

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF HUERFANO
CITY OF WALSENBURG
Regular Session Meeting
05/19/2009 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Edi Sheldon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.: the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council members present were: Larry Patrick, Edie Flanagin, Bruce Quintana, David Mockmore, Erin Jerant, and James England. Others present were City Administrator Alan Hein, Assistant City Administrator Beth Neece, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Loretta Sheldon, and City Attorney Daniel Hyatt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Sheldon asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5th meeting. Council person Jerant requested that corrections be made. A motion was made by David Mockmore and seconded by James England to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2009 regular City Council meeting as corrected. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

Chair Larry Patrick reported the finance committee met on the prior evening. They discussed monthly reports and had questions for the administrator and finance director. Will get answers and get info to council as soon as finance director is available. Things are looking good on financial reports.

Discussion was held on purchasing a used truck for the gas department. Item is on agenda for later in the meeting.

The contract for maintenance of the city web site is up for renewal in November. Options such as putting it out for bid again, getting someone in-house to maintain it or seeking a web site that may be less costly to maintain will be considered in the coming months.

Council person Jerant asked Mr. Hein about a payment to the IRS. He has not had the opportunity yet to discuss it with the finance director.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Chairman Bruce Quintana reports that the committee met twice over the prior two weeks about the water park. Everything seems to be on track and in order. The park is scheduled to open on Saturday.

Safety Committee

Chair person Erin Jerant reported that I-25 traffic will be re-routed through Walsenburg during the bridge repair over Highway 10 starting a couple of days after Memorial day or the first week in June. The committee met with people at the state. The traffic plan has been developed. CDOT is waiting to hear from the railroad. CDOT will be watching the effects in town very closely to determine how they'll re-route traffic in 2013 when they replace the bridge entirely. The next safety meeting is June 1st at 5:00. There is an employee meeting May 29th on drugs and alcohol. A citizen asked about signage regarding pedestrians during the bridge repair, specifically near the new library. Ms. Jerant replied that signs are provided by CDOT and the speed limit will be lower than normal so pedestrian issues will be addressed that way and she'll also check with

CDOT regarding specific pedestrian signage. The committee also encourages owners and employees to park off-street to encourage people coming through town to stop and shop.

Public Resources Committee

Chair person Edie Flanagan reported that the public resources committee met on the prior Tuesday after she and Mr. Hein toured the Corsentino Ranch. She recommends that everyone on council take that tour. They met with St. Mary's Cemetery Association. It was a cordial meeting. The association was satisfied with the requirements as laid out in the new water resolution. They discussed ranch issues and there's nothing new to report on that. The next meeting will be Tuesday the 26th at 5:00. A question was asked about whether anyone from the Masonic cemetery had attended the meeting. Ms. Flanagan said no one had come forward so she presumed they had read the resolution and think that it's OK. David Harriman and Mayor Sheldon said they had both received complaints. Ms. Flanagan said to have them call Beth or Alan to get on the agenda for the next PRC meeting.

Citizen Forum

Nancy Lave' spoke regarding a carnival during the Black Diamond Jubilee. She asked that the city allow Russell between 4th and 5th Streets to be blocked off during that weekend. Several council people expressed concerns about the traffic because of the re-routing of I-25 and Russell being one of only 2 north-south routes that townspeople can use to avoid the congestion on Walsen/Main. A couple of alternate sites were suggested but no action was taken.

Next Bernadine Krueger expressed her dismay at the extent to which the trees in City Park were cut back. She also mentioned some other areas of town where the trees were cut back excessively. Mayor Sheldon said that San Isabel installed a new line and cut the trees back for safety reasons.

Barbara Yule, representing the Spanish Peaks Alliance for Arts and Education (501C3) and the Celtic Music Festival, talked about taking on the task of promoting the renovation of the Fox Theater. It needs to be brought up to a professional standard that would allow a wide variety of possibilities for it in the live performing arts. She talked about using it for youth programs to give kids performance experiences. She asked that everyone fill out and encourage others to fill out the surveys that have been distributed as they need to prove there is community support for the project in order to obtain funding. There will be a launch/fundraiser for the project on July 18th with a live performance from a theater group from Aspen. Council person Flanagan encouraged Barbara to come back to council and present plans when they are more solidified.

