

March 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was called to order on Wednesday March 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kent Smith. All Councilors were present. The City Administrator and City Treasurer were present.

There was no conflict of interest declared by any member of Council.

ON MOTION by Councilor Widdop, 2nd by Councilor Carder to approve the minutes for the February 2, 2011 Council meeting, MOTION was approved 4-0, 1 abstain.

A copy of the Police report, Fire Dept. report and City Treasurer report was given to Council.

City Administrator Dennis McNally reported 120 stone columns for the water treatment plant have gone in, with 180 to go and the result is a portion of 1st Street collapsed, separated and split. Mr. McNally showed Council pictures and advised we expected this and expect this to happen on Marion, so this is why we close streets. Mr. McNally reported that a soil compaction test has been done and the results came back better than expected.

Mayor Smith advised we have several letters of correspondence and asked each Council member to read one. Councilor Sigler read a letter from Don Nolan opposing joining the Sunset Parks & Rec. District. (see attached) Councilor Carder read a letter from Victor Smith opposing joining the Sunset Parks & Rec. District. (see attached) Councilor Well read a letter from Angie Harrington opposing joining the Sunset Parks & Rec. District. (see attached) Councilor Widdop read a letter from Randy Como opposing

joining the Sunset Parks & Rec. District. (see attached) Mayor Smith read a letter from Cheryl Lund opposing joining Sunset Parks & Rec. District. (see attached)

Visitor Cynthia Taft, owner of Pop's Sweet Shop, had concerns with the detour signs and the appearance that businesses are not open and requested supplemental signage and opening Marion during the weekends.

Council heard a letter from Robert Arenz, owner of A Great Shop 576 Pacific Way, stating he agreed with Ms. Taft regarding City visitors being detoured; however felt additional signs at the intersection would not be effective. Mr. Arenz would be in support of opening Marion if possible.

Visitor Steve Olstedt had concerns with traffic being re-routed onto 2nd Street, which he thought is too narrow and suggested parking the equipment out of the way and opening Marion. Mr. McNally advised over the next 6 months we will be pouring concrete and pumper trucks will be traveling back and forth. Mr. McNally stated the whole area is being developed, where there will be pallets of pumps, motors, filters, skids, generators etc.

Jeff Ter Har 223 Pacific Way encouraged Council to help with additional signage for the businesses.

Mr. McNally questioned Councilor Widdop about their previous conversation regarding business at A Great Shop on Pacific Way, where she works, and apologized for putting her on the spot, but asked about the detour and store business. Ms. Widdop stated Monday Feb. 21, 2011 was a holiday and it was one of the busiest days we've had.

Council Carder suggested Council would work with Dennis. Mayor Smith agreed the Council would give this matter careful and thoughtful consideration.

Mr. McNally explained the audit engagement letter you have before you is a routine letter, from Dennis Conner, to contract audit services for the City and informed Council, in addition, he is available to answer questions on the phone or come to City Hall as needed, and he does a good job for the City. Councilor Carder advised this is a good bargain. ON MOTION by Councilor Carder, 2nd by Councilor Well, to approve the Dennis Conner engagement letter, MOTION was unanimously approved.

Mary Blake advised Council of the Sunset Empire Parks & Recreation District programs and fees, and explained them in detail. (see attached) Councilor Carder questioned if the Broadway Park project cost \$3 million dollars. Ms. Blake said completing all phases, yes it could. Councilor Carder had concerns that 70% of Gearhart homes are vacation homes and 2nd homes, and concerned that they would be taxed and get no use of it. Councilor Widdop suggested an alternative to joining the district by, we could submit a proposal to enter into a contract for an after school program at Gearhart Elementary. Mary Blake noted that Cannon Beach asked to do that too and we did a summer park program, however the use of all the services, were not met. Visitor Sande Brown commented on assuming the wants for the 70% vacation homes owners and suggested not seeing it as a larger number, but as a quality of life. Visitor Larry Well had concerns with saddling vacation home owners with additional taxes they may not even know about and suggested if they want to participate in the program, they can pay the extra fee. Mr. Well also advised the thing we need more is a new fire station and we haven't been able to get that passed. Visitor Helen Lewis Fifer Heights felt that most of what the Sunset Parks & Rec. has to offer is voluntary, and whoever wants to can pay the extra fee can voluntarily choose to do so. Ms. Lewis asked to let them choose and don't

