



**CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Meeting Minutes**

August 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Durney called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Horne led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance at the meeting were Councilmembers Cross, Grimnes, Grun, Haugen, Horne, Houchens, Hyde, Lund, McMillan, Miller, Moir and Pellegrini.

Staff in attendance were Fire Chief Ray Pumphrey, Police Chief Jeff Myers, City Librarian Mary Thornton, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Mike Folkers and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

**Public Hearing – Assessing
Abatement Costs for 516 8th
Street**

Councilmember Moir moved to open the Public Hearing to assess abatement costs for 516 8th Street at 7:32 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Mayor Durney read the fair hearing doctrine wherein the following Councilmembers stated that they have had discussions concerning this issue with persons from the public. Councilmember Houchens stated that she has discussed the building with Mr. And Mrs. Bolden concerning the building, Councilmember Miller and Councilmember Moir also stated they have had discussions with the Boldens regarding this building.

Mr. Orlando Howell, Building Official for the City of Hoquiam provided a staff report on the costs incurred by the City for the abatement order on this building. Total costs for the work done to date are \$2,904.92. He also stated that notices of the abatement were sent to the legal owner of record recorded at the County. The legal owner on the date of the abatement was Calico Financial Group. They are still currently listed at the legal owner of record. Mr. Howell reviewed summarized his written report to the Council. Councilmember Horne asked if city was required to do an asbestos survey before a building can be demolished. Mr. Howell stated that it was required. He also stated that neither party at the time of the abatement order appealed the abatement order and that staff was given permission for entrance by the owner of record.



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Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, stated that Mr. Howell reported that the legal owner recorded at the county is still Calico Financial Group. The notice of dangerous building was recorded at the county when the original order went out. The abatement proceedings go with the property.

Mr. Dave Hansen, 509 7th Street, Hoquiam, asked that outside the costs for what has been done on this building for the abatement, what are the expenses that would be needed to bring this building to code. Mayor Durney stated that at this time this lien will be assessed against this property and the city will only be reimbursed when the property is sold.

Councilmember McMillan moved to close the hearing at 7:42 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Parking – Emerson Manor

Mr. Bob McKouten 703 Simpson Avenue, Hoquiam. Wanted to thank the council for working with the Manor on their parking issue at Emerson Manor.

Ocean Protein

Mr. Tom Coyle, 2219 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam. In the past two weeks Ocean Protein has only had the smell for approximately seven days. He understood from the last meeting he attended that ORCAA was the authority on this issue. He understands that Mr. Shay has contacted ORCAA. Mr. Shay stated that the City has contacted ORCAA and are trying to work with ORCAA to train some of our officials so that we can have someone go to the site if there are problems. Mayor Durney explained the process that the city goes through and ORCAA has the lead authority. Mr. Shay stated that he did have a conversation with ORCAA again last week and that ORCAA offered at that time to train our staff. They have a meeting scheduled on the 6th with ORCAA. Mr. Coyle expressed his opinion that the City could do more.

**Ocean Protein and
Mosquito Problem**

Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue. The City has the authority to enforce the shut-down order on Ocean Protein. He also mentioned the mosquito problem and asked why the city would not spray private property. Mr. Shay explained that this



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would be a gift of public funds. If private property owners would like to have their property sprayed a mosquito control district could be formed, much like Pacific County currently has, where tax revenues are set aside for spraying.

City Issues – Jail, Mosquito Problem and Ocean Protein

Mr. Dave Wilson, 1509 C Street, thanked the council for putting the money aside for the possible reopening of the jail. He agrees that \$30,000 is not enough for the mosquito problem. There has got to be a different solution for this problem. He also mentioned that when he was driving through the east side last week the smell from Ocean Protein was not as bad as it was before. Give them some credit for trying to solve the problem.

City Issues – Jail Nuisance Ordinance

Mr. Dave Hansen, 508 7th Street, spoke regarding the possible reopening of the jail. Chief Myers stated that typically the people that are in jail are those who don't pay their fines. The fines are the only income to the city. The Jail is not a money making process. Mr. Hansen stated that the city has money in reserves and this money should pay to build a new jail. Mayor Durney explained that at the last meeting the council set aside dollars for the possible operation of the jail. This is why we are trying to generate businesses which generate more revenue for the operation of these types of services.