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Alan Hein reported about the **Kincaid Property Rental**. It has been cleaned up and it is rented.

The **railroad building grant** has been submitted. Negotiations are underway as far as re-writing it and some of the criteria necessary to qualify for the grant. The deadline has been pushed back to the end of June. Mayor Sheldon talked about the Historical Society concerns about restoring it to original configuration.

The next item discussed was **the grants** for Walsenburg Wild Waters. The GOCO grant is complete with the exception of the work on the side area which is currently being worked on. Mr. Hein and Leonard Mondragon are working with CDOT to get their portion of that project

complete by the deadline on Friday. It's very close to being completed. Mr. Hein is very confident that the facility will have a good year this year. Everyone's been working very hard to get it organized and to get off on the right foot.

The **satellite monitoring system that's up** and running – there is a problem with the weir in La Veta. Part of the project was to straighten out the existing weir but it is too damaged to allow the monitoring to be accurate so it has been mandated by the state that it be replaced.

Mr. Hein met with TetraTech last week regarding the status of the wastewater treatment plant. The plans are still at the state. They check with them weekly to see what the status is. The best information he could get from them is that they are close to reviewing them and as soon as they are reviewed we'll be able to go. It will probably be another 30-60 days before they review them.

Home Rule status – we have gotten some literature and made copies of each of 3 documents for council to review over the next month or so.

Annual clean up has started and is going very well. It should be completed by the end of the following week.

He talked to someone from Dollar General and they're planning to open their doors the following week.

He has been contacted by a representative of **Safeway** and they are going to be **resurfacing** their **parking lot**. They talked about the city partnering with them to get some of the concrete work done on driveway approaches and sidewalks repaired. The majority of it falls under the direction of CDOT because it's in the right-of-way and Safeway has to contact them directly regarding that area. He will be working with the Safeway rep regarding the other approaches and surrounding sidewalks.

The latest on the **wind farm** is that he received an email indicating they are meeting with the finance people in New York. Things are looking good but money is tight. It will be several weeks before anything is nailed down which falls well into our timeline.

The mayor inquired about the **gravel survey** and whether it's still in process. Mr. Hein replied that it is.

Chief of Police Report

The Chief was summoned from the meeting prior to giving his report.

Remaining Reports

Council reviewed the remaining reports. There was some confusion about which report was the "Treasurer's report". Mayor Sheldon read the amount on the Schedule of Cash Accounts which is what the treasurer usually reads. There was a motion by David Mockmore to accept the report and seconded by James England. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Unfinished Business

The first item is the draft copy of the personnel manual. Not all council persons have had a chance to look over document yet. Ms. Jerant has questions. Mr. Hein suggested that everyone read it and make notes about any questions or concerns. A work session was suggested to answer those questions. Mr. Hein said it is very much a preliminary draft and it was taken from the current document but that he'll probably go through it several more times and looks forward to their input before completing a final draft. They will have the work session during the finance meeting on June 1st.

New Business

The liquor license application for Corrine's Mexican Food Restaurant was the first item. A motion was made by Larry Patrick and seconded by James England to approve the liquor license

for Malt and Vinous liquors. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

The next item was the easement for the Huerfano County Trail. Erin Jerant asked if the city is the owner of tract 46 and 47. Bruce Quintana asked where they are located. Edie Flanagan responded that they're near the football field. They are asking for the easement across the Alessi Dam. There is uncertainty about whether the city is allowed to grant the easement. A motion was made by James England and seconded by Bruce Quintana to postpone this agenda item to the June 2nd meeting in order to allow staff and Dan Hyatt to review the easement document and report back. More discussion was held before the vote was taken. It is believed that Faris Land and Cattle owns those parcels. It is not clear if the easement is for the road or the dam. No vote was taken on the motion. It was asked by Mayor Sheldon that more research be done and the item put on the June 2nd agenda.

