should be self-supporting and any operating deficit would be off-set by fund-raising activities. The Board has done an excellent job, but they could use some additional help. The Board currently consists of five members and they would like seven members, therefore the Community Center Board would like to amend the Board Rules and Bylaws to allow for additional members.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to approve Res. No. 2471 Amending Res. No. 640; Creating a Community Center Advisory Board and Providing Rules for Operation Thereof and Repealing Res. No. 2372; Adopting the Warrenton Community Center Advisory Board Bylaws and Repealing all Other Resolutions in Conflict. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Mayor Kujala noted the applications for the various volunteer committees with terms ending as of December 31, 2016. Commissioner Balensifer noted there are still a lot of vacancies. Brief discussion continued on the vacancies and ways to get the word out.

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to reappoint Mr. Wegner to Position No. 5 on

the Budget Committee. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to reappoint Mr. Williams to Position No. 1 and Ms. Bridges to Position No. 2 on the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to reappoint Mr. Becker to Position No. 1 and Ms. Anderson to Position No. 4 on the Community Center Board. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to appoint Melissa Witt to Position No. 6 on the Community Center board. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to reappoint Mr. Little to Position No. 4 on the Parks Advisory Board. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to reappoint Ms. Murphy-Becker to Position No. 5 on the Library Board. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Brief discussion continued on ways to advertise to recruit more volunteers for the various committees.

Community Library Board Chair, Kelsey Balensifer gave an update on the library relocation, noting the two properties that are under consideration. Ms. Balensifer stated one option, the Serendipity building at 160 S. Main offers advantages, such as more square footage and room to grow, but the Board disagrees with the partnership with the current tenant. The current lease on that property will be expiring June 30, 2017, and the board recommends staying in the current building until it becomes available. The Community Library Board recommends the City Commission authorize City staff to negotiate a lease agreement for the building at 160 S. Main,

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when it becomes available. City Manager Engbretson stated she hopes commission can meet with Library Board in January regarding the library levy. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to move forward on the recommendation of the Library Board to negotiate a lease with the school district when the building becomes available. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1210-A, by title only. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Mayor Kujala conducted the second reading by title: Ordinance No. 1210-A; *Vacating a Portion of SE Galena Avenue in Warrenton, Oregon.*

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1210-A. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to affix the Mayor's signature on a letter of support for the Clatsop County Evacuation Sign System Assessment grant. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to cancel the December 27, 2016 City Commission meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kujala – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye

Commissioner Ackley made the motion to authorize the Mayor's signature on the Life Flight letter of support to the Port of Astoria. Motion was seconded and approved. Commissioner Balensifer abstained from the vote as he is the Chair on the Airport Advisory Committee.

Kujala – aye; Ackley – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye; Balensifer – abstain

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dennis Faletti stated he has been a member of the community since 1972, he is proud of the community and proud of the Commission but he is disappointed in the look/design of new businesses and box stores that are being built. He noted these same stores in other areas he visited looked special and beautiful; not like just another box store and he wishes Warrenton would do the same. Discussion continued on site design standards. Mayor Kujala noted that Walmart canceled last week’s ground breaking due to inclement weather and it will be rescheduled. Dick Hellberg spoke about the 8th Street dam and asked that the Commission remember a previous suit the City was involved in. He stated any other solution is better than suing. Mr. Hellberg also noted if the City takes over the dam, protection and liability will extend up river, beyond the city. Kathleen Zunkell also spoke about 8th Street dam, noting she is not happy with the way the Commission has handled the matter and stated she would appreciate transparency. Mayor Kujala noted there is a 30 page complaint put together by Attorney Akin Blitz that details what the City’s position is and the factual misrepresentations that took place over the past 14 years. He suggested the document be placed on the website so the public can view it. Brief discussion continued and City Manager Engbretson stated she could have a hard copy of the document available for Ms. Zunkell. Jim Ray voiced his concerns over possible liability issues from low hanging trees on Lake Drive in Hammond. Public Works Director Jim Dunn and Assistant Harbor Master Jane Sweet will look into the matter. Kathleen Adams, the community garden manager stated the Community Garden in Hammond grew 379 pounds of vegetables that were donated to the local food pantry. Ms. Adams also noted during the school year, the students delivered the produce and worked at the food pantry.

There being no further business Mayor Kujala adjourned the regular meeting at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dawne Shaw, Administrative Assistant