

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2012

The regular meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Dominick at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 20, 2012, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Norm Crume, Joe Dominick, Jackson Fox, Charlotte Fugate, Dan Jones, David Sullivan and Ronald Verini.

Members of staff present were Jay Henry, Tori Barnett, Lisa Hansen, Mark Alexander, Dave McPheeters, and Rick Conant. The meeting was recorded on tape, and the tapes are available at City Hall.

David Sullivan led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

David Sullivan moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-yes; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Crume recused himself from voting, as his company had an invoice on the bills.

Ron Verini moved, seconded by David Sullivan, to approve Consent Agenda Item A: Approval of the Regular Minutes of 08/06/2012; Item B: Resolution #2012-118: Receive/Expend JAG Funds (OPD) - \$10,271; and Item C: Approval of the Bills. Roll call vote: Crume-recuse; Fox-yes; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Hart, Ontario, read a statement: Council members, I appreciate the chance to address you tonight. Two weeks ago, I made a presentation at your work session regarding a proposed resolution related to possible changes to health care delivery in our community. Changes that could have a substantial impact on the citizens of Ontario and its businesses.

This past week, I received an email from the Mayor with the response to my request made at your work session. The email stated, "I do not have the Council support to move any type of resolution forward, as you had suggested". While you are probably not surprised that I am disappointed with your decision to not proceed, you will also not be surprised that I will continue to ask you to reconsider.

I was pleased to see that St. Luke's did accept the City's invitation to better inform the City Council of its plans just a few miles from our City's border. When St. Luke's does come before the City Council – as the representatives of our community – I hope you will try to gain enough information so that you can take a position on their proposal. I suggested in my resolution using the guidelines as outlined by the Oregon Health Authority which is prescribed in state law – but use your own standards or questions to determine what impact a new facility will have on the citizens you represent. My request is that you ask good questions – that's it.

The Mayor's email also stated something else that I did not agree with. He stated, the "Ontario Council has no authority or influence on where St. Luke's chooses to build". I believe you can influence their decision if you so choose to. Ontario is the largest city that this new facility will serve – to think that your comments or concerns would not have an impact on them is hard to believe. If St. Luke's is a true community minded institution they will be very receptive of what you – our elected representatives – have to say on this matter. Thank you.

Councilor Fox asked when the Council had voted on showing no support for Mr. Hart's suggestion?

Mayor Dominick stated there had not been a vote. When speaking with the Councilors, there had not been a consensus to move forward.

Councilor Fox stated no one spoke to him.

Mayor Dominick stated it was talked about in an open Thursday Study Session.

Councilor Fox asked when that meeting was.

Councilor Sullivan stated it was talked about. Mr. Hart had come before the Council at a Study Session. It was determined that because it was outside the jurisdiction of Ontario, there was nothing the Ontario Council could do.

Councilor Jones stated he did not remember that.

Councilor Sullivan stated that maybe Councilor Jones had not been at that meeting.

Mayor Dominick stated Mr. Hart's first presentation was discussed.

Tori Barnet, City Recorder, stated she could provide the minutes/notes from the Study Session, if necessary.

Councilor Fox stated he would like a copy.

Councilor Sullivan verified that Mr. Hart understood it was outside of the Council's jurisdiction. The laws that Mr. Hart presented, the Council had no jurisdiction. So what did Mr. Hart want the Council to do, then?

Mr. Hart stated he was excited that the hospital was willing to come and explain to the Council what their plans were. He wished that the hospital would seek the Council's support for building whatever they were building. Because of the impact that facility could have on the citizens of Ontario, that they ask some questions to determine, whether they had an opinion or not, the City Council could take a position, much like the newspaper did. There were still a lot of questions to ask, such as what they were going to build, or what the impact would be on health care. As a businessman, if someone approached him with a business plan, there would be certain criteria that he would look at to help determine if it was a good investment. But, he was not a health care guy, so if someone were to come in and say they wanted to build "this", and this is what it would do the community, he would look at the criteria to see if it was good for his community or not. He would suggest that the Council use the criteria as outlined by the Oregon Health Authority, and maybe the Council could find some questions to ask to determine whether the Council of Ontario even wanted to take a position, or maybe even as individuals.

Councilor Sullivan stated under the statute Mr. Hart presented to them, they had no standing because it was being built out of their jurisdiction. Anything they would do concerning St. Luke's would be voluntary. St. Luke's did respond to their request, and stated they would be happy to come and answer questions. Beyond that, what else could they do as a Council?

