

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2010

The regular meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Dominick at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 2010, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Norm Crume, Joe Dominick, Charlotte Fugate, John Gaskill, Susann Mills and David Sullivan. Ron Verini was out ill.

Members of staff present were Henry Lawrence, Tori Barnett, Larry Sullivan, Mike Kee, Mark Alexander, and camera operator Delaney Kee.

John Gaskill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Susann Mills moved, seconded by David Sullivan, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fugate-yes; Gaskill-yes; Mills-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-out; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Crume recused himself from action on the Consent Agenda as his business would receive payment upon adoption of the bills.

David Sullivan moved, seconded by Charlotte Fugate, to approve Consent Agenda Item A: Approval of Minutes of regular meeting of 07/06/2010; Item B: Proclamation: Americans with Disabilities Act 2010; and Item C: Approval of the Bills. Roll call vote: Crume-recuse; Fugate-yes; Gaskill-yes; Mills-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-out; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 5/0/1/1.

Mayor Dominick read the Proclamation into the record:

The Americans with Disabilities Act has helped fulfill the promise of America for millions of individuals living with disabilities. The anniversary of this landmark legislation is an important opportunity to celebrate our progress over the last 20 years and the many contributions individuals with disabilities make to our community.

When President George H. W. Bush signed the ADA into law on July 26, 1990, he called this legislation a "dramatic renewal not only for those with disabilities, but for all of us, because along with the precious privilege of being an American comes a sacred duty to ensure that every American's rights are also guaranteed." The ADA's far reaching reforms have played a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for millions of Americans who must overcome considerable challenges each day in order to participate fully in all aspects of American life.

I call on all citizens of Ontario, Oregon, to celebrate the many contributions of individuals with disabilities as we work towards fulfilling the promise of the ADA to give all our citizens the opportunity to live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams.

Now, therefore, I, Joe Dominick, Mayor of the City of Ontario, Oregon, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2010, as a day of celebration of the 20th anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act.

Mayor Dominick stated on July 26th, a group of citizens would be coming to Ontario City Hall to hear the Proclamation. They would be meeting outside beginning at 10:30 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Request for Youth Pheasant Hunt on Ontario Recreational Access Property

Scott Torland, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, stated this would be the 18th annual Paul Parker Memorial Youth Hunt, and the second year to be hosted on Ontario's property. The youth hunt was authorized by the gaming commission as a special hunt for youth only. It was open for pheasants, quail, and doves. The youth were asked to register for the hunt to gauge the number who would attend. Prior to the hunt, the hunters would receive a letter outlining what to bring, and what to expect regarding license requirements, wearing hunter orange, the requirement of one adult per youth, emphasizing the safety of hunting. They would be limiting the number of youth in the field to 30. Last year, 64 youth attended over Saturday and Sunday, with 27 participants on Saturday, and 26 on Sunday. They harvested 50 pheasants, 31 quail, and 2 doves. The ODFW purchased and released a total of 140 pheasants to increase the chances of the youth getting a shot. This year, the ODFW had been working with the Pheasant's Forever local chapter, and some changes this year would be additional parking, a check-in point with a safety orientation, and the Snake River Sportsmen would be having a trap shoot on Saturday to give the kids additional practice. ODFW was always looking for volunteers to help out, and for anyone who might have a hunting dog they'd be willing to share with a youth who didn't have one.

Mayor Dominick thanked him for the update, and for the assistance from the ODFW.

Snake River Transit Routed Service Update

Lonnie Debban, Snake River Transit Routed Service, stated she had distributed a document with all the ridership numbers. The numbers reflected an increase, almost doubling, with Ontario being highest.

Councilor Fugate stated they hadn't been provided any predictions, and wanted to compare that with the actuals.

Ms. Debban stated they were not her predictions, they were Terri's predictions. It had been discussed many times, and Terri said at the last meeting that they were very close to what, if they continued on the same path, they would meet that number.

Mayor Dominick stated he remembered that when the whole program began, it was \$30K per year, and they knew, with what they had just been handed, this year, using Idaho and Oregon combined, 24,600. With three months of reporting remaining, he was pleased to see the ridership up so high. They had discussed that the first year ridership was very low, and they discussed different types of advertising and promotion to do. As the company grew, it would become better known and better used.

