

City of Chiloquin  
City Council Meeting  
09/27/2011

Those Present:

Others:

Mayor: Mark Cobb  
Council members: Floyd Hescock  
Carolyn Blackmon  
Raymond Kirk  
Kathy Erion  
New Members sworn in: Jeff Mitchell  
Joe Hobbs

Teresa Foreman: Recorder  
Attorney: Sam Ramirez  
Public Works Employee: Pete Pate

6:30 Mayor Cobb read the opening statement and called the meeting to order.

The Mayor called the roll. Present: Carolyn Blackmon, Raymond Kirk, Kathy Erion and Floyd Hescock.

Also the City attorney Sam Ramirez, Public Works employee Pete Pate and City Recorder Teresa Foreman.

**Motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Blackmon. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Erion and Blackmon**

**Motion passed.**

Public Input:

Julie Trevino: Ms Trevino is concerned about a vehicle at 315 Baker Av. She states that the vehicle has been there almost a month. The front wheel is removed. She would like to see a letter of violation sent from the code enforcement officer. Trevino has all the information such as the make and license number etc. The information was given to the public works employee Pete Pate to look in to.

Ms. Trevino is also concerned about the code enforcement officer. She would like to suggest that the City hire an enforcement officer for 10-20 hours a week. Or a volunteer. But it would be better to be a paid person. She feels that someone should be going around checking for violations whereas now it is just if someone complains.

Discussion.

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Wade Johnson. Mr. Johnson is concerned about the youth in the Community. He has spoken with the kids down at the community center and they feel that the City has betrayed them. It is their belief that they were promised a skateboard park and a swimming pool.

He would like to know if there is any plans for after hour supervised activities for these kids. He wonders if the Tribe could be involved in helping this.

Council member Kirk stated the Tribe is working on a community center. Johnson replied that he heard that, but that it would exclude non native kids. Jeff Mitchell, member of the audience stated that was incorrect. He is on the Tribal council and they are in the planning stages of a community center that would have a fitness area. Council member Blackmon stated that she also had spoken with these kids and there are several programs. There is a sports program and Culture camp in the summer. There is an after school program that has games and all sorts of activities. The high school Gym is open. Mr. Johnson feels these kids are being missed. They would like a ping pong table, for example. Blackmon stated the Lions building is being made into a youth center. She stated that these particular kids, most of them, she has known since they were in kindergarten. They choose not to participate because there are rules and guidelines that are in place for these programs that they do not wish to follow. There are also basketball games and such.

The Mayor stated that the swimming pool was pursued as part of the mitigation process of the dam removal. Doug Tedrick, of the Dept. of Interior stated that is not going to happen because the City has a bridge the kids swim from. The skate park was pursued by the Tribe, the City donated land for this. Chuck Wells of CVIP tried to get a committee to involve the kids in the design and the kids did not step up to help.

Joe Hobbs, City resident: Mr. Hobbs stated that when he was vice chairman of the Klamath Tribes, he was involved in trying to get the skate park. Tony Hawk is a big name in Skate Parks. He was contacted and was interested in helping this community. Unfortunately things didn't happen but he feels that it would not take much to get that started again. The Mayor stated that the skate parks are not cheap. There are other issues also such as vandalism and clean up etc.

A woman called Sam, Chiloquin Resident. Sam is wondering if anyone on the council knows what is being planned for the old lions building. It is her understanding that the building was to open when school started as a youth center. The food pantry is in the back of the building and is in a very small area while the building sets empty.

Discussion.

The Mayor stated he would look into that.

Wade Johnson, Chiloquin Resident. Mr. Johnson would like to organize a tree planting for Arbor day. He has spoken with the principal to get the kids involved. She is agreeable to that. Arbor day is April 27<sup>th</sup> in 2012.

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Discussion about how and where they might get trees donated.

A woman called Sam: Sam asked to direct this to Mr. Johnson: She suggested he contact Home Depot and some of the nurseries around for donated trees. He needs to get started now.

Regular business: The Mayor stated that at the beginning of regular business he would like to make his request to the council for the appointments to the two vacant council seats. He would like to appoint Jeff Mitchell and Joe Hobbs. His reasoning is as before. They both have extensive experience with government, and they are both involved in community and tribal activities. He feels they would bring a lot to this council.

