

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM December 11, 2017**

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

ATTENDEES:

**Cody High
Edie Ball
Joann Burleson
Corey Sweeney
Dale Bates
Adam Doherty
John Bowles
Robert Whalen
Rusty Estes
Bill Kuhn, City Attorney**

Absent: Teresa Hughes, Chad Doherty

Members of the Public: Jim Healy, Rod Wilson, Sheryll Bates, Jay Keithley, Sharon Inskeep and Dave Sykes.

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order. The December 11, 2017 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council was called to order by Cody High at 7:00 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. Cody High led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Announcements – None

D. Correspondence

E. Requests - None

F. Presentations – None

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. November 13, 2017 City Council meeting minutes.
- B. Monthly Financial Statement – Not Available
- C. Approval of Monthly Bills

Cody asked what the bill from Silver Creek was. Edie said it is for rock/gravel.

Motion to approve the minutes and monthly bills by: John Bowles. Seconded by: Adam Doherty. Motion carried.

4. REPORTS

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

- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 False Alarm
- 1 Illegal Burn
- 2 MVA
- 2 Rescue Calls
- 25 Chief Calls

- B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – John Bowles read the hours report.

Cody asked why there were so many hours outside of patrol. John said it is for follow-up on some cases.

- C. Public Works. Robert Whalen read the Public Works report.

Water Dept. – Fixed a Leaky water meter at the Ag Museum. Finished insulating the City water meters. Finished installing a waste discharge line at Well 5. Burned weeds at Reservoir 1 overflow culvert.

Sewer Dept. – Did 9 septic dumps. Cleaned the contact basins. Fixed the dewatering pump discharge line at the treatment plant.

Streets Dept. – Put the Christmas banners and wreaths up. Swept Main Street and picked leaves up. Hung lights on the trees on Main Street. Filled pot holes around town. Changed the brooms on the sweeper. Painted the street barricades. Put on the plow/sander for the winter.

Parks Dept. – Fixed the faucet in the Hager Park restroom. Picked up leaves at City Park multiple days. Decorated Heritage Plaza with lights on the trees and farm equipment. Picked up the soccer goals and volleyball net at Hager Park.

Other – Worked on the new office. We should be moved in by next week.

Joanne asked if the gazebo lights at Hager Park could stay on a little longer. The parks close at 9:00 but if the lights were on longer you could see if there was any unwanted activity going on.

Cody complemented Public Works on the lights at Heritage Park, he has received many positive comments.

D. City Manager Report

Attended the Heppner Chamber Board meeting.

Met with Dave Fowler and Joanne on the design for the structure for the mini-park.

Attended two chamber luncheon meetings.

The TSP Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting was well attended and a revised City of Heppner Infill Report was updated. The engineers also met with 6th Graders and High School students. Maps were used with the students to mark areas of concern by the students.

Attended the Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force meeting.

Personnel Committee meeting. Discussed job announcement and still working on salary information for the committee.

Met with Lisa Masters from CIS. She dropped off the Gold Safety Award that has a rate of 0. Please note that our MOD which is a term used to determine our Workman's Compensation fees. The City of Heppner MOD rate is .85 and anything under 1.0 is considered excellent and thanks to all the staff for staying safe on the job.

Attended the Planning Commission meeting. The Committee declined the request for a 6-foot fence because the contractor had already put up the fence and the owner did not attend the meeting.

Studying the current methodology for the city accounting which was preparing payments, checks and deposits; cross checked with bank statements and then transferred on to the budget.

Advertisement for the Treasurer/Finance Officer has been published, and Chad will be putting the ad on the City Facebook page.

We haven't heard back to see if the City received the grant for a three city combined sewer system. If we don't get the grant, there are other opportunities available.

E. Heppner Housing Authority

They are 100% full. They are still working on getting a new roof.

5. BUSINESS

A. New Business

1. Paul Sumner Planning Commission Decision Appeal

Paul Sumner submitted a letter to the council apologizing for building the fence prior to approval and requesting that they overturn the Planning Commission's decision to deny his variance request for a 6-foot solid wood fence. The Planning Commission has concerns about tall fences in town and how it can negatively affect a neighborhood. They approved a metal rail fence across the street in November. This was not a solid fence and they did not feel that it would be detrimental to the neighborhood. The lot where Paul Sumner built his fence is empty and there is no record of a house being there. There will probably never be a house there. He has been having trouble with kids littering on his property and feels that the fence will help put a stop to it. There will still be access to the property through a gate that will be installed later. The new fence is closer to the sidewalk and will block the view of the empty lot.

Motion to approve the Variance Request for Paul Sumner, Tax lot #6600, Map 2S 26 35 BC, 275 S Court Street, Heppner, OR, by: John Bowles. Seconded by: Corey Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 2. Joann and Dale were opposed.

Bill Kuhn suggested that the letter to Paul Sumner and the information provided to the Planning Commission include that the Variance was granted because the fence is on an empty lot and not in front of a house.

1. 485 W Linden Way

John Bowles reported on the property at 485 W Linden Way owned by Megan Futter. She has had previous citations for all of the clutter on her property. This is an ongoing problem. Pictures of the property were shown to the council. There are appliances and windows lying around, this is dangerous to kids. She pleaded no contest to the last citation and cleaned up, but it is getting bad again. The Sheriff's office is going to issue her another citation. This will be her second offense.

B. Old Business

2. 475 and 495 Water Street properties update

Arrangements have been made to remove the remaining vehicles except for the 5th wheel trailer that will remain on the property. The other vehicles either have current tags or will be parked in the garage or the barn. There has been a lot of progress but there are still some areas that need cleaned up to bring it up to compliance. Pictures of the property were shown to the Council. Jim Healy appreciates the co-operation from the council. He has done about as much as he can with the property. Tareena Healy is expecting to have the property sold by the end of the year. Jim is not able to purchase it as they could not agree on a price. There is still a large pile of debris and a broken go-cart and some large items that need to be removed. The Council discussed whether or not it is clean enough, and if the City should clean it up and lien the property.

Motion to have the City clean-up 475 and 495 Water Street and lien the properties by: Corey Sweeney. Seconded by: Joann Burleson. Motion Carried.

Cody thanked Jim for all of the hard work he has done. He hopes that whoever owns the property in the future will keep it up. If Tareena Healy does not pay the City for the clean-up, there will be a lien on the property and it can eventually be foreclosed.

6. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS - For information only

7. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – He had been working with the City Manager regarding changes in financial accounting systems.

8. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – We are coming up on the end of the year which means the February Goal Setting meeting is coming up.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM