

# CITY of LA GRANDE

## City Council Regular Session

June 8, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
La Grande City Hall  
1000 Adams Avenue

### **MINUTES**

#### **COUNCILORS PRESENT:**

Stephen E. Clements, *Mayor*  
Gary Lillard, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
John Bozarth, *Councilor*  
Wayne Brown, *Councilor*  
John Lackey, *Councilor*  
Troy Pointer, *Councilor*  
Justin Rock, *Councilor*

#### **COUNCILORS ABSENT EXCUSED:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Robert Strobe, *City Manager*  
Angelika Brooks, *City Recorder*  
Kayla Nichols, *Assistant to the City Manager*  
Kim Hulse, *Finance Director*  
Michael Boquist, *City Planner*  
Norm Paullus, *Director of Public Works*  
Stu Spence, *Parks & Recreation Director*  
Brian Harvey, *Police Chief*  
Gus Bryant, *Fire Chief*  
Brian Don, *Building Official*  
Heather Rajkovich, *Accountant*

Lee Mannor, *Water and Motor Pool Superintendent*  
Teresa Roberts, *Aquatics Superintendent*  
Terri Washburn, *Library Director*  
Lyle Bridge, *Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent*

#### **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL/AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor CLEMENTS called to order this Regular Session of the Council at 6:06 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

City Recorder BROOKS listed the material on the dais this evening: Revised Agenda, corrected 7.c. CAF, revised Resolution for 7.b., and the League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priority List.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Consider:** Approval of Regular Session Minutes; *May 4, 2016*
- b. **Consider:** Authorizing City Manager to Sign Agreement; *Island Avenue Greenway Lease*
- c. **Consider:** Accepting "Exhibit A" for Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017; *Urban Renewal District/City Intergovernmental Agreement*
- d. **Consider:** Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Grant Funding; *Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)*
- e. **Consider:** Approving Mutual Aid Agreement with

Union County; *Periodic/temporary Emergency Assistance*

- f. **Consider:** Awarding Contract; *GCT Land Management; Concrete Work, 2016 Sidewalk LID and Concrete Repair Projects*

LILLARD requested that Item "b", *Consider: Authorizing City Manager to Sign Agreement; Island Avenue Greenway Lease of the Consent Agenda* be moved to Item "d" under New Business, as he had further questions regarding the topic.

The following Motion was introduced by BROWN; LILLARD providing the Second:

**MOTION:** I move that we accept the Consent Agenda as amended. **MSC.** (unanimous)

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art RHODES stated that he appreciated the City Council polo shirts.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### a. Resolutions:

- (1) Adopting Budget Making Appropriations, Levying Taxes; *Fiscal Year 2016-2017*
- (2) Declaring City's Election to Receive State Revenue Sharing; *Fiscal Year 2016-2017*

## RULES OF ORDER

Mayor CLEMENTS opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m. on the Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017, City of La Grande Budget and State Revenue Sharing Funds, as approved by the City of La Grande Budget Committee on May 9 and 10, 2016.

## DECLARATIONS

ROCK read from a prepared statement and declared an actual and a potential conflict of interest and that he would not be participating in the discussion or vote.

LACKEY read from a prepared statement and declared an actual conflict of interest and that he would not be participating in the discussion or vote on the Urban Renewal Budget.

## STAFF REPORT

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

Robert STROPE, City Manager/Budget Officer and Kim HULSE, Finance Director

STROPE stated that the City of La Grande Budget Committee opened its Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Budget and State Revenue Sharing Funds on Monday, May 9, 2016. On May 10, 2016, the Budget Committee Hearings were closed and the Committee voted to approve the General Fund Budget and the Enterprise and Other Fund Budgets, and to forward them to the City Council for adoption on June 8, 2016.

STROPE stated that per ORS 294.428 Budget Committee Hearings; approval of budget document. (1) The budget committee shall approve the budget document as submitted by the budget officer or the budget document as revised and prepared by the budget committee. The budget document as approved by the budget committee shall specify the ad valorem property tax amount or rate of all funds.