**Motion to approve the appointment of Jeff Mitchell to a vacant council position was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Blackmon.**

**Discussion: Erion asked Mitchell if he was going to be able to commit to more meetings than last time. Mitchell replied that he is committed to being at the meetings as much as he can.**

**Ayes: Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion. Abstained: Hescock because Mitchell is married to his niece.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion to approve the appointment of Joe Hobbs to a vacant council position was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Blackmon. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon and Erion.**

**Discussion. Erion ask Hobbs why he wanted to be on this council. Mr. Hobbs replied that he has lived here his entire life and would like to help the City develop financial and to help the people around here. He was the vice chairman of the Klamath Tribes for 11 years and he has seen how government is run all over the country and feels he can help here.**

**Motion passed.**

The Mayor swore in the new council members.

**Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of 9/12/2011 was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Hobbs. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion Passed.**

The recorder pointed out an error on page four that council member Kirk found. He was not here at the meeting of Sept. 12 and his name is included in a motion. That needs to be changed to reflect only the council members that were in attendance.

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**Motion to accept the minutes as amended of the regular City Council meeting of 9/12/2011 was made by council member Hescock seconded by council member Kirk. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion Passed.**

The Mayor explained to the council that in the minutes of August 23<sup>rd</sup> a statement of his was made that the “council” wanted a certain response from the sheriffs department. In listening to the tape he had actually said “we” and the recorder interpreted that to mean the council when he meant it as himself. In his work he has gotten in the habit of saying we, because of his crew. He did mean it in this situation. He meant to say “I”.

**Motion to pay the City bills as of 09/27/2011 in the amount of \$7,751.17 was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Kirk.**

**Discussion. The Mayor pointed out that there was another invoice to add to this for \$6500.00. This is for the work out front of City Hall. He had looked at it and the contractor had fixed his concerns. Adding this makes the total \$14,251.17.**

**Hescock withdrew his motion with the approval of his second.**

**Motion to pay the City bills as of 09/27/2011 in the amount of \$14,251.17 was made by council member Blackmon, seconded by council member Hescock.**

**Discussion: Erion pointed out that there is a customer on our gas bill that we can’t identify. The number is way different. The recorder is going to look into that.**

**Also, the COSCO card is up for renewal. Discussion about if we need to renew that or not.**

**Discussion.**

**Council chose not to renew at this time.**

**Erion asked about the United Pipe Bill. She asked for clarification as to what the pipe is for. Hescock went over each item to explain what they are for.**

**(Mayor stated the motion died)**

**Motion to pay the City bills as of 09/27/2011 in the amount of \$14,201.17 was made by council member Blackmon, seconded by council member Hescock. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

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City Correspondence: The council looked over the correspondence. The Mayor pointed out that there is one letter in the correspondence that is in response to the letters sent out last week for abandoned cars and houses in disrepair. He signed 11 letters to be sent out. There will be more.

Discussion. Erion asked what the next step is. The recorder stated she did not know how the public record is but she didn't want to say names. There has been response. There have been cars towed and there have been promises. She will bring the information to the next council meeting and they will have to make the decision as how to proceed. The Mayor pointed out the City can not tow cars off of private property so that will have to go through the citation process.

The recorder explained that the book she was trying to locate is out of Print. This is the book that takes you through the process of abatement of abandoned/dangerous buildings. Paulette went on line and looked up the ORS that pertained and we have printed that out. There are some added ORS. Statutes that we will print out and then make a notebook.

The Mayor pointed out to the council that he had received a flier from HUD about houses being made available to local governments for \$1.00.

Discussion. There is a website address to follow up with more information. Erion will look into this.

**Motion to accept the City correspondence was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Kirk. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

Mayor's Report:

Public works report: They are getting started on the waterline on Baker St. They are going to hold off on the one by the school until spring break when the school will be closed.

Hescock and Mayor Cobb gave an overview of the construction that is going on at the sewer plant and an overview on the bridge project. Also that the mill site project is at a stall right now. This was done for the two new council members.

Discussion.

Tree removal: Hescock spoke with Bob and was told there is no interest. There is no market for those big trees. Discussion about having Trees, Inc. come in and cut them down and chip them. Council member Mitchell stated that his crews can do some of that but there is usually a deal with the land owner to get rid of it. The Chip market is high right now. Falling trees in the City can be dangerous, we need to get professional tree fallers.

Hescock will contact Trees, Inc.

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**Motion to accept the Public works report was made by council member Kirk Seconded by council member Hobbs . Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Cobb received notification, by phone, from DEQ about requirements for the water. They are making the tests more stringent. This City is exempt because you have to be pumping a million or so gallons per day into the river to fall in that category.

The deck out front is done. The recorder will be notifying OSHA with a copy of the permit and pictures.