Councilor Sullivan stated according to the report, the Oregon ridership was 14,790, and the Idaho was 9,800; how come the collections were so far down from the projected?

Ms. Debban stated unfortunately she wasn't there for the projected discussion, but she did know that they received federal funds for the transit program, and the purpose of the federal funds was that they understood that they weren't going to make the operating costs. Last year, they received \$109K of federal funding, and this year, Oregon was going to receive an award of \$125,350 of federal funds. They had a formula that had to do with population and those figures.

Councilor Sullivan verified that they charged per ride? How much was that?

Ms. Debban stated they did charge per ride. The fare per ride was \$1 for a regular adult, 75¢ for youth 6-17, and 50¢ for senior and disabled. At that fare, she didn't project it paying for itself. She did see that with the help of a marketing campaign, such as advertising inside the bus, outside the bus, on the benches, she could see some of that helping.

Councilor Sullivan stated he was looking at 14,790 rides, and only \$4,100 of income. Even if he put it at the lowest level, the seniors, they should have \$7,300 in income in Oregon. That was at the lowest level, so where was the money? He saw \$4,147 in income for Oregon.

Ms. Debban stated further, the \$5,000....

Councilor Sullivan stated that was Idaho, he was just looking at Oregon. He was just using the Oregon rides. He was showing 14,790 rides in Oregon, and only \$4,147 in fares.

Ms. Debban stated that what happened was Malheur Council on Aging got the funds from Malheur County through ODOT, and they had a sub-contract with Treasure Valley Transit. Terri deducted the fare. Those were fares that they filled themselves, the Malheur Council on Aging. Terri deducted the fare from the fee that she charged them, so they were not seeing the total fare that was taken for the Ontario side.

Councilor Sullivan asked why they weren't seeing that.

Ms. Debban stated she didn't know that they...

Councilor Sullivan stated that didn't seem like very good accounting. The reason why, when they received the projections, they showed the number of rides and put a price tag on that to show how much they would actually earn from those fares. That was not consistent with what the Council was just presented. They were looking at less than 30¢ a fare, and they should show the full amount of the fares that were received.

Ms. Debban stated she could send that to them.

Councilor Sullivan stated he would like to know that they were being collected. Either the ridership was being inflated or the money was not being counted correctly. He wanted to find out what was correct.

Ms. Debban stated what Terri did, they took the fare right off the contract cost each month, so the money never went to them, it came off the operation cost.

Councilor Fugate stated it was listed on the chart as an expense.

Chief Kee stated they had done some marketing campaigns where they purchased tokens that were handed out to get people to use the system. The Council wouldn't see fares for that. They had also just started the Swim and Ride program where they were providing free rides to kids who were using either the Ontario Aquatic Center or the Payette Aquatic Center. Also, not all trips had fares collected. When someone came in from Payette, which was considered a separate system, and transferred at Wal-Mart to an Ontario bus, that was counted as a ride, but a fare was not collected because it was just a transfer. The Mayor had talked about that before, so when they talked about inflated ridership, it was a transfer, but it was called a ride also. They were counting those the same as every transit system across the U.S. They were not intentionally inflating those rides, but again, they were not collecting \$1 for them either.

Councilor Sullivan stated he noticed that in Idaho, they collected \$5,500 on 9,800 rides; was that not accounted for the same way?

Ms. Debban stated because it didn't come out of Teri's bill, it was not counted the same way, because she was subcontracting in that.

Councilor Fugate stated when subcontracting, it should be part of the expenses.

Ms. Debban states she had it included as expense, and took it right off the fee that the Council saw for her. Her contract took the fare right off it. The fee that she paid Teri took the fare off. The fares came right off the operating costs, immediately.

Councilor Sullivan verified that when she said stated there was a certain amount of money that came from the federal government, that was to be used for fares, and some of that money was used for fares, was that what she was telling him?

Ms. Debban stated she was also telling him that the fare income in a grants system, if it was not used, they could not take it as revenue. It was taken right off the cost of operating.

