

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM September 15, 2014**

NOTE: Where stated "Motion Carried" is considered unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES:

**Mayor, Joe Perry
City Manager, Kim Cutsforth
Skip Matthews
Corey Sweeney
Judy Buschke
Dale Bates
Rusty Estes
Chad Doherty
Bill Kuhn, City Attorney**

Absent: John Bowles, Joann Burleson

Members of the Public: Dave Sykes, Deanna Koerner, Jay Keithley, Lee Berlinsky, Glorene Lesperance and Jerry Olson.

1. GENERAL BUSINESS.

A. Call to Order. The September 15, 2014 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Perry at 7:00 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Joe Perry led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Announcements - None

D. Correspondence – None

E. Requests – Tasha Hollis, Animal Permit

Tasha Hollis is requesting an animal permit to keep 4 horses on her property.

Motion to approve an animal permit for Tasha Hollis to keep 4 horses on her property by: Corey Sweeney. Seconded by: Dale Bates, motion carried

F. Presentations – None

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

Jay Keithley informed the Council that the sports court at Hager Park is mostly complete. The concrete work is finished and the baskets have been installed. Kim commented that someone who had previously made a complaint that the work was disruptive came in and said that the end result was very nice.

Lee Berlinsky commented on the \$5.00 late fee. He feels that the fee is abusive. He had made a payment that did not cover the entire bill and was charged a late fee. Joe Perry said that he did not have to discuss the bill at a Council meeting, he should come in to the office and discuss it with Kim. The late fee is a set amount that is automatically charged on past due balances of over \$5.00. Lee stated that the APR on that \$5.00 charge is outrageous. Skip Matthews said that it is not an APR, it is a flat late fee that is charged on late accounts, that goes to cover administrative costs that are incurred by handling delinquent accounts. The Utilities Commission and the Council determined that it was a fair amount to charge on late accounts and approved the charge. Dale Bates asked if someone would be charged the fee if they had a balance of only \$1.00. Any account that has a balance of \$5.00 or over is charged the fee. Kim said that if he were to send a payment in the future and was not sure if it would cover the next month's bill, he should call and ask if it was enough and if it were short he could make arrangements to pay the remainder and possibly not be charged a late fee. She added that the City is happy to work with everyone but cannot play favorites.

3. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. August 11, 2014 and August 22, 2014 Special City Council meeting minutes.
- B. Monthly Financial Statement
- C. Approval of Monthly Bills

Action: Motion by Judy Buschke to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Corey Sweeney. Motion Carried.

4. REPORTS.

- A. Fire Chief Rusty Estes reported the following for August:

3 Rural wild land fires

- 1 Wild land fire in City Limits
- 1 False Alarm
- 5 Secure Landing Zones
- 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 1 Structure fire in town
- 1 Lift Assist
- 3 Mutual Aid calls
- 1 Illegal Burn Barrel
- 2 Smoke Alarms investigations
- 1 Gas Smell

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – Joe Perry read the Deputy Hours report and reported 389.5 hours for the month of August. He asked if there were any questions regarding the Police reports. Skip Matthews noted that he had seen a couple of calls for complaints at the new Basketball court on Riverside Ave. Kim said that the signs stating the rules: hours, no loud music, etc. have just been put up today. Also the lights automatically go off when the court closes at 10:00 pm. Hopefully this will help solve those problems.

C. Housing Authority – Judy Buschke reported. They hired Dean Antonucci for the Manager position. The Maintenance position is still open. The meeting has been moved to September 22nd. They are wanting to try to change the eligibility requirements for possible tenants that make too much money to qualify.

D. Public Works. Chad Doherty reported the following:

Water Dept. – Repaired a water leak on our side of a homeowner's service. Replaced the water meter at the same address. Installed a new water sample station at the Public Works Shop. Installed a safety eye wash station in the Chlorine room at the Grade school.

Sewer Dept. – Cleaned the contact basins at the Sewer plant, twice. The City crew hauled multiple loads of bio solids to range land site.

Streets Dept. – The City crew repaired the sidewalk on Water Street. Caleb McDaniel did the work and it was an outstanding job. Painted the Shamrock before the Rodeo parade. The City crew hauled spoils out of the City yard. Took down the Rodeo Banners. Repaired two deck boards on the Kirk Street Bridge. Painted the red and white caution stripes at the Grade School. Set up and took down the barricades for the Rodeo parade. Used the sweeper multiple times before the Rodeo.

Parks Dept. – The City crew fixed the ramp at the Hager Park restroom. Pulled all the weeds in the new soccer field. Planted grass in the bare spots, it is really starting to look nice. Cut down a limb in the City Park, that was damaged during a wind storm. Fertilized the hanging baskets twice.

Robert attended a review training in Seaside.

Skip Matthews asked if it was possible to put grip sand in the paint that is used to paint the Shamrock on Main St. Some horses in parades have slipped on it and also car tires lose grip and squeal on the paint.

Corey Sweeney asked if the City was going to put Soccer Goals up on the Soccer field. Kim said that unfortunately they are very expensive and there is no money in the budget for them.

D. City Manager. Kim Cutsforth reported the following:

- 1) We have continued to work on the Talking Rock Program. Several of the plaques have been delivered and we plan to begin placing them on the rock the week of September 15th. Pam and Mark Wunderlich will be donating the balance of the boulders. All of the Rocks have been sponsored. As soon as the plaques are in place, we will begin to work on the text for the QR Codes. This will be the final phase of this project.
- 2) The City has placed a strong focus on nuisance abatement. The high-risk fire season has made this a priority. We have had a great deal of success in getting the repeat and long term offenders motivated to conform and abate the fire hazards. The rate of response is about 83%. The City has also been able to re-coupe the cost of clean-up on a property. We are still struggling with a few remaining continual long term multi-infraction properties.
- 3) The Beautification Project from the Port of Morrow is complete. The final walk through and punch sheet will be done this week and the City should sign off with the contractor. The few streets and sidewalks throughout town for everyone to enjoy are a testament to the patience of the residents in the areas of the construction. Their co-operation is appreciated by the entire community and especially the City.
- 4) Attended FEMA training for flood plain management in Eugene. It was a weeklong training. The classes were very rigorous and informative. The floodplain through Heppner impacts us all and this training will help the City to better manage it and to take informed actions for the residents that live in or own properties in the floodplain.

5. BUSINESS

A. OLD BUSINESS - None

B. NEW BUSINESS - None

7. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS. For information only

8. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY.

The City Attorney had no report for the month of August. He commended Kim for going to the FEMA training, as it will be a great benefit to the community.

9. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS. - None

10. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.