STROPE stated that as part of the Budget Adoption process, the City must pass a Resolution stating the City's intent to receive State Revenue Sharing. A second Resolution was included in the Staff report to accomplish the action; a copy of which is now a permanent document in the master file for this Regular Session and by this reference incorporated herewith as if fully set forth.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

Mayor CLEMENTS closed the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Adopted Budget and State Revenue Sharing Funds at 6:14 p.m. and invited Council Discussion.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by BOZARTH: LILLARD providing the Second:

MOTION: I move that the proposed Resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Budget be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

At the Mayor's request, the City Recorder Read the Proposed Resolution by Title Only as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 - 2017 BUDGET, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS, AND LEVYING TAXES [4727]**

**VOTE**

MSC. (SIX (6) of the Councilors present voted in the Affirmative; Rock abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.)

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by LILLARD; BOZARTH providing the Second:

MOTION: I move that Proposed Resolution electing to receive State Revenues be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

At the Mayor's request, the City Recorder Read the Proposed Resolution by Title Only as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO RECEIVE STATE REVENUES. [4728]**

**VOTE**

**MSC. (unanimous)**

**b. Consider: Ordinance: Second Reading;  
*Right-of-Way Vacation Request***

**RULES OF ORDER**

Mayor CLEMENTS reopened the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. and stated that the City Recorder read the Rules of Order for this Public Hearing in their entirety on May 4, 2016.

**DECLARATIONS**

None

**CHALLENGES**

There were no challenges to the right of any Councilor to hear the matter.

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**Mike BOQUIST, *City Planner***

BOQUIST stated that the Applicant, Eastern Oregon Youth for Christ, represented by Kevin Rainey, had requested the City of La Grande's consideration of the following described public right-of-way vacation:

- The North ten feet (10') and the South ten feet (10') of the "J" Avenue public right-of-way, between Second Street and Third Street; all being adjacent to Blocks 87 and 90 of CHAPLIN'S ADDITION to La Grande, Union County, Oregon, according to the recorded plat of said addition.
- Also described as being adjacent to Tax Lots 2000, 2200, 4000, and 4200 in Township 3 South, Range 38 East, Section 7AD, City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon.

BOQUIST noted that the Planning Commission had met and held a public hearing to consider this request on April 12, 2016. Other than the applicant, there was no public testimony submitted regarding this request. By unanimous vote, the Planning Commission found this request to meet all applicable City and State requirements and the Commission recommended approval to the City Council.

BOQUIST stated that the City Council held a public hearing to consider this request during their Regular Session on May 4, 2016. There was no public testimony submitted regarding this request. The proposed Ordinance was read for the First Time by Title Only.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None

Mayor CLEMENTS closed the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by LACKEY; ROCK providing the Second:

MOTION: I move that the proposed Ordinance vacating the North ten feet (10') and the South ten feet (10') of "J" Avenue between Second Street and Third Street be read for the second time by title only, put to a vote and adopted.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

At the Mayor's request, the City Recorder Read the Proposed Ordinance by Title Only as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, VACATING THE NORTH TEN FEET (10') AND THE SOUTH TEN FEET (10') OF THE "J" AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD STREET; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. [3233]**

**VOTE**

MSC. (unanimous)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Resolution: Workers' Compensation Coverage; Annual Update

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

Heather RAJKOVICH, *Accountant*

RAJKOVICH stated that the City of La Grande provides Workers' Compensation insurance to volunteer firefighters, police reserve officers, appointed and elected officials, and other volunteers and community service workers. This renewal was an annual formality required by CIS, the City's risk management vendor.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

The following Motion was introduced by LACKEY; BROWN providing the Second:

**Motion:** I move that the proposed Resolution renewing Workers' Compensation Coverage for all municipal personnel be read by title only, put to a vote, and passed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

At the Mayor's request, the City Recorder Read the Proposed Resolution for the First Time by Title Only as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, OREGON, EXTENDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE TO ALL MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL; ESTABLISHING ASSUMED WAGES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NUMBER 4700, SERIES 2015, AND ALL OTHER RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith [4729]**

**VOTE**

**MSC:** (unanimous)

**b.** **Consider:** Resolution – Wallowa Union Railroad Authority; *Amend Charter*

**STAFF REPORT**

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

Robert STROPE, *City Manager*

STROPE stated that in 2002, the County Commissions and the City Councils within Wallowa and Union Counties approved an Intergovernmental Agreement and Charter creating an entity to operate, maintain, repair and modernize transportation facilities known as the Elgin to Joseph Rail Line.