Councilor Sullivan stated she was showing it as revenue on the hand-out. He was looking at it, income plus fare equals total. That was recognizing it as revenue.

Ms. Debban stated but when they sent a grant in to ODOT, they had to deduct it right off the operating costs.

Councilor Sullivan said they might need to do a little bit better accounting. He wanted to see where, that the fares were collected. They were dealing in a cash business, and showing him that number of riders, and that many fares collected, there had to be a way to reconcile that so the Council knew that the fares were not just going away. Perhaps they didn't place that emphasis on it because they were going to get that same amount of money regardless. If that was the case, they shouldn't be adding the income from the federal grants and from the cities to the fares. Did she follow? It was either one way or the other. If it was subsidized, the grant money should be less.

Ms. Debban stated it was. On the grant, when they put in the operations, then the fares were added, the allowable amount of reimbursement was minus that amount. Maybe she wasn't explaining it right.

Councilor Sullivan stated it was hard for him to track the fares, because when they presented the original documents, it showed that they were going to have "this" many rides that would generate "this" much income. And that didn't track with what they had before them now. If it was an accounting issue with how they charged back to the federal grants, then maybe that should be broken down better. Just so the Council would know – how did he know that the riders weren't being inflated for the sake of meeting a goal? The one thing he could track was the dollars, and if they were charging a fare every time, he knew that that was going to be an accurate count. But if he relied on that system to look at the spreadsheet, he would say that either the ridership was being over-counted or the fares were being undercounted. They should be able to reconcile those two.

Mayor Dominick stated Councilor Sullivan was correct, and he too had a tough time understanding the ridership count because when they got off at the transfer, they were counted as a new rider in Oregon, although they had already been counted in Idaho. Technically, he believed the numbers were inflated because of the double-counting, but where that was done in every transit system, that was the standard, so it was tough to get a true count of the Oregon ridership. If there was a way to count only Oregon riders, the fares might match up with just Oregon. Where they transferred all the time, at the same time they were counted when they got on in Oregon and transferred to Idaho, they were counted for second time in Idaho also.

Councilor Sullivan asked what the fares total represented, what fares did that show?

Ms. Debban stated they came right off the grant, the operating costs, and were used to make a grant request. For example, if they were operating on \$40,000, they would take the \$4,000 in fares off, and get the balance of that.

Councilor Sullivan stated so that \$4,000, did that represent the number of fares collected?

Ms. Debban stated yes, that was collected by Malheur County on Aging. Not the amount that was already taken off by contract.

Councilor Fugate verified Teri was making 10% of the fares collected, was that per agreement?

Ms. Debban stated they did not have that agreement. She just collected fares for ridership. Did she mean 10% of the contract?

Councilor Fugate asked what Teri's fee was.

Ms. Debban stated Teri's fee was \$145,000 a year, but if they looked at what it cost last year, it was \$79,151.52.

Councilor Sullivan verified Teri's fares were not represented in the figures provided in the hand-out?

Ms. Debban stated Teri's fares in Idaho. Yes, Teri's fares that were deducted from Teri's contract, that \$79,000, were not represented in those figures.

Councilor Sullivan asked if there was any type of report that showed the total fares collected. Wasn't that what they should be dealing with?

Ms. Debban stated she could get them that. She hadn't known they needed that.

Councilor Sullivan stated he would like to tie it in, just to make sure the fares were accurate. The document they received didn't reconcile that for him. He was looking at a lot of rides that were either not being charged, were being charged too little, or they were over-counting the riders. He wanted them to reconcile.

Ms. Debban stated she could definitely get that, and would provide it to the City Manager.

Mayor Dominick stated she also said from the Oregon side, last year they received \$109,000, so how much would they receive this year?

Ms. Debban stated this year was \$125,350.

Mayor Dominick stated with an increase of \$15,000-16,000, were they still going to need the full \$30,000 from Ontario?

Ms. Debban stated how it worked was that it was a match of .4392%. For instance, when she received the \$109K, the cost had to be \$218K to get the \$109K. With more money, they had to have more match. The match was \$55,053.72 for that amount of money.

Councilor Sullivan stated that didn't reconcile again because the federal \$109K should have had at least the \$4,147 taken out of it for the fare match, so the total budget should have been less than what's shown on the hand-out.

