

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 14, 2019

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Primmer, Myers, Smith, Gutierrez, Hardin, Davis, Kirwan, and Barron. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Chief Edmiston, Clint Spencer, Mark Krawczyk, Thomas Creasing, Larry Fetter, Al Davis, Tim Miears, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong. News media present was Jade McDowell from East Oregonian. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Oath of Office

City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong administered the Oath of Office to Judge Creasing. Applause from the audience.

City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong administered the Oath of Office to Ward Councilors Myers, Barron, Smith, and Davis. Applause from the audience.

Presentation- School District Report

Hermiston School Districts Human Resource Director, David Marshall, gave information regarding: School Board Appreciation Month; Educators of the Year awards; student enrollment fluctuations throughout the year; nearly 200 students have received no cost immunizations from the Umatilla County Health Dept. and School District's first co-sponsored events; School District employee participation in Dancing with the Hermiston Stars; opportunities to attend VIP Days in January and February to see what it's like to attend school now; Wizard of Oz play; and tickets are still available for the Hermiston Education Foundation's Annual Beach and Beef Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb 2nd at EOTEC.

The Council asked questions regarding: student enrollment per teacher/class, Spanish speaking teachers, graduation rates, GED access and availability, and commended the district for their very enlightening VIP Day.

Mr. Marshall stated he does not have all of this information but will investigate and return with answers. The School District, like many other school districts are finding a shortage of good qualified teachers, however, the School District is consistently recruiting for teachers. The School District is also focusing on efforts to increasing graduation rates by: adding staff to include the first ever Graduation Coach who will interact and work with kids transitioning from 8th graders to freshman, etc, as well as an attendance secretary to not only have a voice recorded message regarding attendance but a live person to interact with guardians regarding attendance of their minor. These new positions will help students, early on, to attend school regularly therefore increasing their graduation success.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Marshall for sharing this information and asked that he also thank Superintendent Mooney and the School Board, as well as all the teachers and administration for all of their efforts.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

John Carbage, 1313 SW Riverhill Dr- invited the Council and public to attend the MLK March on Monday January 21st from 11:00am to 1:00pm (flyer attached).

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Kirwan seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E, to include:

- A. Initiate annexation proceedings NW Corner of E Theater Lane and NE 10th St
- B. Final Plat Desert Sky Phase 7

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- C. Minutes of the November 14, 2018 regular planning commission meeting
- D. Minutes of the June 19, 2018, Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee
- E. Minutes of the December 10, 2018 City Council work session and regular meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Elect Council President

Councilor Myers moved and Councilor Gutierrez seconded to nominate Councilor Hardin as the 2019-2020 Council President. Hearing no other nominations, the motion carried 7-1 with Councilor Hardin abstaining.

Councilor Hardin stated after 26 years on the Council, this may be his last term.

December 2018 Financial Report

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Smith seconded to accept the December Financial Report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

EOTEC RV Park Update

City Manager Smith stated both the Planning Commission and the EOTEC Advisory Board met last week to discuss EOTEC and the RV Park. The Planning Commission held their annual review for the EOTEC Parking Variance, and although they were pleased with how the large events went, they received testimony from members of the Rodeo Board regarding overflow parking and the potential impact of the RV Park. Due to that testimony, the Planning Commission decided to stop further construction, for the RV Park, until the City completes an overflow parking plan which was supposed to be completed by the end of 2018.

The second meeting, at the EOTEC Advisory Board, the Board heard testimony from the same Rodeo Board members related to the same issue and the Board voted to encourage the City to slow down on the construction of the RV Park to consider all other options.

This original agenda item was intended as an action item to set the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the design build contract with Knerr Construction; however, it was changed due to the outcomes of these two meetings. The plan, going forward, is to develop a long range parking plan and present these items to the Planning Commission at their February meeting, as well as form a small group with representatives from the Rodeo and Fair Boards to talk through their concerns and answer questions. With this, City Manager Smith stated he would expect all those involved to keep the long-term success of EOTEC, as a whole, as the priority, not just the success of specific groups or events.

Mayor Drotzmann asked for clarification regarding halting the construction process for only the RV Park or for all other construction projects currently and potentially taking place at EOTEC.

City Manager Smith stated the Planning Commission's decision halts all projects at EOTEC.

