

Rainier Economic Development Council
City Hall - Rainier, Oregon
March 19, 2009 - Regular Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Grice, at 6:15 p.m.

Roll Call -

Present:

Terry Grice, Treasurer Jennifer Dennis, Secretary - came in late 6:25 p.m.
Dearl Taylor Paul Rice Tim Navarro

Absent:

Mike Avent-excused David Qualman, V. Chair

Others Present:

Karen Williams - REDCO Attorney Craig Bach - Attorney with Lane Powell
Ruth Howard, Clatskanie Chief Terry Deaton, Staff Administrator
Lars Gare, City Administrator

Guests: Sloan Nelson

Approval of Minutes -

February 12, 2009 Minutes - Dearl Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul Rice and the minutes were approved.

Visitors Comments: none

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(h) - Conference with attorneys was convened at 6:30 p.m.

Reconvened public meeting session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion was made by Jennifer Dennis to resolve REDCO to authorize Lane Powell Attorneys to begin litigation against the attorneys and consultant and to file a declaratory judgment as appropriate with USG companies. Second by Dearl Taylor. Motion was approved.

Sloan Nelson was present to go over his small business grant for the Ole Pastime Tavern's exterior mural, stepping back in time to 1952 on A Street. The Council will vote on his grant at the next meeting.

Sloan Nelson also asked REDCO to include garbage cans placement in downtown Rainier as one of their projects.

Unfinished Business -

Columbia Boaters Guide sign for the marina was approved for placement by the City Council. Lars Gare thought it would be appropriate for REDCO to use advertising on the sign to attract boaters on the Columbia to our city. Paul Rice took the advertising information to the Chamber, explained REDCO was interested in being a part of the project with the Chamber. He has not had a response from them. Sloan agreed this would be a good way to advertise Rainier at every launch site along the Columbia. Once Mr. Sherwin receives authorization from the City to place a the sign at the marina, he will talk to the local businesses.

REDCO will attempt to resolve the billing issues with Stephen Petersen regarding City Council's request for information on REDCO By-Laws.

Marina Square Restrooms -

The two bids received were reviewed by the REDCO. Changes and modifications to the bids were made by the Council. Paul Rice will work with the two companies to revise their bids for the changes. Jennifer and Dearl be on the committee to review bids.

Changes to advertised bids include:

- no painting - council members will do pressure wash
- no urinals
- picnic renovations
- limit \$18,000 on project

Tim Navarro said the City was in the process of replacing the roof on the picnic area. Lars Gare will check to see what work is being done. The picnic area will not be included in the bid if the City has repaired and replaced the roof on the picnic structure.

Lars advised REDCO to go to the City Council meeting to inform them REDCO has solicited bids for repairs to the Marina Restrooms and recommend they move forward with accepting the bid for the project. Jennifer Dennis will present this at the next City Council meeting. REDCO would like local contractors from Columbia County used whenever possible.

Ford Family Foundation sent an email to REDCO stating there were grants available, but did not want to raise any hope as there are already many applicants for grant money. Meyer Memorial is offering grants for projects. No decision was made to move forward with grants for the marina restrooms project.

Jennifer Dennis made a motion to take \$3,000 out of the grocery store fund and apply those dollars to the marina restrooms project fund for a total of \$18,000 so we can complete this project. Dearl Taylor seconded motion. Motion carried.

Council Members terms of office. REDCO only needed to extend Paul Rice and Dearl Taylor positions another 4 years -expire January 2013. Their posiitons presented to the City Council.

The new terms of office were approved for another 4 year term. In the future, REDCO will notify City Council in November before terms expire in January.

The new resolution for by-law change in meeting's order which would move **Approval of Payables** to the end of the agenda was presented to the Council according to the motion made in February meeting. Paul Rice made a motion to amend the resolution moving the visitors comments to after the approval of the minutes. Tim Navarro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mission Statement approval will be moved to the next REDCO meeting in April.

Strategies for Developing Communities by presented to REDCO by Connie Budge. Asked to review this information and move to the next REDCO meeting in April.

Eagles Community Grant for Daze in the Park fireworks for 2008 was presented to the Council. Tim Navarro made a motion to approve the Eagles grant. Dearl Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tri Cities Insurance provided information regarding a bond for REDCO staff person to work as contract labor as. It would cost REDCO more for a bond for contract labor than to use a temporary service company due to workman's comp.

Paul Rice asked about the digital recorder. The City is evaluating their new recorder. It's cost is reasonable and if they like it, REDCO will consider purchasing one. He asked about business cards. Torrent Imaging has been given the information and will submit a quote to REDCO. Paul asked what the by-laws state in regard to council members absenteeism. We need to address this with the upcoming litigation and decisions required by the Council. Terry Grice said we had a telephone conversation with Mike Avent and the attorneys prior to tonight's meeting. Mike said we could call him if we needed his vote or comments at tonight's meeting.

Jennifer Dennis gave a report of the City Council meeting she attended. Business news - Ole Pastime Tavern's received a greater privilege liquor license which required the City's backing by the State. Nuisance abatements were discussed. Highway 30 - Rainier's B Street project was ranked #2 in Columbia County as a "shovel ready". Lars has submitted the City's shovel ready projects including the West Rainier sewer extension.

Terry Deaton said she had been contacted by commercial property owner to find out what benefits new businesses would receive from REDCO or the City. He has 4 commercial lots for sale. She referred him to Col/Pac who could give him a complete outline. Without knowing what type of business, she could assist him.

Susie Wilson, realtor, contacted REDCO regarding heavy industrial property in West Rainier. They need to resolve the wetland issues so buyers can build industrial businesses. Jennifer would like to see a basic outline for talking points when realtors, City or REDCO are contacted by prospective businesses looking to locate in our community. Lars and Terry Deaton have been evaluating the wetlands. Terry has talked to the owner of a wetland mitigation company in Longview, Brian Perleberg. He referred her to a company that develops Wetland Banks. Terry Deaton will be researching this further for solutions to the wetland issues for the industrial area.

Rainier Chamber sent REDCO a letter and application for membership. Terry Deaton attended last month's Chamber meeting. The speaker was Jed Mitchell who presented information on the National Geographic's GeoTourism project for this area. They talked about this at some length and he encouraged REDCO to get involved with it to put Rainier on the map. Terry applied to the National Geographic GeoTourism project and it was accepted. She was required to write up the information and submit pictures for their review. She would like REDCO to review her work and make any appropriate changes or additions as they determine are needed. Jennifer Dennis said she would work with Terry. This geotour is on the Columbia River along the Interstate 5 corridor, crosses the Lewis and Clark Bridge down to Westport, crossing the ferry and back up to Longview. If Rainier had not participated, the Oregon portion of the tour could have been excluded.

Accounts Payable for February 2009 -

Dearl Taylor made a motion to pay the February payables in the amount of \$10,827.03. Paul Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jennifer Dennis made a motion to authorize Terry Deaton \$100.00 to purchase office supplies for this month's office supplies. Dearl Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jennifer asked Terry Deaton to adjust last month minutes on the number of volunteer hours available from 250 to more like 25 or 50 volunteer to hours. That was an error.

Paul Rice wanted to setup the rent for REDCO office space to be paid quarterly. REDCO moved into the office March 1, 2009. Internet service is available for the REDCO office. Paul will check to see about cost for connection.

Terry Grice adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Terry Grice, Chair

Terry Deaton
Staff Administrator