commit all of us whom may or may not want participate. Mayor Kent Smith commented to Mary Blake that we run the whole City of Gearhart on \$1.00 per thousand, and with that amount we pay salaries, run the Police Dept., pay utilities and all City expenses vs. the Parks & Rec. District requires \$.92 per thousand, it seems like alot compared to running a whole City. Mayor Smith also stated SEPRD will need to go out to initiate the process, since it's such a controversial subject. Ms. Blake advised when we bring back the signatures the City will need to pass a resolution, which is required by law. Mayor Smith felt with such opposition, Sunset Empire Parks & Rec. District would not be able to collect that many signatures. Councilor Well asked if the City of Cannon Beach is joining the district or putting it to a vote of their community. Ms. Blake stated they are not calling for a vote, they are requiring the petition initiative. Visitor Marilyn Lane urged all to remain open to this idea and remember there are a lot of programs for the kids. Councilor Widdop questioned if both the City of Cannon Beach and City of Gearhart would be represented on the Sunset Empire Parks & Rec. board. Ms. Blake advised they would. Visitor Maureen Casterline thought we need more kids activities for the people coming here. Mike Hemph, board member of the SEPRD spoke in favor of the special districts, such as, Fire, Water, School, Sewer, Levy, Sanitary, Park Districts and their ability of doing what the cities are not able to do and he invited the City to join Sunset Empire Parks & Rec. District. Dennis McNally asked Mary Blake for a copy of last year's budget and salary schedule. Mary agreed. June Stoneberg chair of the board stated the growth in Seaside is remarkable as is the opportunities for kids & seniors. Councilor Carder questioned the price of a year membership to Sunset Empire Parks & Rec. District. Mary Blake reported out of district price \$375.00 per year vs. \$250.00 in

district. Tina Bacon spoke in favor of the district and asked to let it go to a vote. Mayor Kent Smith advised we would honor the petition for signatures. Councilor Sigler recognized the pool facility as being a wonderful, clean and safe facility, however we are tax weary. Mayor Smith questioned Ms. Blake the amount of revenue the district would collect from Gearhart. Ms. Blake stated \$345,000.00. Mayor Smith commented he wouldn't be surprised if it passed that the volunteer Fireman would walk off the job because they have been turned down for building a new fire station, which is 60 years old and is cinder block built by volunteers and in really bad shape. Mayor Smith closed the discussion on the Park & Rec. District.

Student Representative Garrett Brown updated Council on Seaside High School activities with boys & girls basketball, dance & swim team competitions, track, gold, baseball, softball, Ashland trip, robotics competition, reported the cast of characters for the Seaside High School play "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown", and reported a high school dance theme is the opposite of PROM, where it is named "MORP, the dance is casual, attire casual and students can dine at Taco Bell before the dance.

Councilor Widdop had concerns and apologized for any mis-conception of Councilor Sigler and herself arguing, it was a difference of opinions, of two strong personalities. Councilor Carder clarified he represents both vacation property owners and full time residents.

Mr. McNally advised council the Crest package on their desk is the wetland inventory and asked Council to look this before next month because this will be on the April agenda.

Mayor Smith noted we received 69 resumes for City Administrator and asked Council to take time to review them before the March 14, 2011 meeting with the League of Oregon Cities. The Mayor also suggested an executive session and scheduled it for Tuesday March 8, 2011 at 4 p.m.

Visitor Craig Weston questioned why the detour signs are so far away and asked for consideration in moving them. Mr. McNally stated it is required by law to be placed that far back, it may possibly be 500 feet. There was no further discussion.

ON MOTION by Councilor Widdop, 2nd by Councilor Well to adjourn, MOTION was unanimously approved. Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mayor Kent Smith

Dennis McNally, City Administrator