

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
Regular Meeting - March 22, 2016  
6:00 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, Or 97146

Mayor Mark Kujala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and then led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Staff Present: City Manager Kurt Fritsch, City Attorney Harold Snow, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Reserve Police Officer James Rankin, Police Officer Robert Wirt, Police Officer Rich Kraynak, Police Officer Cliff Bussert, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Kyle Sharpsteen, Fire Chief Tim Demers, , Public Works Foreman Craig Walter, Harbor Master Keith Pinkstaff and Administrative Assistant Dawne Shaw

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Newton – reported that he and Commissioner Balensifer went to Lower Columbia Tourism Committee (LCTC) meeting and that it was interesting to hear the proposal from the advertising people for what they do. He also attended the ALICE training (active shooter) with Commissioner Ackley and found it very interesting and appropriate in light of today’s sad events.

Commissioner Balensifer – seconded what Commissioner Newton said about LCTC and noted that it was a very different conversation from last year’s meeting; something that stood out was how they referenced ancient Astoria and wild Warrenton, as Astoria has historical properties and hidden trails and Warrenton has wild lands, levees, frog ponds; we have raw nature and elk.

Commissioner Ackley – she also thought the ALICE training was amazing and even talked to her office about it. You never know when or what if. She is really looking forward to the joint County-Cities session to discuss and discuss the lack of affordable housing.

Mayor Kujala – mentioned it was a good town hall meeting on Saturday with Senator Johnson. He said it was well attended and Senator Johnson made the announcement that Pacific Seafood will be rebuilding in Warrenton. It was a huge achievement that she was able to bring the legislature together. Pacific Seafood is planning to be back up and running on the Skipanon River by spring 2017. It will be a huge boon to water revenues as well as restaurants and businesses.

City Manager Fritsch – noted changes/corrections to the agenda; he added item 6C – Skip Hauke from the Astoria/Warrenton Chamber of Commerce. Also noted that item 6B, is dealing with the 8<sup>th</sup> street vacation not the feeding of wildlife. He also stated that he would like to have a brief executive session on land acquisition.

**Mayor Kujala read the proclamation and declared the month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – 3.08.16
- B. City Commission Work Session Meeting Minutes – 3.08.16
- C. Warrenton Community Advisory Library Board – 3.11.16
- D. Fire Dept. Monthly Report – February 2016

Commissioner Newton noted it's great to have a full Library Board.

Commissioner Balensifer noted that during budget time there will be a need to develop a budget resolution for funds from the Oregon Community Foundation with the dissolution of the Friends of the Warrenton Library (FOWL).

Mayor Kujala asked if the Parks Board is the only board with vacancies and invited the public to join if interested.

**Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

#### BUSINESS

Police Chief Workman gave a presentation to recognize three citizens for going above and beyond the call of duty to help and protect others. He proceeded to explain the incident and presented recognition awards to John Meiners, Airman Beth Rowley and Airman Ryan Smith for compassion, bravery, and willingness to help for an incident involving a child who was struck by a van. Chief Workman then presented Reserve Police Officer James Rankin with a Service Recognition award for 30 years of service, noting that he has been a great asset to the Warrenton Police Department and the community for a very long time (since 3/27/86).

Ordinance No. 1201A was presented to the Commission for first reading at the March 8, 2016, meeting after the public hearing on consideration of the street vacation of a portion of 8<sup>th</sup> Street

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(3<sup>rd</sup> Street).

**Commissioner Dyer made the motion to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1201A by title only. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

**Mayor conducted the second reading by title of Ordinance No. 1201A; *Vacating a Portion of 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the Plat of the Concourse City of Warrenton, County of Clatsop, State of Oregon.***

**Commissioner Balensifer made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1201A. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Newton - aye; Dyer - aye; Balensifer - aye; Ackley - aye; Kujala - aye.**

Skip Hauke of the Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the Chamber and LCTC's advertising activities and a report on tourism. He proceeded to explain how effective the advertising and marketing program is. Astoria/Warrenton is number one in the state in growth in room taxes collected. Tourism is a \$10.3 billion industry in Oregon and in Clatsop County 22.3% of employment is tied to tourism (2013), so that is a good return on the investment. Not one penny is spent on advertising during the summer months – we don't need to. The summer traffic is proof of that. The Coast is the second most desired location to visit in the state and the North Coast is on a roll.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Regina Cederberg, 945 SW Cedar Drive, explained that she is having trouble closing on the purchase of a house (1168 East Harbor) due to a 2008 zone change. With the housing issue and a limited market they are not be able to get lending as the city code would not allow them to rebuild if something happened to the home, i.e., fire. The seller states that she was never informed of a code change. Two requests were made to the Planning Department for documentation that the owner was notified of the change and there is no record of a notice being sent. She requested a letter from the Commission that states if she has a 100% loss she can rebuild. She does not want to change the zoning; she just needs a letter to her mortgage lender to get funding. Discussion continued on the location of the house and current zoning. It was noted that this issue has come up many times in the past and "Burn Letters" have been granted. After further discussion the Commission directed that a Burn Letter notice be granted.

It was determined an executive session was not necessary and City Manager Fritsch proceeded to inform the Commission that the Simonsens are selling the property across street from City Hall,

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and they wanted to know if the City is interested. The matter was discussed and based on the fact that it is a small piece that it would not be an asset to the City. The City Manager will touch base with the seller and let them know the City is not interested.

There being no further business, Mayor Kujala adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED



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Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST



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Dawne Shaw  
Administrative Assistant