Next was a request for a letter of support from the city for COG. They are submitting a CDBG grant for the single family owner occupied housing program and they're asking for continued support for what has become an integral part of the community. A sample copy of a letter was presented for review. Erin Jerant inquired what it is for. Mayor Sheldon replied that it's for rehabilitation projects but that there have not been any in Huerfano County. Larry Patrick thinks there is one planned for this year. David Mockmore said he would like to see what they have planned for this year. It was suggested that the item be postponed until COG presents more information. Mayor Sheldon said she would let COG know when she goes to the next board meeting on Thursday. A motion was made by Edi Flanagan and seconded by David Mockmore that the meeting be postponed to the June 2nd meeting. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

The next item was a request for a letter of support for Huerfano County for the Trails Grant. A motion was made by Erin Jerant and seconded by James England to postpone the item until we find out what the Trails Grant is. Edi Flanagan offered to explain since she is on the trails committee. The Trails Grant is a county-wide grant movement that was started by the county. It's a "grand scheme" to connect a lot of the trails in Huerfano County. They've already gotten a grant and it is presumed that they want to renew the grant and are asking for a letter of support. It benefits the people of Walsenburg. Bruce Quintana stated that he thinks it's a good idea for the city to support the county's efforts with agreement from several other council people. Erin Jerant withdrew her motion. Larry Patrick made a motion to give a letter of support from the City of Walsenburg for the Huerfano County Trails project. It was seconded by Bruce Quintana. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

The next item on the agenda is the application to fill the vacant council seat. Only one application was received from James Moore. A motion was made by Larry Patrick and seconded by Edie Flanagan to appoint James Moore to the vacant council seat in Ward 1 vacated by Lou Taylor to go through the current term. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0. The language to swear him in was not available so swearing in was set for the June 2nd meeting. Mr. Moore was encouraged to attend committee meetings.

The purchase of a new vehicle for the gas department was discussed. Erin Jerant asked for clarification on the cost of the vehicle. Bruce Quintana asked which vehicle is being replaced. Mr. Hein said it was a Ford pickup with a frame problem. The vehicle will go to the gas department and then will be switched around back to the water and waste water plants. The purpose of getting a loan is to avoid a large output of cash from the budget because the revenue from the gas department is short as of 30-60 days ago. A motion was made by Larry Patrick and seconded by Edie Flanagan that the gas enterprise purchase the 2002 GMC Sierra 2500 HDSL regular cab long bed truck at a price of \$7650.00 and financed through the First National Bank of Trinidad. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-1.

The next item on the agenda is a potential contribution to the county for help with discounting prices to the community from the waste transfer station. They would like a \$1000.00 donation to facilitate a clean-up day. The donation will enable the waste transfer station to offer a 50% discount for 2 days for all loads. Dates have not yet been set. The discount is contingent upon a \$1,000.00 donation from the City of Walsenburg and a \$500.00 donation from the Town of La Veta. Mayor Sheldon asked if the Town of La Veta had approved it yet. It was not known if that had happened. Edie Flanagan asked which fund it would come from. Mayor Sheldon replied that it would come from the donation fund. A motion was made by Larry Patrick and seconded by Edie Flanagan that a donation be made to Huerfano County to facilitate a clean-up day. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-1.

The last item on the agenda was the appraisal acquired by Lori Silva at the request of the City for her goat cheese dairy proposal. Since the proposal was rejected by the city it was suggested that the City pay one half of the cost of the appraisal. A motion was made by Erin Jerant and seconded by Edie Flanagan that the city offers one half of the cost of the appraisal to the Silva family. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF WALSENBURG

ATTEST:

Edith T. Sheldon,
Mayor

Loretta Sheldon,
Deputy 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.