

Meeting Minutes April 1st, 2015

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

*MOSIER CREEK TERRACE – 501 E. Second Ave.*

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| I | Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Mayor Burns at 6:30 pm |
|  | Council: Mayor Arlene Burns; Councilors Bill Akin (left the meeting after the cemetery presentation for medical reasons), Emily Reed, Jacki Sterner  Staff: City Manager Kathy Fitzpatrick  Absent: None  Excused: Councilor Peny Wallace |
| II | Agenda corrections or additions: None |
| III | **Business from the Audience**-- None |
| IV | Approval of Minutes, March 18th, 2015: **Councilor Reed made a motion to approve the Minutes for March 4th, 2015, with a date change correction. Councilor Sterner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** |
| V | **Business** |
| 1. | **State of ODOT** **presentation**: **Bob Bryant, ODOT Region 4 Manager**  Region 4 covers the central third of the State of Oregon and includes 3 Area Commissions. Mosier is in the Lower John Day ACT. Bryant gave a general report on the two big issues facing ODOT today: funding the maintenance of the transportation system that Oregon has built and preparing for the Cascadia Event. Funding projections show that in the near future, ODOT will have just enough funds to maintain one third of the built infrastructure and will not have funding for new infrastructure. At the same time that funding is at an historic low, ODOT also needs to spend about 5.1 billion dollars to retrofit bridges in preparation for the seismic event that scientists predict will happen in the next 50 years. Most bridges and overpasses from I-5 to the west will see significant damage or total collapse during this event. Mosier is fortunate to have had both overpasses at Rock Creek and Mosier Creek retrofitted or replaced in the last 5 years. Mosier will be in the intersection between refugees from the west fleeing the impacted areas and Emergency goods and services coming from the east.  ODOT funding that also in part passes through to cities and counties comes from the fuel tax, which hasn’t been raised since the 1990’s. ODOT also charges vehicles over a certain weight by the number of miles driven in the state. The City of Mosier Street fund is entirely funded by ODOT fuel tax dollars and these funds could drop significantly in the next few years, which could affect street maintenance and snow plowing. Also, the DLCD and ODOT grant and technical assistance programs that the City of Mosier has taken advantage of in the past could be discontinued in the near future. New infrastructure projects will most likely be confined to interstate projects in the future. |
| 2. | **Pioneer and State Road Record Keeping Project Presentation**:  Bruce Howard of Donovan and Associates presented this monumental project that has organized Mosier’s two beloved cemeteries in way that gives them new life and strengthens their bonds with the Mosier Community. Bruce showed slides that led the Council through the publicly accessible online cemetery software program and maps. This project was funded in part by a grant from OPRD and represents many hundreds of volunteer hours. |
| 3. | **Cemetery Grant Project**: Interpretive Panel for Pioneer Cemetery  Manager Fitzpatrick presented the next priority project of the Mosier Cemeteries, which is an interpretive panel and map for the Pioneer Cemetery that will engage visitors and locals in the history and significance of the Mosier Pioneer Cemetery. The graphics will include a basic overview and will highlight the historic markers and people from Mosier’s past. Total Project estimated cost is $3,000.00 for design and installation. City match: $500.00. Community Donations: $400.00. Grant Funds: $2100.00. **Councilor Reed made a motion to approve applying for the grant and committing to the match funds. Councilor Sterner seconded. Motion approved unanimously.** |
| 4. | **Resolution 2015-03**: Removal of Disinterment Responsibilities and Transfer of Ownership Rights. Bob Huskey, Superintendent of Idylewild Cemetery in Hood River, recommended that the City of Mosier not provide Disinterment Services as they are difficult to perform correctly and can be potentially fraught with liability issues. **Councilor Sterner made a motion to remove Disternment Services from services offered by the City. Councilor Reed Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** |
| 5. | **Approval of Mayor’s Signature on Easement Extinguishment**  **Councilor Reed made a motion to approve the Mayor’s signature on the easement extinguishments for the Tanawashee Subdivision. Councilor Sterner seconded. Motion passed unanimiously.** |
| 6. | **Update on Snow Plow Discussion (Councilor Reed)**  Since the last discussion, Councilor Reed developed a community survey that would solicit feedback from citizens regarding the City options to continue with contracted snow plow services or to purchase snow plow equipment and employ drivers. The survey was also designed to identify snow plow drivers who might be interested in such employment.  Mayor Burns said that she had talked to Todd Reeves about the survey and said that he was still interested in providing snow plowing services to the City. He told Mayor Burns that he thought it might be unrealistic to expect that the entire town could be plowed, however, because some sections are too steep and difficult to plow and there are areas up in the Mosier Bluff’s development where there is nowhere to put the snow once it has been scraped off the street. Councilor Sterner said that citizens should be informed regarding what level of service they can expect on which streets. The discussion then moved to the training of the drivers. The City would look for drivers who are already trained, and their level of training could be evaluated through the experience they list on their application. Mayor Burns suggested that the City could put out an ad for drivers before the survey is launched to find out first how many drivers might be trained and interested in this type of employment and service to the City. Councilor Reed said that she would create this ad and that while she agreed that the survey could wait until the City did a search for drivers, it was very important that Council spend the time and effort to gather and synthesize all of the information needed to make a good decision. She was also concerned that there had been discussions since the last meeting about the topic and that she would like an opportunity to address the new issues. The Wasco County Sheriff said that because budgets have been cut so deeply many Counties and Cities have had to decrease their services, which includes snow plowing. He suggested creating maps of the snow routes and making sure that citizens have access to them so that they can plan ahead for snow days. (The City of Mosier snow maps are up on the City website.) |
|  | **Work Session (cont): City of Mosier Seasonal and Festive Event Planning**  Councilor Reed had created a list of the ideas that were generated during the last brainstorming activity. The next steps would be to ask the community for ideas, to look at other neighboring calendars for possible overlap, to identify the events that could make the City money, and to find volunteer champions for the events that they are passionate about. |
|  | Committee Reports : Cemetery, Park, Public Art, Personnel, Public Works, Kaleidoscope Team: Tabled |
|  | Correspondance/Staff/Council reports: Tabled |
|  | Adjourn: 8:30 pm |

| **Agenda Topic** | **Action Items** | **Owner:** | **Deadline:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Snow Plow** | Develop an RFP for Snow Plow Drivers | Emily Reed | May 6, 2015 |
|  | Contact Becky Brun, Hood River City Councilor | Jacki Sterner | May 6, 2015 |
| **Cemetery Grant** | Apply for Cemetery Grant (signage) | Kathy Fitzpatrick | April 30th, 15 |

Approved this 1st day of April, 2015

Attest:

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Council President, Emily Reed Kathleen Fitzpatrick, City Manager