

STATE OF COLORADO  
COUNTY OF HUERFANO  
CITY OF WALSENBURG  
Regular Session Meeting  
September 7, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Quintana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council members present were: Rick Jennings, Nick Vigil, David Mockmore, Erin Jerant, Craig Lessar and James Moore. Silvana Lind was not in attendance. Others in attendance were Assistant Administrator Beth Neece, City Attorney Dan Hyatt, and City Clerk Lori Sheldon.

**Approval of Agenda**

Nick Vigil, seconded by James Moore, moved to approve the agenda with 1 change – the elimination of item 11(a) Agreement with REC. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

**Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Quintana read a letter from Lorraine Andreatta asking for help in tearing down and disposing of her trailer which had burned due to a propane leak. Mayor Quintana urged the community to help Ms. Andreatta with monetary donations or volunteering to help with the physical labor.

**Recognition of Police Department and Demonstration**

Chief Chamberlain read excerpts from letters from the Colorado Police Protective Association congratulating Officers Kiel Petkoff and John Salazar and inviting them to the annual dinner to receive their Officer of the Year awards for courageous action in a dangerous situation. Officer James Adam Ashby will also receive a Lifesaving Award for his actions on July 4, 2009. Officer Ashby was sent on a medical call where he administered CPR to an unresponsive man who had no pulse. This action saved the man's life. Chief also read a letter from the Pueblo County Sheriff's office commending Officer Salazar for taking action while off duty in Pueblo in order to apprehend a suspect for whom he knew there was a felony warrant.

Officers Kiel Petkoff and Corey Daniels then performed a demonstration of the Krav Maga defensive tactics now in use by the Walsenburg Police Department for protecting themselves against aggressive action by suspects. Krav Maga is the official defense system of the Israeli Defense Forces. Officer Petkoff, who is a certified Krav Maga instructor, then answered questions from Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilperson Moore asked that the headers on the Special Session minutes be changed to say "Special" instead of "Regular".

Erin Jerant moved, seconded by James Moore, that the August 9<sup>th</sup> Special Session minutes be approved with the specified change. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

James Moore moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, that the August 11<sup>th</sup> Special Session minutes be approved with the specified change. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Craig Lessar moved, seconded by James Moore, that the August 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session minutes be approved. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Craig Lessar moved, seconded by James Moore, that the August 30<sup>th</sup> Special Session minutes be approved with the specified change. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

## **REPORTS**

**Finance Committee** Chairman Craig Lessar did not have a report.

**Parks and Recreation** Chairman David Mockmore reported that people from all over the State attended the final weekend at Walsenburg Wild Waters and had very positive comments. The final readings for utilities were taken and final numbers should be available soon. Shutdown procedures are in progress.

## **CITIZEN FORUM**

Roger Weiss appeared to state his case regarding painting “Pickle Ball” marks on the tennis court across from Pinon Park on Hendren Street. There has been some opposition from tennis players regarding this idea. Mr. Weiss said pickle ball is very popular with travelers and there is a website that lists places that are available for people to play. He would like to add Walsenburg to that list. His group currently plays at the Community Center but that would not necessarily always be available so he would like an outdoor venue that’s more accessible and available. Some suggestions were made about alternate sites and he said he would check them out and report back.

## **REPORTS**

**Administrator**- Assistant Administrator Beth Neece reported on the following:

- The sewer plan is going great. They’re pouring a new slab (330 yds) tomorrow and the 4<sup>th</sup> slab will go in on Friday. All together there will be about 1400 yards of concrete just in the base.
- There was a water break on the raw water line that supplied Huerfano Concrete. The water crews got that repaired this morning.

