

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

February 11, 2019

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

Presentation- Hermiston School District Report

Hermiston School Districts (HSD) Human Resource Director, David Marshall, gave information regarding: delays and cancellations due to weather and how Mid-Columbia Bus helps HSD make these decisions; data from last month's Council questions (report attached); developing new programs for students and guardians to show the importance of regularly attending school and the value of earning a diploma; pulling in other community resources to continue helping students in difficult home situations.

The Council asked questions regarding: Latino graduation rates, how to increase the ratio of Latino teachers and staff to accurately reflect the student population; class size comparison to other areas; teacher's pay comparison with other areas; and complaints received regarding student lead conferences with little to no teacher involvement.

Mr. Marshall stated he does not have all of this information but will investigate and email City Manager Smith with answers. HSD, like many other school districts are finding a shortage of good qualified teachers, and, when teachers are recruited, it is difficult to convince them to stay in the area, mostly due to wanting to return to their hometown, wherever that may be. However, HSD is consistently recruiting for teachers. Class sizes are very comparable to others in our region; this number is significantly lower than metro areas. Teacher's pay is comparable with our region in Oregon, however, there is a difference in Washington. With this being said, wage compensation is higher in Washington but teachers should also take into consideration the PERS and Health benefits and contributions that HSD offers that are not offered in Washington. HSD is working on a Home Visit Liaison position, as HSD understands guardians sometimes are not involved if they feel intimidated, this should help with conferences and help make better connections between school and home.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Marshall for sharing this information.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Kirwan seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-D, to include:

- A. Minutes of the January 2nd, Airport Advisory Committee
- B. Announcement of Planning Commission Vacancies
- C. Liquor License Application- "Off-Premises Sales, Sample Tasting" for Paint & Patina located at 158 E. Main Street, Hermiston.
- D. Minutes of the January 28, 2019 regular City Council Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

EOTEC Report

EOTEC General Manager, Al Davis, reviewed 2018 EOTEC Events, to include: a total of 210 events were held at EOTEC with 53 being public events, meaning anyone from the public may attend, 74 corporate events, meaning business meetings and trainings, and 84 private events, meaning weddings and Quinceaneras; 40 days of the summer are reserved for the Fair and Rodeo; busiest days of the year are Fridays and Saturdays; working on non-profit contract rates; In 2019, 124 events have already been reserved at EOTEC with 19

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public events, 68 corporate events, and 37 private events; issues raised with corporate event planning is that there are not enough meeting rooms to hold break out session/meetings; Strategic Plan Development; improve marketing; working on bringing in more trade shows as many companies don't know EOTEC exists; RV Park Development; working on creating events for EOTEC grounds not just indoor invents; working on creating 6 signature annual events to have at EOTEC; working with Oxford Suits to use their meeting rooms in conjunction with EOTEC's meeting rooms; and the lack of hotel rooms available Monday- Thursday to house people for corporate events at EOTEC.

January 2019 Financial Report Review

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

Gorge Aviation Services Airport Lease

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan stated Gorge Aviation Services (GAS) approached the City in 2018 about relocating to the Hermiston airport from The Dalles. At that time, the one city-owned hangar, known as "the Blue Hangar," was occupied by Ross-Brandt Electric (RBE). The City notified RBE of the need for the hangar, as indicated in their lease, and RBE then began constructing their new facility in another area of the airport.

In spring 2018, GAS began sub-leasing a different hangar at the airport until the blue hangar became available, and also took over the contract management of the airport as well. Since this time, and their presence as aviation mechanics, which the airport has not had for several decades, airport traffic has increased and fuel sales are up 33%, or \$36,000.00, compared to the average for the same timeframe for at least the last three years. The airport is now on track to exceed the annual average fuel sales by about \$62,000.00.

Now that the blue hangar is available, it will need improvements to meet GAS' needs which are expected to be about \$80,000.00. Instead of the City covering the costs of improvements directly, the City is proposing to reduce the blue hangar lease rate so GAS can do these improvements instead. The net loss in lease revenue will be about \$10,000.00 per year for the first 5 years; however, staff believes this will be more than made up with the increase in fuel sales as a result of having GAS at the airport.

Airport Manager, Rolf Leirvik, stated GAS is also teaching Hermiston and Umatilla Junior High and High School students the ins and outs of aviation, to include: the airfield; mechanics, how to take apart and put together aircraft engines; flight instruction, etc. Mr. Leirvik stated there is an enormous shortage in all aviation fields and this afterschool program helps get kids engaged and thinking about this field as a career. Many aviation career paths are guaranteed jobs after completion of necessary training. This program, which started two weeks ago, is every Thursday from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the airport. Umatilla School District will also be providing transportation for their students participating in this program. Stanfield School District has also been approached regarding joining this program as well.

The Council applauded Mr. Leirvik's outreach to the area youth and Councilor Myers moved and Councilor Kirwan seconded to approve the George Aviation Services Airport Lease as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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Franchise Agreement for the Regional Water System with the City of Umatilla

City Manager Smith stated over the last two years, VaData has been looking for sites to establish data center campuses; however the sites VaData has been looking at were outside of any incorporated city with one site just recently being annexed into the City of Umatilla. Regardless, VaData continued to want water services from the Regional Water System (RWS) and approached the Port of Umatilla and the City about this and have been installing appropriate infrastructure to do so.

