

MINUTES
City of Brookings
Common Council Meeting
Brookings City Hall Council Chambers
898 Elk Drive, Brookings, Oregon 97415
Monday, January 26, 2009

Call to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call

Council Present: Mayor Larry Anderson, Councilors Hedenskog, Gordon, Kitchen and Pieper; a quorum present.

Staff Present: City Manager Gary Milliman, Fire Chief Bill Sharp, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Watson, Chief Treatment Plants Operator Ray Page, Administrative Services Director Patti Dunn, City Attorney John Trew and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Other Present: Approximately 30 public. No media representative was present.

Councilor Gordon moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to place Agenda Item IV B [to consider wastewater debt payment options] ahead of Agenda Item IV A.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Mayor Anderson proclaimed January 27th as Fire Service Appreciation Day.

Councilor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve Mayor Anderson's recommendations to re-appoint Michelle Benoit to Parks and Recreation Commission Position 5 and appoint Anthony Baron to Position 6.

Council Liaisons

Council members attended the following meetings:

- Mayor Anderson – 1 City and 1 School
- Councilor Hedenskog – 1 Port of Brookings Harbor and 1 City/County
- Councilor Gordon – 1 Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and 1 City
- Councilor Kitchen – 1 City, 2 Coos Curry Electric Coop and 1 Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

Regular Agenda

City Manager Milliman reviewed the staff report regarding the consideration of payment options to satisfy wastewater debt service.

Public Comment: Judi Krebs, 15951 Bayview Drive, Brookings, generally stated that the City's wastewater budget shortfall was Harbor Sanitary District's (HSD) problem too. Krebs asked if biosolid's costs were over and above the shortfall, and if the cost of the WILLDAN rate study was known.

Mayor Anderson stated that biosolid's costs were not included in the debt, that HSD would be an integral participant in rate study discussions, and that the rate study had been initiated as a requirement toward obtaining potential biosolid's funding and cost \$25,000.

City Manager Milliman generally pointed out that the action requested on this agenda was not to adopt the sewer rate study and that the rates proposed in the staff report were based upon the current system.

After considerable discussion, Council generally agreed that they wanted to look at the larger situation, including the audit and the current rate study, before making any final decision. Councilor Kitchen suggested that residents contact the Council and/or the City Manager regarding how they feel the shortfall should be satisfied.

Councilor Gordon moved, a second followed and Council unanimously voted to postpone the decision on which alternative is used to take care of the wastewater debt shortfall to some future date.

City Manager Milliman reviewed the staff report regarding the confirmation or termination of the purchase of a fire pumper/tender.

Councilor Gordon generally stated that while the equipment was important it was not an emergency. Councilors Pieper and Kitchen generally agreed that they did not want to penalize the Fire Department due to Council's indecision and were willing to take staff's recommendation to purchase the truck if staff still felt this was the wisest use of City funds. Councilor Kitchen also suggested that funds for this type of purchase be put into separate accounts. Councilor Hedenskog generally stated that the City was no closer toward having answers to its financial situation than in December when he voted no on this purchase.

Mayor Anderson generally stated that continuing to support outlying areas with fire, water, police, parks and other services using City funds, while operating at a loss, was not a business plan that he could support. Further, the Mayor generally stated that the City has known for three years that its expenses would exceed revenues, that he would insist upon a 10% carryover, and that hard choices would have to be made in the future regarding services, programs and people.

Councilor Hedenskog moved, a second followed, and the motion to terminate the purchase order [with KME for a Fire Pumper/Tender] failed, with Councilors Gordon, Kitchen and Pieper voting "No" and Councilor Hedenskog and Mayor Anderson voting "Aye."

Consent Calendar

Approval of Council Minutes for January 12, 2009.

Councilor Kitchen moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as written.

Remarks

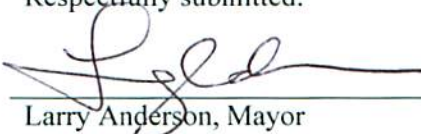
Councilor Kitchen requested that the citizens of Brookings let the City know how they feel about the debt.

Adjournment

Councilor Gordon moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:10pm.

A meeting of the Urban Renewal Agency immediately followed.

Respectfully submitted:


Larry Anderson, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 9th day of February 2009:


Joyce Heffington, City Recorder