STROPE stated that the Charter calls for nine members on the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority Board of Directors. Eight of these members were appointed and one seat was reserved for a representative of the Oregon Railroad Authority, but was never filled. The Charter also stipulates that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of seven members. The Board of Directors had found it to be difficult to convene a regular meeting with seven members and was requesting that the Charter be amended to stipulate that five members constituting a quorum.

STROPE noted that additionally, after a review of the Charter, the Board of Directors determined that the Charter

did not call for a representative of Oregon Railroad Authority to fill a seat on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors would approach the Wallowa County and Union County Boards of Commissioners to fill the ninth seat. Although the language in the Resolution referred to the seating of a ninth member of the Board of Directs, the only action asked of the Council was to approve the change in the number of members constitution a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by BOZARTH; LILLARD providing the Second:

Motion: I move that the proposed Resolution Amending the Wallowa Union Railroad Charter be Read by Title Only, Put to a Vote and Passed.

At the Mayor's request, the City Recorder Read the Proposed Resolution by Title Only as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, ACTING ON THE REQUEST OF THE WALLOWA UNION RAILROAD AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WALLOWA UNION RAILROAD AUTHORITY AND UNION COUNTY [4730]

**VOTE**

MSC: (unanimous)

c. Consider: Appoint Citizen to Advisory Commission; *Air Quality Advisory Commission*

Steve CLEMENTS, *Mayor*

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by CLEMENTS; BOZARTH providing the Second:

Motion: I move that Jason Yielding be appointed to the Air Quality Advisory Commission for the remainder of a three-year term, expiring on December 31, 2018.

**VOTE**

MSC. (unanimous)

d. Consider: Authorizing City Manager to Sign Agreement; *Island Avenue Greenway Lease*

Mayor CLEMENTS requested the Staff Report.

**STAFF REPORT**

**Stu SPENCE, Parks and Recreations Director**

The current 20-year lease agreement between Idaho Northern and Pacific Railroad Company and the City of La Grande was set to expire on June 1, 2016. The Railroad is the owner of the property that the City had, over the last twenty years, landscaped and irrigated for improved air quality and aesthetics. The proposed amendment would extend the agreement for 20 years with the same terms.

SPENCE noted that the agreement also stated a one-time \$500 fee imposed by the Railroad.

In response to LILLARD's question, STROPE stated that the intent was to have the availability to maintain the area as he believed it was a worthwhile endeavor to maintain the appearance and landscaping in the corridor as it was the gateway to La Grande.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**MOTION**

The following Motion was introduced by BROWN; BOZARTH providing the Second:

Motion: I move to authorized the City Manager to sign the 20-year Lease Amendment between Idaho Northern and Pacific Railroad Company and the City of La Grande for the continued maintenance and care of the landscaped area along Island Avenue.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE**

MSC: (unanimous)

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Stu SPENCE, updated the Council regarding the new Parks signage. SPENCE also introduced Stan Petersen, the new Recreation Supervisor.

Stan PETERSEN, stated he looked forward to serving the City and the Council.

Mike BOQUIST gave an update to the Council regarding the grant funded GIS Mapping System.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Robert A. STROPE, City Manager, reminded the Council that on Monday, June 14, 2016 there will be a Work Session regarding a Library District in the Misener Room at the Union County Offices.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

LACKEY stated that the house at 1601 Seventh Street had nuisance abatement issues and requested maintenance to be done on the grounds.

A brief Council discussion was held regarding stricter regulations on Marijuana that Councilor Pointer suggested the City explore. It was determined that additional research would be conducted by Councilor POINTER before the Council continued the discussion.

In response to BROWN's request, Chief Bryant gave an update regarding the State Emergency Drill that was scheduled on June 9, 2016.

Mayor CLEMENT's gave an update regarding the Union County Budget Hearing in regards to testimony for requested increase in funds for Cook Memorial Library.

There being no further business to come before this Regular Session of the Council, CLEMENTS adjourned the meeting to the Urban Renewal Agency Regular Session at 6:43 p.m. The Council is scheduled to meet again in Regular Session on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1000 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon.

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Kayla M. Nichols  
Assistant to the City Manager

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Stephen E. Clements  
Mayor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_