Ms. Debban stated to get the funds, the budget had to be at \$218K, to apply for the funds.

Councilor Sullivan verified that was the total available? That was \$109K for each, was that right?

Ms. Debban stated that was for just Oregon, Idaho was separate. She got her funding directly.

Councilor Sullivan stated they had to show a budget of \$218K to get the \$109K. In the figures, she showed a total of \$178K on the revenue side. Did they run a deficit budget?

Ms. Debban stated the \$178K, she had not run a deficit budget. Her costs were \$218,904.05.

Councilor Sullivan stated she showed the total revenue at \$178,147.

Ms. Debban agreed, but how she made that up was titled contract income. Every time an agent did a fee for service ride for their regular route, they were like a taxi that picked up riders. They did contract for BLM, Lifeways, EOCIL and those places. That was contract income. For her to meet the costs, she used that.

Councilor Sullivan asked where contract income was listed on the hand-out?

Ms. Debban stated the budget she had just distributed was Terri's Treasure Valley Transit budget. Her budget was not included, but she could provide that.

Councilor Sullivan stated he would like to see the whole thing. He believed they were just getting part of the picture, and he wanted to see how the whole business operated.

Ms. Debban agreed to provide that.

Councilor Sullivan verified that the contract income was probably in the \$30,000 range?

Ms. Debban stated it was \$44,904.05.

Councilor Sullivan stated that included the various non-profits, correct, such as Lifeways?

Ms. Debban stated yes. If an individual paid a fare, that was the fare box on the bus; but if an agency paid for a group, then it was contract revenue.

Councilor Sullivan stated he wanted to see the whole picture, just so they could make sure they got accurate figures. He shared the Mayor's concern, and if there was a way they could lessen the load, as the municipality that paid the most out of everyone else, if they could justify it and bring that money down, the money could be used elsewhere.

Ms. Debban stated that her agency paid a great deal also. If it was unobligated money, she could use it somewhere else; however, they believed strongly in the transit system.

Councilor Sullivan agreed. They should all be looking at that. He also believed in the system, but they had to measure it with accurate figures to determine the effectiveness.

Ms. Debban hadn't realized how much detail the Council would want. The presented report from Snake River Transit was from Terri. She was subcontracted to do the bus service.

Councilor Sullivan stated he would like to see the whole organization, where all the money came from.

Mr. Lawrence asked if Council would like Ms. Debban to come back to the next meeting, or how would they like to handle it?

Councilor Sullivan stated he would like to see that, just to get a full picture of the entire financial lay-out, not just partial.

Mr. Lawrence stated staff would not issue a check until the Council was comfortable with things.

Ms. Debban added that she wanted to make the Council aware of the trading system that Chief Kee worked on. Youth from 6-17 would buy a pool pass to either the Payette or Ontario pool, and then could ride the bus for free to those places. It was one way for the youth to get used to using the transit system. They were excited about the project.

Mayor Dominick agreed that it was a great program. On a side note, how was the bus bench program progressing?

Ms. Debban stated that Terri reported at the last meeting that she was able to purchase some other bus benches that she needed, so because of the economy of scale, they were going to wait until Terri could return with some figures. Terry also purchased for McCall and Mt. Home. They did discuss funding, and the grant was written, submitted, awarded, and received for the benches, but they wanted to make sure they got the best deal available. She did think they had a preliminary meeting with someone from the city about placement of the benches.

Mr. Lawrence stated they would be working with Dan Shepard.

Ms. Debban stated they were needed, since right now there were people sitting on sidewalks while waiting for the bus.

Mayor Dominick stated it was a good advertising opportunity for members of the business community.

Ms. Debban asked when the Council wanted her to return.

Mr. Lawrence asked that she return on Monday, August 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #2647-2010: Amend OMC 3-16 re: Dealers of Regulated Property (Final Reading)

Mark Alexander, Police Captain, stated this was the final reading for proposed Ordinance #2647-2010. Following the July 6, 2010 meeting, language was added regarding jewelry and how it was to be described in the paperwork, as it was not listed in the ordinance for first reading.

