

WEST LINN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 27, 2009

Council Present:

Mayor Patti Galle, Council President Jody Carson; Councilor Scott A. Burgess; and Councilor Teri Cummings

Council Absent:

Councilor John Kovash

Staff Present:

Chris Jordan, City Manager; Police Chief, Terry Timeus; Richard Seals, Finance Director; Jeri Knudson, Director of Human Resources; City Attorney Tim Ramis; and Shirley Richardson, Minute Taker

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Galle called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. and asked Richard Seals, Finance Director to lead the flag salute.

Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

None

Community Comments

Midge Pierce, 1785 Britton Street, thanked the City Manager and City Engineer and staff for organizing a meeting last week with citizens concerned about reopening of 8th Avenue and Dollar Street. She felt encouraged after that meeting because they were able to get to some of their concerns addressed and ask questions that have been brought up since this reopening was initiated.

The meeting was called for mitigation; however, because the facilitator enabled the citizens to talk about their concerns they were able to get their issues on the table. She brought with her the petition with over 100 signatures. She was able to get these signatures without leaving her property. The sidewalk on Dollar Street is very well traveled by the pedestrians and this is where she was able to talk to people and get their opinion.

One of the things she learned in the process of getting signatures is how few people are aware of the opening at 8th Avenue and Dollar Street. While the City has had tons of meetings about the TSP the reopening of 8th Avenue and Dollar Street there was a little known portion and people did not realize it was happening. She appreciates the citizens were able to address this issue and she looks forward to meeting the staff again to address more details.

She stated she is submitting into the record three pages of questions and the petition. Before this plan moves forward the traffic impacts on 8th Avenue and Dollar Street need to be addressed. They have not been able to get that information. She feels there needs to be traffic studies. When the road was initially closed traffic declined on 8th Avenue about 66%.

She has heard from staff this will be a very low impact action item; however she feels it will create another bypass road very similar to Willamette Falls Drive and become another frontage road. This is chopping up her neighborhood and allowing Willamette to be divided in ways that is unhealthy for their part of northwest Willamette and the Willamette Main Street Project she is involved in.

The City says justification for this reopening is connectivity. She and her neighbors are supportive in creating whatever connectivity the Fire Department needs for their purposes. She is concerned about the cars and trucks; wants to make sure the concerns of the citizens get heard. She would like to see connectivity include pedestrians, bikes and people not just cars and trucks.

Gordon Heavies, stated he is here tonight to introduce himself as a candidate for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R), Fire Board Position No. 3. He has over 30 years of fire service experience and has lived in the area served by TVF&R for over 44 years. West Linn is in a unique situation that TVF&R serves as a city.

Patricia Larson, 1752 8th Avenue stated she has lived at this residence since 1959. She is one of the oldest residents there. The opening of 8th Avenue would be a terrible thing to do to her street. It was closed because of safety issues, cars, speed and traffic. When it was closed there was much relief; now it is worse. There are 18 wheelers going up and down the street to deliver to the hardware store; large trucks going up and down; and many delivery trucks that go up and down her street.

There is double parking on 14th Street. There is an 18-wheeler there. People come up 8th Street and you can't get through. She is here to voice her opposition of opening 8th Street for safety and traffic concerns. She submitted a letter into the record.

Carol Yates, 1285 Dollar Street, stated no one on the Council was on the council at the time 8th Avenue was closed. She has been a resident on Dollar Street since the mid 70's. After River Heights was developed they noticed an increased volume of traffic heading down Dollar Street to 8th Avenue to make the connection to the freeway.

Ms. Yates submitted a letter into the record about the closure and some of the studies done then. After the closing, had the residents on Dollar been polled, they would have given the same scenario that 8th Avenue residents did; see a reduction in the traffic flow down Dollar Street and traffic disbursed more evenly through the Willamette area.

Once again Dollar Street is faced with this traffic issues. There is much more traffic than in the 90's and Dollar Street was being used for a bypass road for people coming up Willamette Falls Drive to bypass the downtown area and skirt through to town. None of the safety issues have been addressed on 8th Avenue and Dollar Street as to how the city will handle that by-pass traffic if the traffic is backed up as it has been clear back to Ostman. Traffic will find a way to make it through.

She thanked the Council for their consideration on this issue.

Councilor Burgess asked Ms. Yates to explain her concern. Ms. Yates stated her biggest concern since the traffic congestion down on 10th Avenue is that they will skirt down Dollar, turn left onto 8th Avenue up to 10th and then make a right to be able to make a left back onto Willamette Falls Drive. People wanting to go to the freeway have to decide whether they want to stay and take their chances that once they get to 10th Avenue and 8th Avenue that they can get across is a big question. Even if there is a right in and right out, it will bring the volume back from people wanting to flow from 10th Avenue back over. Right now there is a really good balance of traffic flowing throughout the Willamette area.

Ms. Yates stated she appreciates the fact that the Council and the City may be concerned about emergency access on 8th Avenue and they support that fully as long as measures are taken for emergency access only until they go back to their actual fire station. At that time it should be fully closed again.

Jerry Sparks, 1796 8th Avenue stated that if this street is opened and parking is allowed, the street will become a one-way street because that is all the room there is. Two cars cannot pass if there is a vehicle parked there. The entire street would have to be improved to accommodate wide trucks. He voiced concern about Les Schwab which he is not sure should have been allowed there; the dog-leg to get around off 10th; there are

big rigs trying to make that corner and it is a hassle; he has watched from his home. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Gary Hitesman, 2188 Clubhouse Drive stated he is here tonight to make comments on Dollar Street and 8th Avenue. He participated in the TSP and this issue did not have enough rank to be talked about. Even back in November he felt this issue needed to be addressed more.

The City would benefit from additional planning in terms of this intersection. He started to do a photo essay to address truck traffic. One possible solution that would benefit the City would be an only right hand turn lane onto Dollar Street, for TVF&R. There are some grading issues and traffic circulations issues that have not been fully comprehended. There is no study and there needs to be a review of the traffic that could potentially turn off of Dollar Street onto 8th Avenue and down towards 10th Street will impact all the future solutions for mitigation proposed for 10th Street is made worse by this intersection.

Without traffic numbers and without any kind of planning proposed, he is concerned that safety issues will be created. Previous engineering projects and the constraints to that intersection creates a sticky situation and this is not a solution. He asked that Council continue dialog to see if there is a solution that will benefit everyone there.

He voiced concern about the truck traffic from 10th and 8th Avenues that could be re-routed onto Dollar Street. You don't want freight traffic running through neighborhood. Future facility needs in the Transportation System Plan may not be met by this intersection.

Table 1.5 talks about the action plan for Projects (11). This action plan is the least expensive for all the projects. Willamette Falls Drive and Ostman Road (#5) actually provides a more efficient way of collecting traffic and bringing it down to Willamette Falls Drive. He feels there are higher priorities that exist along Willamette Drive and 10th Street to where he hopes the City will reconsider this engineering effort and redirecting those funds to other suitable needs that are more important.

Alice Richmond, 3939 Parker Road asked that the minutes of March 30, 2009 (page 3 of 9) reflect that she didn't want to share her earphones with others because of sanitary (hygiene) health issues. She is paying for her own earphones and not asking for taxpayers to provide them for her.

Ms. Richmond stated she heard about the opening of Dollar Street from others in the community. She did not purchase in that area in 1959 because she saw back then it would be a potential traffic situation for residents to get to other parts of the city. The delivery trucks are needed to service the stores in that area. People who use those stores have to decide if they want to constrain the traffic that supplies this area.

Report from the City Manager -- None

Business from the City Council

Mayor Galle announced the Council's decision to appoint Riad Alharithi to the Transportation Advisory Board.

Council President Carson moved to appoint Riad Alharithi to the Transportation Advisory Board. Councilor Cummings seconded the motion.

Ayes: Burgess, Cummings, Carson, Galle

Nays: None

The motion carried 4-0.

Council President Carson stated she attended the MPAC meeting and will meet again this coming Wednesday to review updates on decisions regarding the Urban Rural Reserves. She will continue to participate in these meetings representing West Linn and other small Clackamas cities. The main focus at this time is reviewing documents in terms of making decisions on the Urban Rural Reserves down the line. The meeting will be at Metro Chambers from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. All information is posted on the MPAC website.

Councilor Burgess reported that Council President Carson also attended the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee day at the capital and represented the City at that event.

Councilor Cummings stated their has been several opportunities to interact with Metro and Clackamas County representatives. Charlotte Lehan and Carlotta Collette attended a meeting with her at the League of West Linn Neighborhoods where there was a nice presentation and discussion. There was a public outreach at the Clackamas Service Building on April 15th that was well attended. Several Metro and Clackamas County people were there as well as residents from the Hamlet and surrounding areas.

This last Tuesday, Doug McClain and Ellen Rogalin came with their maps from the County and gave a presentation taking about the reserves. Mayor Galle hosted a meeting several weeks ago to reinforce and gather input on the Rural and Urban Reserves process.

Chris Jordan reported part of Council goals this year is to engage elected officials in other jurisdictions and region to discuss urban and rural designation of the Stafford Area. There have been ongoing discussions at the staff level and hosted a meeting at the Mayor's request a couple of weeks ago with elected officials (Commissioner Charlotte Lehan Clackamas County Chair Lynn Peterson, Mayor Lou Ogden from Tualatin as well as his key staff, staff from Clackamas County, and staff from Lake Oswego, all discussed

Mayor Galle opened the meeting to discussion of the Clackamas County Peace Officers Association Contract (CCPOA) renewal. She asked for a staff report.

Jeri Knudson, Director of Human Resources reported in March she came before Council seeking direction regarding negotiations for the Police Union whose contract expires June 30, 2009. At that time Council authorized the City's negotiating team to propose a two-year extension of the current CCPOA contract with the police union.

Further, Council provided the latitude to consider a three-year extension if one was proposed by the union. In early April the City proposed the two-year extension which was countered by the union with a request for a three-year extension to the contract. Before Council this evening is the proposal for a three-year extension of the CCPOA contract for approval.

Questions of Staff - None

Council President Carson moved to approve a three year extension of the current Clackamas County Peace Officers Association contracting moving the end date to 2012 per Agenda Bill 09-04-27C. Councilor Burgess seconded the motion.

Councilor Burgess stated Council supports the police department officers and thanked the staff that worked on this extension. This document represents no change in the current contract; it moves it forward into three years and allows the City to get on with business.

Mayor Galle thanked the Chief of Police and his staff and the Personnel Director in their efforts to make this extension possible.

Ayes: Cummings, Carson, Burgess, Galle

Nays: None

The motion carried 4-0

Mayor Galle asked the City Manager to replace the testimony form she previously had which indicated who wanted to speak.

Hearing no further business from Council, Mayor Galle adjourned the meeting into a work session at 7:39 p.m. She announced there will be no action taken during the work session and the Council will not come back into public session.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tina Lynch /s/

Tina Lynch
City Recorder

APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
ON JUNE 8, 2009

Patti Galle /s/
Patti Galle, Mayor