The initial term of the franchise agreement is 10 years with 2 automatic 5 year renewal periods that allow Umatilla to opt-out with 14 month notice. This time period will allow the RWS to fulfill its obligations to VaData. The franchise would have 5% of revenues generated within the City of Umatilla with the ability for possible increases with the 5 year extension periods.

There were concerns among the Council that the City was losing money as administration fees were not being recouped for all the work being done as the “middle man” for the RWS. The City must make sure Hermiston taxpayers are not paying these costs.

Port of Umatilla General Manager, Kim Puzey, stated the agreement the City has with the RWS states the City cannot make money as the administrator; however, the City should be recouping costs. The RWS’s rate can also be adjusted annually as well.

Councilor Kirwan moved and Councilor Barron seconded to approve City Manager Smith to sign the Franchise Agreement as presented, with a note for future reference to incorporate reimbursement of administration fees incurred for RWS work performed. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Report

EOTEC Advisory Committee: Councilor Kirwan stated the Committee is working on the RV Park, will hold another meeting on 2/19 and will hold meetings every 2 weeks instead of once a month, and elected a chair and vice chair. Councilor Kirwan stated City Manager Smith, Al Davis and John Eckhardt did a good job answering questions and communicating about all EOTEC projects. He believes these good conversations will be the product of a more efficient and profitable EOTEC.

Faith-Based Advisory Committee: Councilor Hardin stated the Committee will meet tomorrow at 4:00pm. They are transitioning the entire Family Promise Initiative to Kriss Dammeyer at Made to Thrive. The Committee is also looking for another two members to bring the membership of the Committee to a five member total.

Hispanic Advisory Committee: Councilor Barron stated the Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 19th due to Presidents Day Holiday.

Community Enhancement Committee: Mayor Drotzmann asked City Manager Smith to look into a revamp of this Committee.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Drotzmann thanked the Street Department for working day and night to take care of our streets during this weather. Thanked Sara Singer-Wilson for facilitating good conversations during the Goal Setting Session. Thanked City Manager Smith for his work on this and asked that this meeting be scheduled earlier in the year. Mayor Drotzmann stated he attended the High School’s Wizard of Oz play, which was very well done and featured a live dog and an orchestra. Asked City Manager Smith for an update regarding the HURA Way Finding signs.

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City Manager Smith stated the Goal Setting Report should be completed and ready for possible adoption in March. Will check on this progression of the Way Finding signs and get back to Mayor Drotzmann.

Council Report

Councilor Barron thanked the Hermiston School District (HSD) for their presentations and stated the questions, concerns, and suggestions the Council gives to HSD is out of care, respect and love of the community and HSD.

Mayor Drotzmann agreed stating it is best to be honest and open regarding these matters.

Councilor Hardin thanked City Planner Clint Spencer for his testimony regarding HB2001.

City Manager Smith stated he will keep the Council informed regarding this Bill.

Mayor Drotzmann encouraged the Council to voice their support or opposition to proposed bills as well.

Councilor Myers thanked Chief Edmiston for his Departments efforts in catchy and amusing Face Book posts.

Manager Report

City Manager Smith reminded the Council to reach out to City Recorder, Lilly Alarcon-Strong, if they are interested in attending the Distinguished Citizen Award Banquet.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the regular meeting at 8:37pm as there was no other business.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. Dave Drotzmann

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong

City Recorder

Hermiston High School Graduation Data

4 year cohort rates-8.38% Increase

- Spring 2017 HHS Graduating Class-65.82%
- Spring 2017 Oregon High School Average-76.65%
- Spring 2018 HHS Graduating Class-74.2%
- Spring 2018 Oregon High School Average-78.68%

Completer Rates-8.26% Increase

- Spring 2017 Oregon High School Average-82.53 %
- Spring 2017 HHS 79.21%
- Spring 2018 Oregon High School Average-82.53%
- Spring 2018 HHS 87.47%

*Graduation Rate (Oregon Diploma, Modified Diploma)

*Completer Rates (Oregon Diploma, Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma, GED)

HHS Focus On Graduation

Current and Next Steps-

Rate Goal-Meet or Exceed State Average

- Early Warning System for students off track (9th graders who complete freshman year with one or fewer F's in core classes are 4 times more likely to graduate than students with more than 1 F during 9th grade year).
- Team of staff assigned to a grade level to monitor and support students (administrator, graduation coach, counselor and teachers)
- Timely credit recovery process
- Continued Focus on attendance data
- Attendance and grades highly correlated
- Added additional attendance secretary
- Added an additional campus monitor
- Strengthen Supportive transition from middle school to high school
- Increased CTE opportunities-students who participate in CTE classes and programs graduate high school at a higher rate.

Hermiston School District

Class Size Averages

HSD Average Class Size

KG-23

1st-24

2nd-25

3rd-23

4th-25

5th-23

Middle School Average Class Size: 27

High School Average Class Size: 26

Demographics

Hispanic/Latino Students	52%
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Hispanic/Latino Teachers	5%
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Hispanic/Latino Classified Staff	13%
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White Students	44%
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White Teachers	92%
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Whit Classified Staff	74%
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