Lately we have been having members of the community come in and complaining. They seem to be wanting to help. He feels that maybe we need to set a beautification committee of these folks. Maybe a seven member committee with a council person involved. They can look into funding and help projects on a volunteer basis. They could make recommendations to the City council. Unfortunately they all left this meeting before he could bring this up.

In the past the Council approved a neighborhood watch. John Merriman was the head of that. The volunteer input faded away.

Council member Hobbs ask about the City cameras. They are working but a couple need worked on and the others need tightened and reset. We are having trouble getting a company to respond to our call. Council member Mitchell will contact the individual at the Casino that works on their cameras to see if they might be able to help us out.

**Motion to accept the Mayors report was made by council member Blackmon, seconded by council member Hescock. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

Police committee report: There was no one from the sheriffs department and the fire chief was also absent. So the members present just had a round table discussion. Steve Stroot spoke of the difference between a tax and a levy. If it were a levy it would be tied to the water bill. If it were a tax it would be on the property tax. It was a consensus of the people there to have a levy.

When the attack at 315 Baker came, 4 County officers responded. She wanted to point out that the Sheriffs department is trying to patrol.

They have discussed the neighborhood watch idea. They have come to the place that they are willing to see an officer just in Chiloquin. So if we were to levy a fee on the water bills the officer would not be for the out laying areas.

The Mayor would like to see a feasibility study on the policing for the area. We have done our own and we have discussed this with the City County insurance company.

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Discussion.

Council member Erion pointed out that people were afraid of coming downtown at night to do any shopping. They feel they need to carry a gun and such.

Council member Blackmon stated that she felt these people need to state if they ever have been mugged coming down town? She feels the fear versus the reality is off set.

Erion replied that the recent shooting on nine mile caused the fear, also the breaking of the windows at the community center.

It was pointed out that the shooting was 9 miles from town and the kids breaking the windows made a point of not having any direct contact with any people.

Erion stated she would bring both of those ideas/concerns to the next advisory committee meeting.

**Motion to accept the police committee report was made by council member Hescock, seconded by council member Kirk. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

City recorder report: The recorder welcomed the new members and wanted to explain a few things. One, they get free water and sewer service for their participation. However, if they miss a meeting they will be charged for water and sewer accordingly, unless the council excuses that absence.

Also, the City bills are reported in their packet, however, the bills themselves are in a blue folder On the table for their inspection prior to approving the payment of the bills.

The recorder is going to be gone 3 days next week.

**Motion to accept the City Recorders report was made by council member Hobbs, seconded by council member Mitchell . Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

Old Business:

Buildings in disrepair: Erion stated that all of old business, houses, code enforcement, abandoned cars and law enforcement all went together. She spoke with the Code enforcement officer in Klamath Falls. Erion is very concerned of the dead houses in town and wanted some advice from him as to how to go about cleaning these things up. His advice was to put out an ad to have people come help tear down a building. Have them sign a form stating the City is not liable for any damage or injury to themselves.

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You take the lumber, anything burnable, and pile it in a city owned vacant lot and have the fire department burn it later after it snows.

The non burnable would have to be placed in a dumpster. The City can not do it, because of the liability, but the concerned people of the community can organize and do this. This would be after the City got possession of the property or the property owners requested this. Erion state the City would have to get the legal possession.

Council member Mitchell asked about the Quentin Breen property? Can the City do anything about that? The Mayor stated he had spoken with Sharon Breen about this and she stated there is nothing that can be done at this time because the federal government has all that frozen due to tax liens etc.

Mitchell stated he would just like to see the downtown area looking better.

Discussion.

Council member Erion and the recorder will drive around and get more addresses to send letters to the owners.

Erion is positive she could get volunteers to help after the City gets legal possession.

The Mayor pointed out that there were some letters sent out. The folks have 10 days to respond to what they are going to do. We will know more at the next meeting.

**Motion to accept the old business was made by council member Hescock. Seconded by council member Kirk. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion passed.**

New business: Public works would like to place a new retaining wall in front of City Hall. Employee Pete Pate made a proposal. Council looked over the proposed project.

It would be to remove the rotting ties that are being used for bee's nests also. Replace with cement blocks.

Discussion.

**Motion to approve the project pending funding in the budget for the cost of removing the railroad ties and replacing them with cement stone was made by council member Blackmon, seconded council member Erion. Ayes: Hescock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**Motion Passed.**

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**Motion to adjourn was made by council member Hescoock, seconded by council member Kirk.  
Ayes: Hescoock, Kirk, Blackmon, Hobbs, Mitchell and Erion.**

**8:30 Meeting adjourned**

Signed 10/12/2011

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Mayor Mark Cobb

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Attest: Teresa Foreman, City Recorder

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