Councilor Kirwan asked what the new construction time frame and potential cost increase would be, and asked if there would still be contestant/attendee parking of 10 acres for the Fair and Rodeo to use.

City Manager Smith stated construction would be postponed until after this year's County Fair and Pro-Rodeo. The potential cost increase would be 5% to 10% on a \$ 3 million project. They would still have at least 10 acres out of the total 20 acres for contestant parking and other uses.

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Councilor Kirwan stated the contract the City has with these other entities allows them to use the surrounding areas, although, with notice, the City may make changes to these use of terms. The issue is that this project will not impede these events and nor will it impede contestant/overflow parking as 10 acres will still be available; however, there is real potential loss of rental income from the RV Park, for 6 months, of about \$7,500/week. This RV Park is a way for the City's tax payers to not have to pay the cost of operating EOTEC, as the VenuWorks Contract is \$9,000/month. Councilor Kirwan recommended the Council appeal the decision, as well as continue to negotiate for a solution as City Manager Smith recommended.

Councilors Barron, Myers, and Smith agreed, adding the RV Park is an asset and will generate revenue; the City must be fiscally responsible for EOTEC and the community as a whole.

Councilor Hardin asked for clarification regarding why the RV Park location changed from the original conception of EOTEC.

City Manager Smith stated there were two potential sites, the NW Corner and the NE area. The NW corner site, the original RV Park area, was almost in the middle of the EOTEC site and 24 hour access would be needed to EOTEC to go to that area, which is not ideal. The NE area is on the edge of the site to allow for easier road access, and already has utility extensions. This area is also close to barns and is the least expensive site to build on.

Mayor Drotzmann stated not only does the City have a desire to raise revenue, the City also signed an agreement with the County stating an RV Park would be built. The County also allocated resources for this project as well.

There was some discussion regarding the appeal process of the City to the Planning Departments decision to halt construction. City Planner Clint Spencer outlined the appeal rights and process, including time frames for the appeal process.

RV Park Contractor, John Eckhardt from Knerr Construction, gave a brief presentation regarding the construction schedule and timeline (attached) if construction is not postponed.

Public Comment

Steve Williams, 205 SE Crestline Dr – stated he is a member of the EOTEC Advisory Committee and stated part of the issue with the RV Park is the implementation plan. There was no discussion regarding costs or projected revenue. The Committee is wondering what their role as a committee is. The Committee wants to make sure we get it right.

Dennis Barnett, 1070 E Highland Ave- stated he is representing Farm City Pro Rodeo Board. This issue with the RV park is the lack of communication. There were a total of 2,500 cars, parked over four days, on that side (proposed RV Park site) throughout the week of the County Fair and Rodeo. Although we want EOTEC to be successful, we do not want the City to rush in on this project. Revenue will not be lost as about \$6,000 in interest will accrue on the money if it stays intact. Mr. Barnett recommended placing the RV park on the SW corner of the property for best road access and the best placement for the future growth of all aspects of EOTEC, stating, we want this to happen as we have a vested interest; however, we also want to be included in this process.

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Jackie Linton, 111 W Beech Ave- stated there should be better communication and hopes all groups can come together to work out a plan to complete the RV park and still make sure there is enough parking. Also asked if other events such as concerts, markets, and etc were scheduled to help generate revenues.

Michael Kay, 1002 SE Banker Drive- stated he is representing the Farm City Pro rodeo Board. This issue came to head because the City did not complete the long-term parking plan as required by the Planning Commission. Mr. Kay asked that the City reflect on the time that was spent on the \$3 million Senior Center project, meeting with the community, stakeholders, and other entities involved. Would like there to be a traffic study done, as well as look at other energy saving possibilities. We are not trying to be an obstacle, just want to make sure there is a plan in place to direct the growing number of vehicles that need to be accommodated.

Councilor Gutierrez moved to table any decision, as there was a lack of communication. There was no second and the motion died.

Councilor Barron asked if there were other locations that could be used for the RV park.

City Manager Smith stated yes, however, this location was selected as the best option due to cost savings, location to other facilities, entrance access, etc.

The Council agreed with City Manager Smith's recommendation to develop a schedule of meetings with stakeholders from the Rodeo and Fair Boards regarding long range plans. The Rodeo Board members in attendance agreed to begin meeting with City Manager Smith as soon as this week. The Committee will return to the Council with a recommendation at a later date.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked all those involved in this process and is looking forward to a successful recommendation being brought to the Council.

