

TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 1, 2009

Mayor Rod Cross called a regular meeting of the Toledo City Council to order at 7:02 pm. Councilors present: Mark Camara, Nancy Lynne, Monica Lyons, Mary Young and Council President Bob Emmett.

Excused: Councilor Wes Chadwick.

Staff present: City Manager (CM) Michelle Amberg, Library Director Peter Rayment, Toledo Police Chief Mark Fandrey, Events Coordinator Celeste Mathews, and Assistant City Recorder Nancy Bryant.

Visitors present: Angelo Stephenson, Teresa Methvin, Stuart Miller, Stu Strom, and Don Amberg.

Visitor Comments:

Stu Strom announced an invitation to the April 11th Summer Festival kick off dinner at 5pm at the Toledo Eagles Lodge.

Celeste Mathews, Events Coordinator announced the Toledo Arbor Day activity to be held on April 11th at the Toledo History Center. Doug Graff, Unit Forester of the Oregon State Department of Forestry will talk about the Oregon Heritage Tree Program.

Proclamation

Mayor Cross proclaimed April 11, 2009 as Toledo Arbor Day, in observance of Oregon Arbor Week and National Arbor Day.

Consent Calendar:

Motion-It was moved and seconded (Lyons/Camara) to approve the consent calendar consisting of the invoice list dated March 27, 2009 as well as council minutes dated March 11, 2009 and March 18, 2009. **Motion passed 6-0**, noting the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Discussion and Information Items

Former Fire station Update

CM Amberg reported the National Guard of Newport has agreed to assist in tearing down the administration portion of the old fire station building at no cost. She said if the City is unable to sell the property there will be some improvements needed on the remaining portion of the building. She will provide more detailed information at a later date.

Decision Items:

Adopt City Council Goals

CM Amberg said City Council held a workshop on February 7, 2009 to develop goals and tasks. The City Council has completed its review and the four proposed City Council Goals for 2009. She commended Council for their plan.

CP Emmett suggested Council use the work sessions on a quarterly basis to review the progress of the goals.

Public comment:
There was none.

Motion- It was moved and seconded (Lyons/ Emmett) to adopt the proposed City Council Goals for 2009. **Motion passed 6-0**, noting the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Proposed Resolution setting the street light utility fee for the 2009/2010 fiscal year

CM Amberg reported that on June 2, 2004, the City Council passed Ordinance no. 1303 which adopted a Street Lighting Utility Fee and established the requirement that the monthly fee be set by resolution before July each year. The initial fee was set at \$2.00 per month and is currently \$5.00 per month. Staff estimates that the cost for electricity for street lights will be \$110,000 for fiscal year 2009-2010. A fee of \$5.00 will raise an estimated \$77,000 in revenue and offset 70% of the cost. Each additional \$1 increase in fees will raise an additional \$15,000 in revenue. CM Amberg does not recommend an increase of this fee for the next fiscal year.

Council discussed their concern of getting behind by not increasing the fee to cover the cost of providing the service.

Mayor Cross voiced his concern regarding the impact of all the projected fee increases for Toledo citizens.

Motion-It was moved and seconded (Emmett/Young) to increase the Street Light Utility Fee from \$5 to \$6 dollars. **Motion passed 5-1**, noting a No vote by Mayor Cross and the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Public Comment:
Angelo Stephenson testified in support of the motion to increase the Street Light Utility Fee.

Stuart Miller testified in support of the fee increase.

Mayor Cross noted his opposition to the fee increase.

Motion- It was moved and seconded (Emmett/Young) to adopt Resolution No. 1249, a resolution setting the street light utility fee at \$6.00 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. **Motion passed 5-1** noting a No vote by Mayor Cross and the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Appoint Planning Commission member to vacant position

Mayor Cross turned this decision item over to CP Emmett because he was not in attendance during the planning commission vacancy interview process. CP Emmett reported that Council interviewed Stuart Miller during the March 25th council work session. He stated that Mr. Miller's

experience in working with cities and land use issues makes him a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy.

Motion- It was moved and seconded (Emmett/Young) to suspend council rules and vote by hand to fill the planning commission vacancy. **Motion passed 6-0**, noting the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Public comment:
There was none.