Jail Issue

Mr. Dave Wilson corrected Mr. Hansen in that the money set aside for the jail is for it to reopen not to be rebuilt. He asked if there wasn't some way to assess costs against the people in the jail. Chief Myers again expressed that those who are in the jail are usually the ones who have not or will not pay and that is why they are there.

Mr. Dave Hansen, 509 7th Street, Hoquiam, stated that he at one time was a bail bondsman and offered some advice to the council regarding the jail.

Storage for Polson Artifacts and Inventory

Mr. Folkers read a letter from Mr. John Larsen, Polson Museum, regarding the use of the old Senior Center for storage of Polson artifacts. The Lambs had allowed them to store their artifacts at one of their buildings which the Lambs recently sold and the museum was given two days to move their items. He contacted the city and requested that they be allowed to



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store their artifacts in the Sr. Center building due to their immediate need. Mr. Shay allowed them to move those in at the time, but he is formally requesting council approval for the use of the building. Councilmember McMillan moved to allow the museum to store their equipment and utilize the building at this time. The motion was seconded. Councilmember Horne thanked Mr. Shay for allowing the museum to do this. Polson has always been a responsible group and he thanked Mr. Shay for allowing them to use the building. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Hometown Sanitation –
Recycling Update**

Mr. Brian Smith, Hometown Sanitation, provided an update to the council on the single cart recycling program. The program started in June. Originally they had approximately 890 residents participating in the three-bin program, with the initial delivery of single carts going out to 1000 residents and they have now delivered an additional 400 carts. The residents have done very well with the new system and there have been very few problems. The glass recycler by Swansons has also been doing well, although there have been some problems with garbage contamination but new signage has helped.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Hyde moved for the approved of items a and b as presented. The motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the agenda were as follows:

- The minutes of the July 27, 2007, council meeting;
- The Regulatory Committee report recommending approval and payment of claim check number 61560 through 61587 in the amount of \$130,611.64; payroll check numbers 19398 through 19406 in the amount of \$3,754.68; payroll check numbers 19340 through 19525 in the amount of \$433,912.04; and US Treasury Deposits in the amount of \$77,001.19.

The motion passed by voice vote.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Festivals

Tracy Wood provided a brief report on the festivals that were just held. Even with the weather the festivals went well, the committee's stated that attendance was only slightly down



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from last year. After reviewing the revenues and expenditures, the revenues for the city on the Bluegrass will be approximately \$1,500, and the On Track Art Track Festival should be close to \$1,500 after the expenses are paid.

Fire Safe Grant

Chief Pumphrey reported on a fire safe grant that is due next week. The grant would allow for an additional person for a 5 year time frame. He reviewed the costs that would be associated. By the 5th year the city would pay 100% of the position. Councilmember McMillan moved to authorize the chief to apply for the grant and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

LEGAL BUSINESS

**Cooperative Purchasing
Agreement – City of
Bremerton**

Council was presented with a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the City of Bremerton. Mr. Folkers explained that this would allow for the City of Bremerton to use our specs and bids received from Braun Northwest for recent equipment purchases. Councilmember McMillan moved to authorize the cooperative purchasing agreement with the City of Bremerton. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**Interlocal Agreement with
the City of Aberdeen**

Included in the Council packet was an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Aberdeen for use of a surplus ambulance. This agreement would not exceed 12 months. Councilmember McMillan moved to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Aberdeen. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

**Donation to Food Bank and
Discussion on Minutes**

Councilmember Houchens thanked the Bluegrass Festival for their donation of \$141 to the Hoquiam Foodbank.

Councilmember Houchens expressed her concern with the Council minutes. She stated that the minutes over the past few months have been vague. She believes they need to be more detailed. Mr. Folkers asked if she could provide any specific examples. She referenced the conversation held concerning the Lodging Tax Advisory and stated that where the minutes reflect a discussion was held, she would like to see who is involved in the conversations concerning these topics.



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Mr. Folkers stated that he has been trying to get the minutes shortened. Usually what would be seen is the item discussed, who made a motion and what the motion was, that it was seconded and what the vote was.

