

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL  
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE  
MARCH 12, 2009

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lon Kellstrom Mayor  
Bill Merrill Council President  
Sharlene Weed Councilor  
Pat Thompson Councilor  
Jerry Bogart Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kellstrom at 7:04 p.m.

**II. VISITOR COMMUNICATIONS**

**Jean Read, 941 East Cascade Avenue, Sisters, OR 97759**

**Mrs. Read** stated that she and her husband own a home on East Cascade in a residential area that is part of the Timber Creek subdivision. She stated at 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. there are students walking and biking to and from school near her home. She stated that during the day there are many walkers in the area also. **Mrs. Read** stated there is a need for “*Children at Play*” signs and speed signs on East Cascade as there are many speeders. She stated she fears the area is “an accident waiting to happen”. She stated the speed sign by the school district bus barn is blocked by parked cars during the day and therefore not easily seen.

The **Council** discussed the issue with Public Works Director Grimm and possible actions the City can take to help alleviate the problem. **Manager Stein** stated staff will follow up with Captain Edwards of the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Department to try and come up with a solution.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes

1. February 5, 2009 –Workshop
2. February 5, 2009 – GERT Workshop
3. February 19, 2009 – Workshop
4. February 26, 2009 – Workshop
5. February 26, 2009 – Regular Meeting

B. Bills to Approve

1. March Accounts Payable

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

**Councilor Weed** noted there were several new computers purchased and asked what the City will do with the old computers. **Finance Director Young** stated the purchase of the new computers was part of the capital improvement plan for FY 08-09. She stated the City's new contract information technology employee, Jason Douglas, was generating an inventory of old computers and providing a recommendation of whether to keep, surplus or donate the equipment.

**Councilor Merrill** stated a ridership report will be due from Cascade East Transit (CET) at the end of the month. **Manager Stein** stated she would follow-up on the report.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **IV. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. March Accounts Payable**

**Councilor Thompson** recued himself from the vote due to a direct conflict of interest.

*Councilor Merrill moved to approve the accounts payable not on the consent agenda. Councilor Weed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **V. STAFF REPORTS**

##### **A. Eileen Stein, City Manager**

**Manager Stein** asked for questions on her staff report. There were none.

##### **B. Lisa Young, Finance Director**

**Director Young** gave an overview of her staff report. **Councilor Weed** asked Director Young to track the number of households requesting payment arrangements for their city services account due to financial difficulty. She stated it will allow the City to know if additional programs are necessary to aid households that are experiencing financial trouble meeting their basis needs. **Director Young** stated she would begin tracking the accounts on her next staff report.

##### **C. Captain Tim Edwards**

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**Captain Edwards** reported on the number of patrol hours provided, incidents, citations, warnings and business checks. He stated he will work on the traffic enforcement concerns Mrs. Read brought up about East Cascade Avenue and that coincidentally he had received an anonymous letter stating the Sherriff's Department is doing too much traffic enforcement.

**Council members** relayed complaints they have received about too many traffic tickets being issued, about too many traffic stops and concerns that some of the deputies are overly vigilant. **Captain Edwards** stated one of the new deputies to the area is making a lot of stops but has given three times as many warnings as tickets to drivers, which is the norm. **Councilor Merrill** suggested it was a perception issue and **Captain Edwards** stated he would look into the matter. He stated there is sometimes a fine line between enforcement and education.

**Councilor Bogart** asked if a comparison of tickets given out this year compared to the same period of time last year could be given. **Captain Edwards** stated he will collect that information and provide it to the Council.

## VI. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### A. Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution No. 2009-05: A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF REDMOND, DESCHUTES COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SISTERS TO SPONSOR AN APPLICATION FOR RE-DESIGNATION OF THE REDMOND ENTERPRIZE ZONE AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE ENTERPRIE ZONE

**Community Development Director Porter** stated adoption of the resolution is the final step for the City of Sisters in the three way application for an enterprise zone with the City of Redmond and Deschutes County. He stated Sisters has identified approximately 270 acres for the enterprise zone with hopes it will expand existing businesses and encourage new business in Sisters. He discussed the recommended program options, boundary and local incentives. He stated the three jurisdictions must approve the resolution prior to Redmond submitting the application by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mayor Kellstrom** opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak on the matter.

**Chuck Humphreys, 14985 Remuda Road, Sisters, OR 97759**

**Mr. Humphreys** thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and stated he shares a desire to see stronger economic development in Sisters but does not feel that an enterprise zone is the most effective means of attaining that objective. He stated he was unable to

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find objective independent research documenting the success of enterprise zones and that most stated the zones are ineffective and wasteful. He recommended approaches such as revitalization of downtown, business facilitation and education, and the hiring of a business development director as more cost effective efforts that produce better results. He stated another benefit to these programs is they are heavily funded by grants, not taxpayer money. He stated that since it appears the Council is likely moving forward with the enterprise zone, he would like them to consider three ideas; 1) improve the decision making process to get everyone behind the effort, 2) aggressively use the program as a marketing tool and 3) monitor and evaluate the program continuously and publicly.

**Mr. Humphreys** stated the Council should consider providing tax breaks or mortgage assistance for affordable housing so that new employees can afford to live in Sisters. He stated he hopes the program does succeed despite his concerns and proves to be cost-effective. He stated he would be happy to work with the City in any capacity to insure the program's success.

As there was no one else wishing Mayor Kellstrom closed the public hearing.

**Councilors Bogart, Weed and Thompson** all declared a potential conflict of interest due to the personal or business related ownership of properties that fall within the proposed enterprise zone boundary.

*Councilor Merrill moved to approve Resolution No. 2009-05 to approve the sponsorship of an enterprise zone in cooperation with the City of Redmond and Deschutes County.*

*Councilor Weed seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to one with Councilor Weed voting against approval of the resolution.*

**Councilor Weed** stated that although she voted against the resolution she does feel that economic development is important to the City. She stated she does not think an enterprise zone is a good investment and it won't benefit citizens enough. She stated she hopes the enterprise zone does work and proves her wrong by providing a number of living wage jobs for the community.

**B. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to Approve the City of Sisters Goals and Objectives 2009-13 and Council Priorities for FY 2009-10**

*Councilor Merrill moved to approve the City of Sisters Goals and Objectives 2009-2013 and Council Priorities for FY 2009-10. Councilor Bogart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## VIII. MAYOR/COUNCILOR COMMENT

### A. Committee Reports

**Manager Stein** reported on the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT) meeting she attended which included discussion on transportation funding versus mobility standards, gas tax on the state and local level and the COACT needs list that was submitted to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

**Mayor Kellstrom** reported that he and Manager Stein attended the final public hearing in Madras with regard to the issue of whether the Metolius Basin should be designated as an Area of Critical Statewide Concern (ACSC). He stated City of Sisters Resolution No. 2009-05 was entered into the public record.

**Councilor Thompson** reported on the Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) meeting he attended. He stated a report given on the CET system indicated it is doing very well in all the areas it provides service with the exception of Sisters, where ridership is very low. He stated the lack of convenient times for Sisters riders is a contributing factor compounded by not enough buses to service Sisters effectively. He stated work to make the system run more smoothly is still taking place. He suggested the Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) could possibly oversee what will work best for area residents with regard to the transit system via a survey.

The **Council** discussed the ridership report that is due from CET by month end and asked for COIC Operations Director Karen Friend to come and report to the Council in person.

**Manager Stein** recommended that COIC Program Administrator Scott Aycock also attend.

**Mayor Kellstrom** stated that he and Manager Stein attended Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) Day in Salem. He reported there were 18 representatives from Central Oregon in attendance. He stated it provided an opportunity to speak with legislators and get many questions answered. He stated the economic situation in Salem has created a grim climate.

## IX. ADJOURN – 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

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Lon Kellstrom, Mayor