



CITY OF EAGLE POINT

"Gateway to the Lakes"

OREGON

EAGLE POINT CITY COUNCIL
17 BUCHANAN AVE. SOUTH, EAGLE POINT, OREGON

FEBRUARY 26, 2011

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 8:00 A.M.

Mayor Russell called the special meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Council members present: Bob Russell, Alan Curriston, Kathy Sell, Mike Parker, Ruth Jenks, Jonathan Bilden and Bill Fierke.

Staff members present: David Hussell, City Administrator; Melissa Owens, Finance Officer; Vern Thompson, Chief of Police; Robert Miller, Public Works Director; and Dena Roberts, City Recorder.

2. FINANCES.

Dave Hussell advised Council he would review the city's revenue picture and revenue options. He briefly explained the city's property tax limitations, noting it is constitutionally based; therefore, there is no way to change this negative situation unless the City went to a vote of the people on a one time basis for five years. He further explained that typically these five year taxing measures don't work out well. The reason is that a city is usually trying to find funding to hire more staff, whether that be police, or other areas and since the taxing measure is only for five years, by the time the city hires staff and trains them the five years is up and the funding is gone. Dave Hussell then briefly explained the constitutional legislation that created the tax limitation. He stated they were Measures 57, 40 and 5 and took place in 1994 in Oregon and have had a very negative effect on Eagle Point.

Mr. Hussell reviewed a presentation of staff's projections for the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 budget. Mr. Hussell next reviewed possible revenue ideas. Council asked staff to provide a spreadsheet that would show which companies are paying franchise fees and which are not.

3. 2011-2012 GOALS.

Mayor Russell asked each council member their expectations of the goals portion of the meeting.

Councilor Sell stated she had hoped the council members would each throw out some of the growth wishes they have for Eagle Point and what they would ideally like to see around town.

Councilor Parker stated he hoped to review the goals previously set and find out which had been completed and which had not and determine whether new goals should be established, amplifying on what has been already been accomplished and, also, whether there should be other directions.

Council President Curriston stated there were many directions the council could go, such as economic growth, livability, public safety, etc., and that council should establish priorities of where to put time and money. He further stated council needs to first establish priorities and goals and the objectives will determine what projects will be worked on over the next three to five years.

Councilor Jenks stated she agreed with Council President Curriston and was not looking for a list of things to do but rather to determine the principal to evaluate what they want to accomplish.

Councilor Bilden stated he expected the council to take what has previously done and the ideas of the five new members and determine a future direction with buy-in.

Councilor Fierke stated his expectation was to take a look at the previous goals, determine whether there is buy-in or whether there the need to change direction. He further stated the need to coordinate with the Planning Commission because there are many things that go through that commission which might not make its way to council and, therefore, they need to have direction that is consistent with council.

Mayor Russell stated he had hoped the council could start identifying assignments for the Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, etc. so that they can move forward. He stated his hope to assign the projects and have them report monthly to the City Council. He explained he felt the Economic Development Commission had enough time to work on other projects besides the Centennial events. Councilor Fierke agreed, stating he saw two different functions of both the Economic Development and Planning Commissions: Economic Development being the body who tries to find the projects and people to do it and Planning to work with them so that it fits into the structure as it is currently and as is envisioned.

Dave Hussell then reviewed the 2009/2010 goals of the City of Eagle Point. Council President Curriston asked that staff prepare a list of the steps that are necessary for an Urban Growth Boundary and where Eagle Point is in the process.

Mayor Russell then asked initial comments on the 2009/2010 goals from each council member.

Councilor Fierke stated he didn't see much on how to attract business to Eagle Point. He further stated if the council is looking at tax base and if industry and commerce is going to pay more then there needs to be a way to attract business to Eagle Point.

Councilor Jonathan stated he felt there were too many previous goals and that there should be only 3-5 goals; the goals list seems too long and there is cross-over.

Councilor Jenks stated she felt the previous goals were too much in the weeds. She explained there is too much detail in some places and they are too broad in others. She stated there needs to be enough time spent on discussing how to accomplish the goals; focus on how, who and strategy and a little less detail.

Council President Curriston stated he asked himself, "What are the primary purposes of city government?" He stated when he asked himself the question the answers, to him, are infrastructure, public safety, community relations, growth management, economic growth, and livability. He stated council needs to determine what is most important so that direction can be given to staff. He stated council needs to keep in mind how the community might feel about it, not just what each council member wants.

Councilor Parker stated he agreed with Council President Curriston but would add the need to encourage businesses to develop in this area by coming up with other alternatives such as giving incentives and working with developers to allow them to build in Eagle Point.

Councilor Sell agreed with Councilor Parker in offering incentives for all businesses. She stated there isn't a lot of room for big businesses but she would like to see downtown have a shop on every corner. Councilor Sell concluded by stating she felt council needed to look closer at reasons for people to stay and shop in Eagle Point.

The Council then held a lengthy discussion on their goals.

At the conclusion of their discussion they determined the following would be their 2011/2012 goals.

Community Livability:

Parks

- Signage for Harnish/Museum/Entrance to town
- Veteran's park center
- Park development in other areas of town (Lucas/Lagoon/Skate Park)
- Tennis courts

Public Safety

Walkways

- Sidewalks
- Pathways (Creekside)
- Trails

Public transportation

Nuisance abatement (ordinance enforcement)

Linn/Loto/Lava street names

Landscape at corner of Buchanan/Main Streets

Economic Development:

Recruit businesses
Incentives
City owned property downtown
Incubator companies
Business buy-in with plans
Urban renewal education
Downtown business encouragement
Community Development Director
Incentive for improving facades for buildings downtown
I-5 Eagle Point signs

Growth Management:

Water projects
Potholes/Transportation
Sidewalks
Planning/Zoning/Comp. Plan/UGB Expansion
Fiscal planning/management

Community Relations:

Wants/Needs
Public/Private partnerships
Website
Communication improvement
 Newsletter/flyers
 Community Reader board
 Channel 15
 Lines of communication (skateboard park)

Fiscal Stability:

Administrative
 Staffing: City Administrator
Fee structures
Grants
Police Officer safety
Staff resources – revenue making
Expand staff (temps) for to do lists

Council asked the City Recorder to distribute the list of goals to all council members.

It was determined there would be a workshop on March 22, 2011 prior to the council meeting to review the goals in more detail.

Councilor Jenks asked Mr. Hussell his view on the timeline. Mr. Hussell responded staff begins developing each department's budget in March. He stated he and Melissa Owens then meet with each staff member to go over their budget. Mr. Hussell advised the sooner council gets their focus to staff the easier it is for staff to direct funds in the budget.

Mayor Russell asked if there were any final comments. There were none.

4. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Russell adjourned the Special Meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dena Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

Dena Roberts, City Recorder

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Robert E. Russell', written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Russell, Mayor