Councilmember Haugen stated that he had hoped it would not come to this. He stated that he believes there have been some very negative comments on the floor over the past month and that there have been some attacks against staff and it needs to stop. Councilmember Houchens said that this was not true. Councilmember Haugen stated that she knows she was doing this and it needs to stop.

**Watershed Committee –
Loggers Playday
Recommendation**

The Watershed Committee was approached by Loggers Playday who have asked for two trees for the Loggers Playday. They would like to trade for labor on the stadium. This could be done through a formal agreement signed by the Mayor. Councilmember Moir moved for approval of this request. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hyde and passed by voice vote.

Committee Meeting

It was announced that the Public Utilities Committee will meet on Thursday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Appreciation of Staff

Councilmember McMillan thanked staff for the job they are currently doing and what they have done over the past. He touched briefly on the accomplishments of staff.

Hoquiam Accomplishments

Councilmember Pellegrini stated that at the Council of Governments, there were many people who didn't believe a refinery could be built in a year from planning to building to opening. That message is being sent all over the state that you can come to Hoquiam and get things done.

HBA Meeting

The next Hoquiam Business Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at 7:00 a.m. at the 7th Street Sweet Shop.

Meeting at Masonic Lodge

Mayor Durney thanked Mr. Bowman for offering the occasion for the candidates to attend a meeting on Wednesday, August 29, to allow them to speak and listen to the concerns that the



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citizens might have. Mayor Durney expressed his concern in that the Masonic Lodge occupancy capacity will only allow for 49 people. Mr. Bowman stated that the people they are speaking with from a Code Company do not believe the occupancy limit is accurate. Mr. Shay explained that staff has been working with the Masonic Lodge for the past two years to try and find a solution to the problem. There are some simple solutions that can be done to make the occupancy larger. Staff would be happy to sit down with the lodge board to try and work these out. This has been offered before. Mr. Bowman stated that there is a meeting tomorrow. The issue is that the historical codes do not trump the building codes. The RCW states that the Mayor shall enforce the laws, and safety of the public. Mayor Durney stated that if the public is going to be in attendance at the meeting and if there are more than 49 people in attendance – he will not be able to attend.

Chief Pumphrey tried to explain the meetings that have been held over the past several months and the solutions that the City has offered to get the building open and operational, but the Mason Lodge will not accept these solutions. It is frustrating to the fire department and the building department when they have worked for several months to try and solve the problem so that the Masons can open again. The Mayor stated that it is the City's responsibility to ensure the safety of the citizens. We cannot look the other way. The staff has tried to find a solution for the Masons – but the city must make sure the laws are followed.

Councilmember Moir recommended that someone from staff be in attendance to close down the function at 50 or not allow more than 50 in attendance. This is nothing personal towards Mr. Bowman or the Masons. The occupancy is set at 50. Councilmember Grun expressed that he feels the city needs to get together with the Masons and get this solved. There are some very upset people there.

Mr. Shay stated that they will have a response to the Code group that wrote the letter concerning the Masons by mid-week.

Mayor Durney stated that he has sat at two prior meetings



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where he has asked that our staff meet with the Board of the Masons. The relationship between the City and the Masons go back to the 30's. Staff and prior staff have tried to work towards solutions. Councilmember Horne stated that the Mayor is trying to follow the duties and laws set forth in the ordinance. That is what we want him to do. He has been lambasted for other things such as Ocean Protein, etc., but is now being lambasted for trying to follow the laws.

Councilmember Grimnes held the floor for Mr. Jim Larson, 717 Bluff, who stated that he has been working with the Masons on this situation and that there are attorney's who would love to get this case. They work strictly with Historic buildings and the codes that they need to follow. Chief Pumphrey stated that the City understands the codes – he is worried that the Code company may not be getting all of the information.

It was also stated that Mr. Howell and Deputy Fire Chief Paul Dean attended a class on Historic Buildings at the University of Washington. This was sponsored by the Washington Code of Building Officials so they are current on the Historic codes also.

Adjourn

Councilmember McMillan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

JACK DURNEY – MAYOR

TRACY WOOD, CMC – Council Secretary