S. 1st Street Box Culvert Replacement Award

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan this project was in the City Council's approved Streets Capital Improvement Plan from 2017 and will replace the narrow aging bridge, located over the irrigation canal on south 1st Street near Crestline Drive, widening the bridge and taking down the pedestrian walkway as well.

The contractor intends to begin work on February 1st, with closure of the bridge occurring soon after for about 45 days or until mid-March.

Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to authorize the City Manager to award a contract of \$151,198 to Moreno & Nelson Construction Corporation to replace the South 1st Street Box Culvert, subject to standard construction bidding protest periods. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Report

Parks and Recreation Committee: Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter gave information regarding the Parks and Recreation 2019 Work Plan, to include: Updates to the Park and Trail Masterplan, Joint Facility Planning with Hermiston School District, Wellness and Aquatic Center Implementation Plan, Skateboard Park Design, Complete Greenwood Park, Identify Dog Park and Design, New Registration Software for Parks and Recreation Department, and Festival Street Summer Program.

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Hispanic Advisory Committee: Councilor Gutierrez and Barron stated the Committee will meet on Tuesday due to Martin Luther King Day.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann gave information regarding:

- Council Committee Appointments
- City Day at the Capital- Great way to advocate for your community with elected officials.

Mayor Drotzmann read an email sent by Jeanette Huddleston from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"Hi, I have been visiting my son and his wife in Hermiston since November 4, 2018. I want to tell you how nice and polite this town is!!!!!! Even at the grocery store when you are looking at an item and someone walks in front of you, that person says, "Excuse me", even kids and teenagers.

I guess I would call Hermiston a laid back town. The speed limit is slower than I'm used to and no one seems to get in a hurry. I am so impressed with the people and this town.

My son moved here in July, 2018 to work for Amazon in Umatilla. It is hard to find a job in this town, or so it seems, as my daughter-in-law didn't find a job until the end of October.

We enjoyed the Christmas tree lighting. It was 29 degrees but I was so bundled up that I looked like the Michelin Tire Man. It was a fun evening.

I leave January 15th to head back to Chattanooga, Tennessee and I just wanted to tell you what a nice town you have in Hermiston. I will be returning soon.

Sincerely, Jeanette Huddleston"

Mayor Drotzmann stated he responded to Mrs. Huddleston saying that this is the reason we live in Hermiston, the people and their congeniality.

Council Report

Councilor Barron thanked everyone who participated in tonight's EOTEC discussion and stated communication will be emphasized going forward to make sure EOTEC is successful for the entire community.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Councilor Barron for his well-spoken thoughts.

Councilor Hardin thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their great job on the 1st Annual Festival Street New Year's Eve event as he heard many wonderful compliments, specifically regarding the fireworks show. He has also heard good things about Family Nights at the Community Center as well.

Mayor Drotzmann agreed and thanked their work on all other events they bring to our community.

Councilor Gutierrez wished everyone a happy new year and thanked everyone present, stating we will all continue working together for the betterment of the community.

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Manager Report

City Manager Smith gave information regarding:

- The Goal Setting Session on February 8th and 9th - briefly reviewed 2018 goals. Out of about 50 tasks, all but 3 have been completed or are in progress to be completed.
- Please make sure to do the assessment sent by Sara Singer-Wilson, the Goal Setting Facilitator. The assessment was emailed to everyone and must be completed by January 18th. Individual phone interviews will also be scheduled.

Mayor Drotzmann reminded the Council that these dates were specifically chosen to accommodate everyone's schedules so please make sure to attend and participate in this process.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the regular meeting at 8:43pm as there was no other business.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. Dave Drotzmann

MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC

City Recorder

2019 Martin Luther King March



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929—1968**

**Special Guests:
John Witherspoon
and Isaac Butts of
WAKE UP NATION**

Date:
Monday, January 21, 2019

Time:
11am—1pm

Location:
Hermiston First United
Methodist Church



"It's a very important time that we need to build a positive community.... We need to make a difference in our community by being involved."— Virginia Rome-Garcia, HCAC Member

"It's important to bring awareness to King's accomplishments and the work that he began years ago." —John Carbage, HCAC President



This event is offered to the Hermiston community by the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Club. HCAC meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Contact John Carbage at 541-701-7073 for time and location.