Mayor Quintana asked about an item in the Huerfano Journal regarding potential funding by the contractors and asked if Ms. Neece or any Council members were aware of anything like that. Ms. Neece replied that she was not aware. Councilperson Vigil said that he recalled something about contractors allowing you to pay later. Councilperson Moore said that Alan had mentioned some time in the past that one financing option that’s open to exploration, not that we would be specifically interested in it, would be having financing through the contractor. Mayor Quintana asked Larry Patrick from the Huerfano World Journal how he had heard about it and he replied that he had brought it up to Mr. Hein because he had heard that it does occur. Councilman Lessar asked Mr. Hyatt to speak to that. Mr. Hyatt replied that he had not heard of it.

Councilperson Vigil asked Ms. Neece about Martin Lake. Ms. Neece replied that she has requested information from Applegate that she has not yet received. We need to get a toe drain in. She’s working on how we’re going to get that done and who’s going to pay for it. Mr. Vigil asked if it’s something the City crews can do. Ms. Neece replied that it depends on how it’s engineered and also that the crews currently have lots of projects. There was further discussion about the cause of the seepage, the location of the drain and

the water level required to put it in.

**Chief of Police** - Chief James Chamberlain reported on the following:

- We are still working with dispatch to get their system to generate our total calls for service numbers. They are getting a new system should be in place and working by the first of the year. After that we should be able to get numbers again.
- Chief is working with Huerfano County Communications Director Don Mercier on an all-purpose report form that will be used by the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office that will cut down on the time it takes to do a report and the repetition throughout the reports and applications for warrants.
- He accepted the resignation of the Police Department secretary Kathleen O'Rourke. Her last day was last month and they are currently looking for a replacement. Corporal Hornsby, Lieutenant Liebchen and the Chief are filling in when they can.
- He also accepted the resignation letter of Sergeant Heather Pacheco. Her last day will be September 13<sup>th</sup>. They have advertised in the paper and on the website to begin a search for replacement officers. The closing date for those is October 1<sup>st</sup>. He will be contacting the training coordinator from the Pueblo Police Department. They have an academy starting this month but it takes 18 weeks. He has done a proposal which he is putting in place for lateral transfers to open up a larger hiring pool to get someone in who could be trained quicker because of previous experience. In response to a question from Councilperson Jerant Chief said that we do not require a college degree and then stated the requirements.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was extensive discussion about the duties of the City Clerk and what the salary should be with input from Council, Administration and citizens in the audience. It was then moved by Craig Lessar, seconded by Erin Jerant to ask the attorney to draft an ordinance setting the City Clerk's salary at \$200.00 per month for statutorily required duties and that administration would set the salary for additional duties based on the pay in class study. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-1 with the "no" vote being from Mayor Quintana. He stated that he believes the salary for additional duties should not be set by the administrator.

### **New Business**

It was decided not to extend the deadline for applications for the City Clerk position at this time.

Nick Vigil moved, seconded by Erin Jerant, that Craig Lessar be appointed as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-0 with 1 abstention from Councilperson Lessar.

Mayor Quintana read a letter from Huerfano County asking the City to provide a water tap for the new ambulance barn at no (preferred) or reduced cost to the County. They hope to locate the facility in the Northlands area and have obtained permission from

the State to lift the moratorium on taps for this project since the City is working on the sewer issues. There was discussion about the size of the tap needed as they will need to include fire suppression. It was decided that further discussion was needed between the City and the County before any decision was made.

The next item was designation of a representative to the Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee. Craig Lessar moved, seconded by Nick Vigil that Silvana Lind be appointed to that position providing that she is willing. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Mayor Quintana made a closing comment re-capping the discussion on the City Clerk position.

**Adjournment**

With no further items on the agenda, the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:05.

CITY OF WALSENBURG

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce A. Quintana,  
Mayor

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Lori Sheldon  
City Clerk

The preceding minutes were prepared according to §47 of Robert's Rules of Order, i.e. they contain a record of what was *done* at the meeting, not what was *said* by the members. Tape recordings of the meeting are available for 6 months thereafter only for listening in the City Clerk's Office as well as copies of Ordinances and Resolutions.