Motion- It was moved and seconded (Young/Lyons) to appoint Stuart Miller to fill the Planning Commission vacancy, a four year term which will expire on December 31, 2009. **Motion passed 5-1**, noting the abstention of Mayor Cross and the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Proposed Ordinance granting a non-exclusive gas utility franchise to Northwest Natural Gas Company and fixing the terms, conditions and compensation of such franchise and repealing ordinances No. 1177 and 1216

CM Amberg presented a proposed ordinance granting a non-exclusive gas utility franchise to Northwest Natural Gas Company. This agreement differs from the previous agreement in the following ways:

- An increase in the franchise fee from 2% to 5%. Fees for customers who have interruptable service will increase from 0% to 3%.
- The term of the franchise agreement is reduced from twenty years to ten years.
- Franchise payments will be due quarterly rather than annually.

Council and staff discussed the differences in terms between the previous franchise agreement and the proposed agreement as well as the possible revenue from fees collected by Northwest Natural Gas Co. from clients of interruptable service.

Public Comment:

Stuart Strom asked for clarification of the franchise fee and noted that it is another rate increase passed to customers.

Motion-It was moved and seconded (Emmett/Young) to adopt, by reading twice by title only, Ordinance No. 1324 granting a non-exclusive gas utility franchise to Northwest Natural Gas Company, and fixing terms, conditions and compensation of such franchise and repealing ordinances No. 1177 and 1216. **Motion passed 6-0** noting the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

CM Amberg noted that this ordinance applies to Council Goal No. 1; to identify and establish adequate and stable funding for the City of Toledo

Councilor Camara noted that with the capped property tax revenues the City is forced to fill the gap in order to provide services. He said no one likes to increase fees.

CP Emmett noted that if the city doesn't keep up with revenue for the infrastructure we will not have the resources for timely maintenance.

Proposed Resolution to support HB 2558 allowing schools to qualify as a remote small school and become eligible for additional state school funds

CM Amberg noted that there has been much discussion surrounding the possible closure of Toledo Junior/Senior High School due to Lincoln County School District funding issues. The proposed resolution outlines the reasons for City Council support of HB 2558. If adopted, the resolution will be forwarded to the State Senator and Representative.

Mayor Cross said he traveled to Salem on Monday for the first hearing of this bill. If passed, this will make a difference of approximately \$600,000 per year in the Toledo Junior/Senior High budget.

Councilor Young stated this resolution will be of great assistance to the bills' passage.

Public Comment:
There was none.

Motion- It was moved and seconded (Young/Lynne) to adopt Resolution No. 1250, a resolution to support HB 2558 allowing schools to qualify as a remote small school and to become eligible for additional state school funds. **Motion passed 6-0** noting the absence of Councilor Chadwick.

Reports and Comments:

Department Reports

Celeste Matthews reported the following:

- The community assessment by the consultants from the Oregon Main Street program will begin tomorrow. The consultants will meet with Council and Staff, Individual meetings with the Mayor and City Manager, business and property owners, residents as well as representatives from schools, banks and civic groups.
- She and three other Toledo representatives attended a training facilitated by the Oregon Main Street Program. The training included each of the points of the Main Street Program which are; organization, economic restructuring, marketing/promotion and design. She said the City is benefiting from the efforts of the State and all of the training is free. The consultants have helped hundreds of towns across the country to bring their traditional downtown back to an energetic and healthy condition.
- The City of Toledo is a finalist in the All American City Award of 2009 by the National Civic League. To compete for the final award a delegation from Toledo will be required to travel to Tampa, Florida. Travel and lodging is not funded by the awarding agency.

Council and staff discussed the possibility of public interest in sending a delegation to Florida for the final competition. Council suggested the creation of a committee to research the possibility and directed staff to include the creation of such committee on the next council agenda.

City Manager's Report

CM Amberg reported the following:

- She is serving on the budget committee for the Lincoln County Solid Waste District. She has strong concerns regarding the district. She will share more information at a later date.
- Staff started budget meetings today beginning with the Library/Parks and Recreation.
- Jim Ruggeri has information regarding the Head Start building and he will attend the next council executive session to share that information with council. The Head Start building will also be an agenda item for the April 22nd work session.

Council Comments

Councilor Camara congratulated Celeste for her work on the application of the All American City Award.

CP Emmett noted that he has made contact with a person from ODOT regarding signage on Arcadia Drive. Also he will be unable to attend the April 8th meeting.

Councilor Young congratulated the City of Toledo. She said we have been getting some incredible news lately and good recognition. She thanked all involved in making that happen.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Cross commented on the following;

- He supports the All American City award and believes the City should go for it. He thanked Celeste for filling out the application.
- He was in Salem on Monday at the Capital. He said they are very impressed with the things we are doing here in the community. All the little things we do are good.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

Assistant City Recorder

Mayor