

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON  
7:00 PM October 12, 2015**

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

**ATTENDEES:**

**Mayor, Skip Matthews  
City Manager, Kim Cutsforth  
Corey Sweeney  
Adam Doherty  
Dale Bates  
Teresa Bedortha  
Joann Burlison  
Chad Doherty  
Rusty Estes  
Bill Kuhn, City Attorney**

**Absent: John Bowles**

**Members of the Public: Jay Keithley, Judy Healy, Dave Sykes, Deanna Koerner, Joe Perry, Steve Rhea, and Mike Duncan.**

**1. GENERAL BUSINESS.**

- A. Call to Order. The October 12, 2015 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council was called to order by Mayor Skip Matthews at 7:00 PM.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Skip Matthews led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Announcements –None
- D. Correspondence-None
- E. Requests – None
- F. Presentations – None

**2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.** – Joe Perry is requesting a change to the way that the City charges for water at Baltimore Apartments. He handed out information to the Council. He is asking to be charged for a single meter for the apartment building, instead of being charged for 11 individual residences on a single meter. He says that he has called

other cities and that no other city charges the way Heppner does. Skip Matthews said that because this was a lot of information, that the Council could not make a decision immediately. He said that this should go through the Utilities Commission. Kim Cutsforth asked what cities Joe had called, as she has recently done a rate study of other cities and found that they all had similar rate structures as Heppner. He said that he called Boardman, Irrigon and a few other cities in Morrow County. Bill Kuhn said that almost every City in the state gets their money from the same place. Before they can get any grant money an Ordinance must be passed to impose a certain structure for rate regulation. He said that the rate structure is not an idea of the City, it is simply just the requirements of the loan contract. He said the City should make contact with the organization where the loan came from and see what the actual requirements are and if it is even possible to change any rate structures at all. This will be discussed at the October Utilities Commission meeting and back to Council in November.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- A. September 14, 2015, 2015 City Council meeting minutes.
- B. Monthly Financial Statement
- C. Approval of Monthly Bills

Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda by: Joann Burleson. Seconded by: Teresa Bedortha. Motion carried.

### **4. REPORTS.**

- A. Fire Chief Report – Rusty Estes read the Fire Chief report.

- 2 Secure Landing Zone
- 1 Wildland in 1 out
- 2 Illegal Burn barrels
- 18 Chief calls

- B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – Skip Matthews asked if there were any questions. There were none.

- C. Public Works. Chad Doherty read the Public Works report.

Water Dept. – Replaced 2 broken water meters. Dave from Oregon Backflow came this month and did state testing requirements for all of the City and homeowners backflow devices. Repaired two separate water leaks on Cannon St. One happened over a weekend. Chad met with Anderson & Perry to start the process of certifying well #5. Chad took an operations and maintenance manual class. He is in the process of writing a manual.

Sewer Dept. – Cleaned the contact basins twice. The crew raised all of the manholes on Gilmore St. Robert was busy all month long applying biosolids. He hauled 39 loads. This took about 12 days. A screen filter that is used in the golf course irrigation was replaced.

Streets Dept. – Took down and replaced the Rodeo Banners. Removed a dead deer. Secured traffic for the High School noise parade. Cleaned out the spoils from the City yard. Removed the hanging flower baskets from Main Street.

Parks Dept. – September was still a busy month for park maintenance.

Chad also added that the building for Reservoir 2 was complete. They are just waiting on the electrician to complete the project.

Jay Keithley asked about the hydrant on Green Street that had been dug around. Chad said that the digging was related to the water leaks on Cannon. Jay asked why the hydrant was not replaced during that time. Chad said that he is very worried that doing the work on the hydrant will cause bigger problems as the water lines there are very deteriorated.

Corey Sweeney asked how often the biosolids are hauled. Chad said that it is usually once or twice a year. He said that it has to sit for at least 3 months in the storage tank before it can be removed.

D. City Manager. Kim Cutsforth reported the following:

1. Kim attended the League of Oregon Cities conference in Bend, OR. It was several days of training and information sessions. Several of the classes she attended were pertinent to our community. There was a session on Code enforcement that was particularly interesting. Also the opportunity to meet with vendors that the City uses regularly was valuable.
2. We developed pamphlets for the Fire Hall project, and packaged additional information to be available for the community. We also prepared for an open house to help the community understand the project.
3. Attended the Morrow County Planning meeting regarding the re plat of the property for the proposed Fire Hall to receive a variance for the use. Both of these were approved.
4. Kim is working with ODOT to receive an access permit from the Fire Hall property on to Highway 74.
5. During paving on Gilmore Street, the City had a wall placed in front of John Vanderwalker's residence. It has been determined that we need to have it engineered. Kim met with Werner Arnzt the engineer from Ferguson Engineering to discuss our options.
6. Kim attended the public hearing for population forecasting. The meeting was an informational session for communities in Morrow County. Portland State University

projects the population of cities in Oregon. These numbers are used to calculate tax payments. Cities can participate in the process.

7. Kim was informed that the City did not receive a grant from ODOT for our Transportation System Plan. Kim will work on an updated project list and attempt to revise the TSP in house.
8. The City continued to work on nuisance abatement issues.

Mike Duncan asked about nuisance abatement was going. Kim said that the success rate is about 60%. Some people are hard to contact. The City cleanup is coming up and she hopes that people will take advantage of it. Kim has been working with code enforcement and says that they have begun to fine the owners of the properties that are not showing any improvement. Teresa Bedortha asked about a property on Chase Street that is a fire hazard and looks very bad. Also a vehicle that is parked on Gale that has flat tires was mentioned. Kim said that she will contact those people immediately.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS-** None

**6. BUSINESS**

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Marijuana Local Option Opt Out Ordinance

Discussion: The Ordinance is the same as the last time it was reviewed, except that the City Attorney has added a section to include a penalty for noncompliance. There were no comments or questions so there will be a public hearing and the Council will vote on the Ordinance at the November meeting.

**B. NEW BUSINESS -** None

**7. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS.** For information only

**8. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY.** – Not too much to report, just been doing a little work on the bond issue.

**9. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS.** - None

**10. ADJOURNMENT.** Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.