Mr. Hart replied that if St. Luke's came in and said they would love to have the City's support, and if the Council looked at their proposal and thought it was great for the community, then fantastic, pass a resolution in support. If there were concerns, then do the same thing – raise questions. He did not know if St. Luke's would be taking community input, or would be going to town halls to seek input before building, but, technically, St. Luke's didn't have to do anything in the State of Oregon. Idaho law was very different. However, if the community minded, and they were going to be serving this community, he hoped that St. Luke's would ask for input.

Mayor Dominick stated he raised the same questions with St. Alphonsus when it came to them building across the river instead of staying in Oregon. It was a double-edged sword. Why had they not, as a Council, done a resolution questioning the decision of St. Alphonsus? It was something that certainly needed to be discussed further. He thanked Mr. Hart for his comments, but Councilor Sullivan stated it well when he pointed out it was across the river.

Councilor Verini asked if St. Alphonsus appeared before the communities of Payette or Fruitland when they decided to build over there, to ask for their support? And he believed the answer was no, they had not.

Mr. Hart stated they had appeared before Planning.

Councilor Verini was asking about asking for support, much like Mr. Hart was doing asking Ontario to not support St. Luke's. Secondly, since St. Luke's was willing to make a presentation to the Ontario Council, it would be nice if Mr. Hart attended, to hear that presentation. He didn't know if Mr. Hart could ask questions, since he was on the Board of St. Alphonsus, but at least he could hear what St. Luke's had to say.

Councilor Sullivan asked if anyone from St. Alphonsus went before the Council before they built in Fruitland?

Mr. Hart stated he did not recall if they came before the Ontario Council.

Mayor Dominick stated they had not.

Mr. Hart stated St. Alphonsus built doctor's offices, not a hospital. St. Luke's would quite possibly have an emergency room.

Mayor Dominick again thanked Mr. Hart for his comments.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Ms. Barnett stated she had placed the registration form for LOC at their seats. They needed to get those in by September 1st to avoid a late fee.
- Mayor Dominick distributed the new Council Liaison appointments, and two spots still needed a body. Councilor Jones stated he would take the SREDA position.
- Mayor Dominick reminded everyone that tomorrow at 7:00 a.m. Road Runner Towing would remove the flag pole below the hospital. Kinney Repair would be fixing it, and it would take about a week. They would have it back up before Labor Day.
- Mayor Dominick reminded everyone that school was starting, so slow down and watch for crosswalk usage.
- Mayor Dominick thanked the Planning Department for the updated City property map.
- Lisa Hansen spoke with Oster about the audit. They would go to print on Wednesday, and ready for distribution next week.

Jay Henry stated the management audit should be ready by the next Study Session. It was not complete, but he had asked for some type of update for the Council.

Mayor Dominick let Mr. Henry know the Audit Committee was Councilors Fugate, Sullivan, and Fox.

- Councilor Fox stated he wanted the City Manager to look into an issue, and report back to the Council. Earlier this summer, a concerned citizen approached him about how her daughter could not get a job at the pool or the rec department this summer. She asked if there was some inside process not made public. He believed all temp hires went through American Staffing. Question one – what was the whole process? Number two – did American Staffing do a screening? As they knew, most of those hires would have contact with children. If that was not done there, who did that screening? Who had the liability if something went wrong with some of those hires? Did this method described, did it circumvent the normal hiring process? Is that how they handled the temp hires?

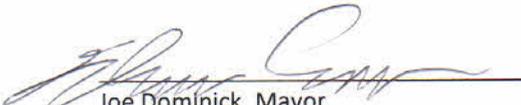
Mr. Henry stated HR had already spoken with him about the temp hiring practices. She wasn't comfortable with them, and gave reasons why. He told her she was right. Now, all the temp hires were going to go through HR. There were so many areas where they could get in trouble with temp hires, hiring people that worked with kids, hiring for positions that might infringe on a union contract, there were many different areas with potential trouble. That change had already been implemented.

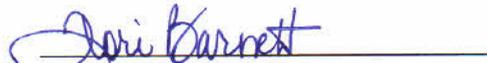
ADJOURN

Ron Verini moved, seconded by David Sullivan, that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fox-yes; Fugate-yes; Jones-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-yes; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Joe Dominick, Mayor


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder