

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL  
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE.  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

**MEMBER PRESENT:**

Brad Boyd Mayor  
Bill Merrill Council President  
Lon Kellstrom Councilor  
Sharlene Weed Councilor  
Shawna Bell Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eileen Stein City Manager  
Steve Bryant City Attorney  
Lisa Young Finance Director  
Eric Porter Comm. Dev. Director  
Brad Grimm Public Works Director  
Kathy Nelson City Recorder

**GUESTS:**

Brad Bailey President, High Country Disposal

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boyd at 7:06 p.m.

**II. VISITOR COMMUNICATIONS**

1. **Ron Paradis, Director of College Relations, Central Oregon Community College (COCC)**

**Ron Paradis**, COCC Director of College Relations stated he wanted to speak briefly as to why COCC has a bond measure on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot and specifically as it relates to a shortage of nurses. He stated that nationally there is a shortage of some 800,000 nurses and in Oregon 49% of nurses are over the age of 50. He stated that each year COCC receives applications from over 100 very qualified applicants for the 36 spots in COCC's nursing program. He stated there is a need for a larger facility that trains students in health care fields. He stated that student enrollment is up 15% this year and coupled with the 13% student enrollment increase from last year there is a need for more classrooms. He informed the Council that 25% of local students attend COCC upon graduation from high school.

**Mr. Paradis** stated the bond measure is for \$43.75 million, which is approximately 12 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. He stated those funds will be supplemented by \$5.8 million in matching state funds and another \$200,000 in federal funds. He provided an overview of the many building projects and upgrades that the bond measure will allow COCC to undertake.

**Councilor Bell** asked if it is possible to get a registered nurse (RN) degree at COCC. **Mr. Paradis** answered yes and stated that RN graduates are usually hired locally.

**Mr. Paradis** thanked the Council for providing the opportunity to inform them on the bond measure and its benefits.

2. **Tate Metcalf, 17559 Plainview Court, Sister, OR 97759**

**Tate Metcalf** introduced himself as a member of the advocacy group for the bond measure. He stated that COCC is a landmark for Bend that provides retraining opportunities and education advancement in the current downturned economy. He asked that the Council vote to support the bond measure and consider adoption of a resolution to show the City's support. He stated one of the immediate benefits if the bond measure passes is the number of construction jobs that will become available.

The **Council** discussed Mr. Metcalf's request and stated it is willing to consider adopting a resolution in support of the bond measure at its October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

3. **Bill Mintiens 69225 Yellow Daisy Lane, Sisters, OR 97759**

**Bill Mintiens** stated he wanted to remind everyone about the City Council Candidates Forum that will take place on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Five Pine Conference Center. He stated he will be the moderator for the evening and invited everyone to attend.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes

1. August 21, 2008 –Workshop
2. August 28, 2008 –Workshop
3. September 4, 2008 – Workshop
4. September 11, 2008 – Regular Meeting

B. Bills to Approve

1. September Accounts Payable

**Councilor Weed** moved to approve the consent agenda. **Councilor Merrill** seconded the motion.

**Councilor Weed** asked if the payment to HGE for the East Cascade realignment project was to be paid from urban renewal funds. **Finance Director Young** stated payment will come from urban renewal funds.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### IV. STAFF REPORTS

##### A. Brad Grimm, Public Works Director

**Director Grimm** asked for questions regarding his staff report.

**Councilor Bell** asked for a status update on the East Cascade realignment project. **Director Grimm** reported that good progress is being made. He stated the contractor will complete the project on the north side of the road before moving to the south side of the road to finish the project. **Councilor Weed** asked about the changes to the drainage swale. **Director Grimm** stated that at the request of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) the drainage swales were changed to withstand a 100 year flood versus a 50 year flood as it was originally designed. He added that there is adequate room within the right of way (ROW) for the change.

**Councilor Weed** asked for a status update on the design engineering by HGE for effluent disposal on the Lazy Z. **Director Grimm** stated that effluent will be dispersed by means of an expansion pipe that runs to the far end of the property. He stated that sprinklers will be installed as the City's need for effluent disposal grows.

**Director Grimm** distributed a map highlighting the south end of West Pine Street and a gravel parking lot that backs up to Pine Meadow Ranch (PMR) subdivision. He stated that the gravel lot is sometimes used to park RV's overnight, which is illegal and the City has received complaints from nearby residents. He stated he is proposing the City remove the gravel (to be used for a future project), and add large rocks and grass to the ROW so it matches the other ROW areas on West Pine Street. The **Council** discussed the matter and agreed that they would support having this portion of ROW match the rest of Pine Street. **Councilor Kellstrom** questioned how the grass will be watered. **Director Grimm** stated he will make arrangements with the homeowners association (HOA) in PMR as the HOA currently maintains the other grass and path areas on Pine Street.

##### B. Eric Porter, Community Development Director

**Director Porter** asked for questions regarding his staff report.

**Councilor Bell** asked if a date had been set to meet with Forest Service personnel with regard to the text amendment for the Forest Service property. **Director Porter** stated that a tentative date of October 30, 2008 has been set.

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**Councilor Weed** asked for an update on the Housing Plan. **Director Porter** stated that contract planner Susanna Julber is currently working on strategies and will present information to the Planning Commission in October.

**Councilor Weed** asked when the deadline for a completed application for the proposed hotel on Hood Street needs to be in. **Director Porter** stated the application is due by October 1<sup>st</sup> and that he has met several times with the developer regarding the project.

**Councilor Bell** asked if there was an update from the United States Postal Service (USPS) with regard to the cluster box locations. **Director Porter** stated he had just received confirmation of the sites chosen by the USPS and distributed a map showing the locations. He stated there are three commercial and seven residential locations identified for the cluster boxes. He stated he is also continuing to work on getting clusters boxes installed for the Fourth Sister Condominium complex.

## V. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### A. Solid Waste Franchise with High Country Enterprises LLC

**Mayor Boyd** stated that although there has been a public forum regarding the proposed franchise and public comments cards made available for citizens to fill out, he wanted to know if there was anyone wishing to speak on the matter. There was no one wishing to speak.

**Manager Stein** stated the documents for consideration before the Council are for the various features of the franchise agreement and this is in follow-up to the first reading of Ordinance No. 381 that occurred on September 11, 2008. She stated that approval of the ordinance also includes approval of the franchise agreement.

- a) **Conduct a Second Reading and Consider a Motion to Approve Ordinance No. 381:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SISTERS AMENDING SISTERS MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.04 AND SECTION 5.06 AND GRANTING AN EXCLUSIVE SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE TO HIGH COUNTRY ENTERPRISES LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

*Councilor Weed moved to conduct a second reading, by title only of Ordinance No. 381. Councilor Merrill seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to one with Councilor Kellstrom casting a vote against the motion.*

*City Attorney Bryant read Ordinance No. 381 by title only.*

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*Councilor Weed moved to approve Ordinance No. 381. Councilor Merrill seconded the motion.*

**Councilor Weed** stated that originally she was a skeptic regarding whether the franchise agreement was a good thing for the citizens of Sisters with three key issues of concern. She stated that after lengthy research and discussion she is confident that the franchise is the best decision for the City and its citizens. She stated her issues of concern had been:

1) Loss of \$7,000 month

**Councilor Weed** stated that the City will more than make up that amount with the savings it will realize with the ability for Public Works staff to do more in-house repairs and maintenance that is currently contracted out due to time constraints. She stated the significant increase in costs if the City were to keep the garbage franchise would also need to be offset by significant rate increases to citizens.

2) High Country Disposal (HCD) is lowballing its proposed monthly rate in order to get the franchise agreement and then will ask for a rate increase.

**Councilor Weed** stated that representatives from HCD met with her and provided the financial figures to convince her HCD is setting a realistic price with enough profit margin built in to make the franchise feasible to the company. She added that HCD also collects funds to offset the purchase of new equipment from all its 25,000 customers, whereas the City of Sisters has only 800 customers from which to collect funds to offset the purchase of needed equipment.

3) Citizens feelings and attitude

**Councilor Weed** stated that after attending the public forum on the franchise proposal and speaking with others in the community she discovered that most citizens are in favor of the proposal because HCD will be able to provide better service at less cost to citizens. She added that she is looking forward to the partnership.

**Councilor Kellstrom** stated that he still feels the decision to franchise the garbage service is the worst public policy the Council has ever made and the franchise is not a good thing for taxpayers.

**Councilor Bell** stated that with the City's need to purchase updated equipment and the increase in rates the City will need to establish to offset those purchases she feels from a citizen standpoint that the franchise agreement makes sense.

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**Mayor Boyd** stated that if the City were to keep the garbage service in-house it would need to increase rates and hire additional staff. He stated that by not providing the service the City will be able to address backlogs in other utility services. He stated he advocates for keeping government smaller and more efficient.

**Councilor Merrill** stated that it is the Council's responsibility to provide sufficient oversight of the service provided to its citizens to insure it is meeting expectations. He stated he does not agree with local government competing with commercial enterprise and feels this is an example where the City needs to let a company that can provide better service provide the service. He stated that for the sake of cost, productivity, efficiency, safety and better commercial and residential service he feels the franchise is the best thing for now and in the future.

*The motion carried with a vote of four to one with **Councilor Kellstrom** casting a vote against the motion.*

**b) Discussion and Consideration of a Motion** to Approve a Ground Lease Agreement with High Country Enterprises LLC

***Councilor Merrill** moved to approve a ground lease agreement with High Country Enterprises LLC. **Councilor Bell** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to one with **Councilor Kellstrom** casting a vote against the motion.*

**c) Discussion and Consideration of a Motion** to Declare Certain Equipment as Surplus

***Councilor Merrill** moved to declare certain equipment (as shown on Attachment A) as surplus. **Councilor Bell** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to one with **Councilor Kellstrom** casting a vote against the motion.*

**d) Discussion and Consideration of a Motion** to Approve a Purchase Agreement with High Country Enterprises LLC

***Councilor Merrill** moved to approve a purchase agreement with High Country Enterprise LLC. **Councilor Bell** seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to one with **Councilor Kellstrom** casting a vote against the motion.*

**Mayor Boyd** invited Brad Bailey speak on behalf of High Country Disposal and the approved franchise agreement.

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**Brad Bailey, President of High Country Disposal, 20930 Fireside Trail, Bend, OR**

**Brad Bailey**, President of HCD stated he was very excited by the decision and his company is ready to roll out service and begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated his staff will meet with City staff tomorrow to discuss the transition and he has staff lined up to enter customer data this weekend to create new route books. He stated his customer service team will train on September 30 in order to answer any questions regarding the change that customers have. He stated HCD will implement the temporary stop and vacation options and begin providing customer service to customers on October 1st.

**Mr. Bailey** stated his staff will work closely with City staff in order to provide a seamless transition. He stated customers will receive an initial letter with details on the timeframe for the implementation of HCD as their new service provider as well as placing stickers on the garbage carts with HCD's phone number. He stated a second letter will be sent in mid-October to educate customers about co-mingled recycling and yard debris pickup with November 1<sup>st</sup> as a kickoff date to begin those services.

**Mr. Bailey** stated that commercial customers will receive service exactly as they do at present until HCD staff has met individually with each of those accounts. He stated his staff will work with commercial accounts to tailor the best service options for each account taking the unique service needs of each into account. He stated HCD provides services that have not previously been available to commercial customers.

**Mr. Bailey** stated dates for the fall and spring bulky waste pick-ups will be determined and HCD will meet with City staff to become up to date on scheduled special events to insure they are covered. He stated HCD has set an aggressive timeline and is ready and eager for the challenge.

**B. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to Approve a Contract Addendum with GSI Water Solutions in the Amount of \$13,100 for the Water Rights Master Plan and Related Services**

**Manager Stein** stated that the motion was relative to the presentation she gave at the workshop meeting on water rights and provides approval for additional contract work necessary to secure water rights for the City of Sisters.

**Councilor Merrill** moved to approve a contract addendum with GSI Water Solutions in the amount of \$13,100 for the Water Rights Master Plan and related services. **Councilor Weed** seconded the motion.

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**Councilor Weed** thanked Manager Stein for the thorough workshop presentation acknowledging that with regard to water rights there is a lot to know and she feels better knowing the City is getting a handle on the issue.

**Councilor Kellstrom** stated he hopes the City does have a handle on the issue.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VII. MAYOR/COUNCILOR COMMENT**

**VIII. ADJOURN – 8:02 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

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Brad Boyd, Mayor