David Sullivan moved, seconded by Susann Mills, that the Council adopt Ordinance #2647-2010, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE 3-16 REGARDING DEALERS OF REGULATED PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, on Second and Final Reading by Title Only. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fugate-yes; Gaskill-yes; Mills-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-out; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Chief Mike Kee stated in his continued attempt to wear the Council down on the Ford Expedition, he wanted consensus on the vehicle. In 2009, the Linn County Sheriff's Department donated a 2002 Ford Expedition, with over 130,000 miles on it. At the time, OPD needed the vehicle for the canine program; however, the program had now been dissolved. Since that time, the department had not been able to find a good use for the vehicle, and were currently looking at what could be some costly repairs. He wanted to make sure the Council still wanted him to hang on to the vehicle. It was donated to OPD for free, and now the Nyssa Police Department was interested in obtaining the vehicle. Currently, the "check engine" light was on, and a piece of the headlight switch was broken. The vehicle either needed to be taken in for repairs, or just given away. He was looking for direction.

Mayor Dominick suggested having the vehicle looked at and an estimate for the cost of repairs be brought back before Council at the next study session.

Chief Kee stated they would have to pay for the scanning to see what repairs were necessary and to obtain a price quote. Did the Council want to have that done?

Mr. Lawrence stated it made sense to do that – the scanning. It couldn't cost that much to do that.

Councilor Crume stated it would take just a few moments to take place, and it shouldn't cost anything, or very much, to show what was wrong with it.

- Chief Kee noted that Rachel (Hopper) has sent out a spreadsheet, which he believed the Mayor had asked for, of an outline of police overtime. The left hand column was the amount of overtime in dollars, and explained that it really didn't mean a lot as the cost of overtime increased each year. The Council needed to compare the right hand column, which was the number of hours the department had used historically in a year. In reviewing the memo he had sent the Council on staff, the amount of overtime corresponded fairly well with the amount of people on staff. The years with 22 patrol officers, the overtime increased. As staff was increased, overtime decreased, except for a few major crimes in 2009, where overtime had been greatly expended.
- Mark Alexander stated he was working on a contract with Treasure Valley Paramedics, who the City's 9-1-1-center did the dispatching for. Historically, the contract was 5-years in duration, and it was nearing expiration. He was negotiating on that. TVP had been borrowing the Fire Department's radio frequency, and they were working on possibly getting their own. He hoped to have a new contract in place soon.
- Councilor Mills stated they held the ground-breaking ceremony at the site for the new Fire Department Storage Building last Thursday. MVCI was anxious to get started on construction.
- Tori Barnett reminded everyone again of the upcoming election.

Mayor Dominick stated there were four spots opening up – the Mayor and three Council positions.

- Mayor Dominick stated on July 22nd, there was scheduled a possible study session, and the other half of the invited group had not yet responded, but he wanted to ask to keep that session on the books to discuss the budget. Over the next few days, please provide the City Manager with a list of any questions for that meeting.

Chief Kee stated he was unavailable on the 22nd, and requested that the Council hold off on any police staffing issues until he could participate.

Mayor Dominick stated it was important to keep meetings that were scheduled, so they could continue the budget discussions to make sure everyone was ready for the upcoming budget meeting.

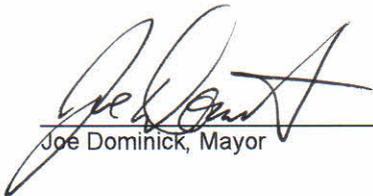
- Mayor Dominick stated the backflow prevention program was now in full swing by the City's Public Works Department. Staff was walking around looking for backflow meters. Notice would be sent requesting testing on the device, or notice that the device was not present and explaining that the device was required. No one was immune to the requirement, and he had to get one installed pursuant to both state and federal regulations. Devices ran from \$100-\$500 each.

Councilor Sullivan asked for a copy of the ordinance which addressed this issue.

ADJOURN

David Sullivan moved, seconded by Norm Crume, that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Fugate-yes; Gaskill-yes; Mills-yes; Sullivan-yes; Verini-out; Dominick-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

ATTEST:



Joe Dominick, Mayor



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder