

- CALL TO ORDER** The Regular meeting of the Seaside City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Don Johnson.
- ROLL CALL** Present: Council President Don Johnson, Councilors Jay Barber, Randy Frank, Tita Montero, Seth Morrissey, and Dana Phillips.
- Absent: Mayor Don Larson
- Also Present: Mark Winstanley, City Manager; Dan Van Thiel, City Attorney; Russ Vandenberg, Convention Center & Visitors Bureau General Manager; Dave Ham, Seaside Police Chief; Neal Wallace, Public Works Director; Esther Moberg, Seaside Library Director; Joey Daniels, Seaside Fire Chief; Taylor Barnes, Student Representative; and Nancy McCarthy, Seaside Signal.
- AGENDA** Motion to approve the February 9, 2015 agenda; carried unanimously. (Phillips/Montero)
- INTRODUCTION – SEASIDE POLICE COMM. CLERK** Dave Ham, Seaside Police Chief, swore in Seaside Communications Clerk, Justin Bennett and introduced him to the City Council.
- COMMENTS – PUBLIC** Melyssa Graeper, Necanicum Watershed Council Coordinator, stated the Necanicum Watershed Council asked for a letter to be read to Council concerning the Watershed Timber Harvest. Ms. Graeper further stated the Necanicum Watershed Council was asking Council to reconsider your action from the December 8th, 2014 City Council meeting approving the timber harvest in our municipal watershed. The Necanicum Watershed Council staff and members are charged with being a resource to our communities. Over the past four years, we’ve contributed over \$2 million dollars of conservation funds to our local community to address not only environmental issues, but community infrastructure issues as well. We’ve funded and implemented projects such as the South Fork Necanicum Water Diversion updates, and the Coho Creek/Seaside Heights culvert replacement, along with a variety of habitat improvement projects to address the health of our salmon populations. We hold annual fundraising events so we can support projects like the joint Watershed/City osprey camera at Broadway Park, and we participate in a variety of City committees and technical teams. Now we have learned that the city, a designated “Tree City, USA”, is quickly moving ahead on a timber harvest in the watershed, with little public process, including allowing the Watershed Council to provide the input it was asked for. Additionally, we’ve learned that the Timber Management Plan needs to be updated to be more than a “loosely put together” plan that’s “basically there to manage the Watershed for water quality and production” as stated during the December 8th City Council presentation. The City has an obligation to provide its citizens with clean drinking water. The City also has a responsibility to manage the watershed sustainably. Creating a Forest Management Plan should not be a onetime thought, but a living plan with a sequence of specific short-term activities or events leading to well thought out long-term goals and objectives, providing continuity through successive generations of managers. Plans can, and should, be written and revisited periodically with the assistance of professional foresters, wildlife biologists, soil and water specialists, and others. To know that decisions are being made based on an old and loosely put together plan is disheartening to say the least. The City has other plans, including the City Comprehensive Plan, the new 2034 Visioning Plan, the Broadway Park Plan, a Transportation System Plan, and the Earthquake and Tsunami Plans, just to name a few. In fact, it was clear through the 2034 Visioning Plan that the majority of citizens and visitors of this fantastic community identified the environment as one of their top 3 important topics, and through that process it also became clear that the people of this community highly value our natural resources, and encourage the City to do more to increase and protect them. If the City’s goals include providing healthy drinking water and overall forest and watershed health, yet it isn’t going to manage their municipal water supply watershed any differently than what’s minimally required by law under the Forest Practices Act (and those laws have recently been called into question), then what’s the point of the City owning any more of their watershed, and not just leaving it to be managed by the industrial timber landowners? While there may be a short term gain in the selling of timber from the City’s watershed, we wish to remind the Mayor and Councilors that these trees have significant intrinsic value, and provide long-term ecosystem services with benefits that far surpass their timber value. These trees impact water quality, and water quantity, including seasonal availability. Along the northern Oregon coast, we cannot rely on annual snowpack to provide our drinking water. Instead, water is captured in the soils of our temperate rain forests, and is replenished with captured marine fog by the canopies of these trees, adding to our forest’s ability to store water, even through the summer months. Keeping more water in the stream is beneficial for both fish, and the City and its citizens. More water in the stream at the South Fork diversion means the less water will need to be pumped from the Peterson Point diversion; a location that is less than ideal (especially when compared to the South Fork diversion) for pumping drinking water. We advise you to reconsider cutting and selling the timber as your only option to increase the City’s watershed account. A decent Forest Management Plan would look at all the other options to earn income, and acquire additional land.

The North Coast Land Conservancy has offered to help secure grants, much like they've done for the City of Cannon Beach and the Ecola Forest Reserve. The City of Astoria has recently been working to earn funds through carbon credits. Other options could include increasing the transient lodging tax, increasing water rates, a bond measure, etc. Harvesting the City's watershed is not the only option. If, after a serious look and update to the City's Forest Management Plan, a harvest is still the most efficient way to raise the necessary funds, the watershed council urges you to consider using an organization that specializes in long-term, conservation-based forest management and consulting. The City has something special in their ownership of the South Fork Necanicum watershed. When the benefits are so minimal, and risk so great, it makes good sense to slow down and carefully plan out your management strategy.

David Bailey, 1390 S. Wahanna, Seaside, stated the Neawanna Millponds seemed to have a willy nilly management of the public green space. Mr. Bailey further stated he walked the Millponds frequently and also had lead birding guides through the Millponds. Mr. Bailey was at the Millponds on Friday, February 6, 2015, and observed two trucks coming out of the gate carrying vegetation and today while on a walk at the Millponds noticed there had been basically a clear-cut of substantial portion to the restored wetland. Mr. Bailey then visited the Public Works Department and spoke with Kevin Cupples, Planning Director who explained that Neal Wallace, Public Works Director, had given permission for the willows to be cut and used at the erosion project to stabilize the bank at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The erosion project was probably important but the Millpond which had been effectively managed as a restoration site and a public green space was a good source for restoration materials but was still in the process of recovering because of the industrial use as a mill. Mr. Bailey further stated he would ask that there be a public process when those types of things were going to take place in the public spaces. Mr. Bailey further stated there had been habitat taken out the birds and other animals used. Years ago there had been a rare bird found in that particular patch of Willows that was cut down. Mr. Bailey further stated when taking Willows to use for other sites they should not be cut down to the ground which left non-evasive plants out in the open and there should be a follow up.

Joyce Hunt, 510 13th Avenue, Seaside, stated she was a Chair person for the Necanicum Watershed Council and liked to walk around the Millponds and also walked down to look at the erosion restoration project. What the City of Seaside needed was a Comprehensive Forestry Plan that would address these items and the public would be aware of what was going on.

COMMENTS – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taylor Barnes, Seaside High School Student Representative, stated the Seaside High School Wrestling team went to the League Championships and 3 wrestlers received fifth place, 2 wrestlers received fourth place, and one wrestler received third place. Wrestling regionals would be next week. The Seaside Swim Team went to the League Championships and the boys took first place, and girls took fourth place. Districts for swimming would be next week. The Seaside Girls Basketball team was currently in first place with four league games to go and the Seaside Boys Basketball team was currently first in the league with four games to go. The Seaside High School Snoball Dance was on Saturday, February 7, 2015, which was very successful. Students were just past the midway point in the trimester with progress reports coming out this week. Robotics had forty-three days left to complete their robot for the competition and was \$17,000.00 in debt. There would be a Seaside High School Senior yard sale in March to raise money for the graduation party. The Associated Student Body (ASB) would be repainting the Gearhart Elementary map. There would be a blood drive April 10, 2015, for the entire community and the location would be determined.

CONFLICT

Council President Johnson asked whether any Councilor wished to declare a conflict of interest.

Councilor Morrisey stated he had a potential conflict of interest with the Convention Center Commission appointee and would excuse himself from voting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$384,997.95; and January 26, 2015, regular minutes; carried unanimously. (Barber/Frank)

VACANCY – CITY TREE BOARD

Council President Johnson stated there were two vacancies on the City Tree Board with no applications received. Council President Johnson asked the press to advertise the vacancy.

VACANCY – SEASIDE CIVIC AND CONV. CENTER COMM.

Council President Johnson stated there was one vacancy on the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission with two applications received from Nancy McCune, and Kaarina Vera who were interviewed prior to the City Council meeting. Council President Johnson asked Council what they wished to do.

Motion to appoint Kaarina Vera to the Convention Center Commission; carried with Morrisey abstaining. (Barber/Phillips)

The term expiration for Kaarina Vera would be October 25, 2016.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEASIDE, OREGON, AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE SPECIAL PUBLIC WORKS FUND AND ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OREGON INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Mark Winstanley, City Manager, explained Resolution #3834 was a resolution authorizing the City to enter into a loan through the special public works fund. This was for a maximum of \$800,000.00 and the terms of the loan were 3.7% annually for a maximum of ten years and the loan could be paid off at any time. The loan would lend money for the project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of the resolution was to simply confirm the City wished to borrow the funds and to authorize the City Manager to sign the loan documents.

Council President Johnson asked for public comments.

Dale McDowell, 3760 Sunset Blvd., Seaside, stated he was glad Mr. Winstanley had stated up to \$800,000.00 because if that project cost \$800,000.00 there needed to be a refund. Mr. McDowell called the manager of Teevin and Fischer Quarry and asked how much rock was used which was approximately 3,000 tons and the price of the rock delivered was \$36,000.00 at 12.00 a ton. Two contractors were given the opportunity to supply two pieces of equipment for six weeks with operators and three laborers to plant the Willow's and our bid was \$120,000.00 which was too high. Mr. McDowell further stated if the project was \$120,000.00 and \$36,000.00 for the rock, that was a total of \$156,000.00 and where was the rest of the money going. If the contractor doing the work was from Charleston, Oregon and California and was charging the City \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 for their design then the City should have gone to HLB OTAK Inc., because the design was almost identical to the Hamlet Marina project. Mr. McDowell further stated he would hope the City of Seaside was smart enough to not spend tax payer's money because the loan needed to be paid back. The last project that was done by this contractor should not have cost as much as it did regardless if \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 was given back. The erosion was not a million dollar project and Mr. McDowell had been doing contracting for approximately thirty-seven years and would love to have a job that paid like that. Mr. McDowell further stated he understood the City of Seaside thought the project was an emergency but the documentation on the website stated it had been looked at since 2002. Mr. McDowell further stated he did not realize the Army Revetment went down to the corner and was never exposed which was not an absolute emergency and if this was a huge waste if \$800,000.00 was being spent.

Keith Keranen, 37194 Highway 26, Seaside, stated Mr. McDowell was one hundred percent correct and Mr. Keranen had been in the excavating business for twenty-six years.

Council President Johnson asked for Council comments.

Councilor Morrissey asked if the resolution authorization was just for the loan or for selecting a contractor as well.

Mr. Winstanley stated the City had already moved as far as the contactor was concerned and the resolution was to borrow money.

Motion to read Resolution #3834 by title only; failed with Montero, Frank, Morrissey opposed. (Barber/Phillips)

**BID RESULTS –
LIBRARY CARPET
INSTALLATION**

Esther Moberg, Seaside Library Director, stated the Library received the following Two (2) bids for Professional Services and Floor Covering Installation for the Seaside Public Library with Milliken Coir Revolution Whirling Wheat Carpet Tiles. A bid was received from Randall Lee's Flooring America for \$81,017.00 (w/ additional tiles: \$1,142.10), and Carpet Corner Co. Inc. for \$59,770.00. The Library would also like to include in the proposal an additional 30 tiles (approximate cost \$1,142.10) to be stored until needed for replacement of carpet tiles due to stains and damage. This should extend the life of the carpet. The Seaside Library had a recommendation from the Convention Center regarding the wear of Milliken carpet tiles. Based on the lifespan of carpet tiles in the Convention Center, we believe this tile will wear much longer than our current broadloom style of carpet which incidentally started unraveling the first year it was installed in the Library. Carpet tiles have a tighter weave, thicker pad, and were easier to replace in sections as needed. Ms. Moberg further stated this would make for less expense and a longer wear life. The Seaside Library averaged over 500 people every day, which demonstrated the need for a higher quality carpet tile and pad that, can take that kind of daily use. Ms. Moberg further stated after making a detailed comparison of each bid, The Seaside Public Library recommended going with Carpet Corner's bid for \$59,770.00. The Library staff had been pleased with previous work done by Mr. Morris (Carpet Corner, formerly Morris Floor covering) in repairing the current carpet in the Library. The bid for the carpet in the Seaside Library would be paid for by the Library Trust.

Councilor Barber stated he understood this would be carpet squares.

Ms. Moberg stated when the library was built they went with a broadloom which started unraveling within the first year but the company that had installed the carpet went out of business. The carpet tiles were just like the Convention Center and would match the colors already in the library. The carpet tiles could be replaced in sections from wear and tear.

Councilor Frank asked how many bids were received.

Ms. Moberg stated there were two bids received from Randall Lee's Flooring America for \$81,017.00 (w/ additional tiles: \$1,142.10), and Carpet Corner Co. Inc. for \$59,770.00.

Councilor Phillips stated this was the same quality of carpet as the Convention Center and in that bid were extra tiles.

Ms. Moberg further stated there was an additional request of approximately thirty tiles at an approximate cost \$1,142.10 that could be replaced in the future as needed.

Motion to accept the bid from Carpet Corner Co., Inc. in the amount of \$59,770.00 for the Professional Services and Floor Covering Installation at the Seaside Public Library; carried unanimously. (Montero/Frank)

COMMENTS – COUNCIL

Councilor Frank thanked the public for attending the City Council meetings to provide input and public comment which was very important and every Council meeting should have this amount of people attending. Councilor Frank further stated it was certainly one way to hear from the public and see a different perspective.

Councilor Montero stated she agreed with Councilor Frank.

Councilor Barber stated he was not an engineer and did not know anything about rocks or willows or for that matter water flow. Councilor Barber was in the position to trust the good advice of the Public Works Director and the City Manager. This bid was approved some weeks ago and tonight how it was going to be financed was not approved. This was a challenge and Councilor Barber really appreciated the input but his responsibility was to support staff when a well studied proposal was brought before Council. Councilor Barber respected the way others voted but wanted to explain his support.

Councilor Phillips stated she agreed.

Council President Johnson stated he was at Tongue Point Job Corp today with Councilor Montero, and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici which was a great time and the students were really enthused and had spirit.

COMMENTS – STAFF

None

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Kim Jordan, Secretary

DON JOHNSON, COUNCIL PRESIDENT