

CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 22, 2011

Mayor Gerald Sands called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Council members: Mark Borden, Willie Bott, John Nordine, Birdie Hensley and Bob Rupe

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Debbie Pifer/Deputy Clerk, Roger Lucas/The Star, Carol Rupe, Ken Dexter/PWD, Linda Dexter, Ferd Syphers/Transfer Station, Rita Syphers, Donna Deckman/City Maintenance, Randy Gumm/Transfer Station, George Kohout/Ridge Riders, Kathy Baty, Carl Russell, Ernesto Vilarruel, Marie Chuinard, Steve Salstrom, Jeff Ketchel/Grant County Health District and Emily Ketchel.

**November 8, 2011, Council Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the November 8, 2011, minutes as written.

m/s (Hensley/Bott)CU

**Public Discussion:**

There was no public discussion.

**Grant County Health District:**

Mayor Sands introduced Jeff Ketchel from the Grant County Health District. Jeff provided the council with handouts on the following subjects:

- o Communicable Diseases: Whooping Cough
- o Chronic Disease: Grants awarded to help combat chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, etc.
- o Injury Prevention: Provide safety equipment, such as bike helmets and child car seats.
- o Environmental Health: Food safety.
- o Funding: Monies received from two sources:
  1. Categorical Funding: Monies come from Grants or Contracts and can only be used for specific reasons.
  2. Flexible Funding: Can be used for other communicable diseases.

Jeff expressed his appreciation of the support the City has given the health district and looks forward to working with the City in the future.

**Ridge Riders Inc:**

Mayor Sands introduced George Kohout and Kathy Baty representing the Ridge Riders. George explained the Ridge Riders organization is looking for hotel/motel monies to help support their efforts in bringing more rodeo events to the area. At this time, the events for next year are:

- Riding Clinic - Spring Vacation
- Colorama - Mothers Day Weekend (and will be adding Bull Riding on Sunday).
- Junior Rodeo - June.
- Bull riding - Labor Day Weekend.

The organization is looking for help in advertising and asked the City to contribute to their organization either directly or through the Chamber of Commerce. George explained that these events bring alot of people from out of town to our area.

Council Member Borden asked how the monies would be dispersed and what kind of plan the Ridge Riders have. Mayor Sands explained the monies would go through the Chamber and would be designated to the Ridge Riders. George explained that the Ridge Riders are asking for \$4,000 from each city.

Council Member Hensley requested that the Ridge Riders provide some type of accountability reports to be submitted to the Chamber that can be passed onto the Cities. She would also like to see advanced advertising.

Mayor Sands asked how soon the events will be confirmed. George explained that they should have everything but the Bull Riding in September confirmed by March, 2012.

Kathy Baty said that the Rodeo information could be included in Visitors Pamphlet even if it wasn't confirmed by using the word "pending" after the event. It would also be included on the Chamber website. Kathy provided the council with cost breakdown spreadsheet from the Chamber of Commerce showing itemized cost for 2009 through 2011.

Council Member Borden asked Mayor Sands if this is something we can move forward with. Mayor Sands explained that we have budgeted \$30,000 from the hotel/motel fund and can be designated at any time.

Council Member Borden asked Kathy to request something in writing from the Chamber regarding the concerns the Council has on the website, and how they are proceeding on these concerns. He would also recommend that the Chamber and Ridge Riders provide further reports on how the monies will be dispersed, that way we will have a plan in place to allow us to move forward. The Council would like to see these plans presented at the next council meeting on December 13, 2011.

**State Purchasing Cooperative Membership Contract:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the membership to the State Purchasing Cooperative for another year.  
m/s (Borden/Rupe)CU

**2012 Preliminary Budget:**

Mayor Sands asked the Council to look over the proposed budget packet. Mayor Sands also explained to the Council the reason Jackie was absent from the meeting tonight is due to her breaking her leg. He explained that he and Jackie went over the proposed budget together. He would like for the council to focus on the grey highlighted areas instead of going line by line, and that the very last page gives a total summary of the proposed budget figures vs. previous years.

Council Member Borden asked about a report he had requested earlier on major expenses for some of the funds. Mayor Sands was not aware of any report at this time, but gave examples of some of the major expense.

- Water Meters and Boxes
- Six Year Street Plan
- Sewer Jetting
- Fixing Water Breaks

Mayor Sands explained that the biggest expense is employee payroll.

Council Member Bott, asked why the total revenues on page 2 were so low. Mayor Sands explained the proposed figure did not include the beginning balance for the 2011 year end yet.

Mayor Sands explained that we are continuing at about the same level each year, we are gaining some but we are not getting the interest that we did in years past. He suggests if the Council has further questions on the proposed Budget document to come in and talk to Jackie. The budget will need to be approved at the next council meeting on December 13, 2011.

Mayor Sands addressed the cost of living raise for City employees. He said that the Consumer Price Index that was given to the council is what we are considering using to determine the rate. He explained that we used the same index last year at 1.6%. This year it is at 4.1% for the year average ending July 2011, and this is the same index that Grand Coulee, Sunrise and Coulee Dam are using. Council Member Bott presented an index that he just printed for the month of October and it shows a rate of 3.4%. Council Member Nordine suggested we determine which month we will use each year to be consistent. Council Member Borden asked the Mayor what he proposes for the rate as he is the manager. Mayor Sands explained that it has always been a tug of war between the employees, Mayor and council on employee raises. He would like to pick one index to be used every year on a consistent basis. Mayor Sands reported that we have used this same index for the last two years with rates approved at 2% for 2010 and 1.6% for 2011, this year it is 4.1%, and after talking with Jackie; it was discussed a possible 3% for this year. After much discussion on the different indexes, what month should be used and what cities averages should be used, there was no conclusion. Mayor Sands said we don't have to make that decision today but would like to have something in place before next year's budget. Mayor Sands asked the council for a recommendation for this year. He said the preliminary budget proposal they received includes the 3%. Motion was made to give a 3% cost of living raise for year 2012.

m/s (Nordine/Borden)CU

**Council Meeting Cancellation for December 27, 2011:**

Motion was made to cancel December 27, 2011.

m/s(Borden/Nordine)CU

**Unfinished Business:**

- Surveying of Cal-de-sac:  
Mayor Sands explained the Cal-de-sac has already been surveyed. It will be part of the short plat.
- Zoning change S-1:  
Carl Russell explained that the residents living in the S-1 zone have written letters requesting that the word "original" be placed back into the Ordinance. By taking out the word "original" it's zoned more as an R-3 than an S-1 and allows for misinterpretation. He also would like to address the council on the changing of the Ordinance without consulting the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission goes through the ordinances line by line, word by word and puts alot of research into these ordinances and again requests the council please submit the changes to them prior to adopting these ordinances with changes. This will allow the Planning Commission to review the changes and let the council know why they have made their recommendations.

Council Member Hensley agreed and said there is something broken in this system and it needs to be fixed. Mayor Sands will have Jackie make the correction and put the word "original" back into the ordinance.

**Reports/Misc:**

- Council Member Hensley reported that she has been working on ideas for parks in the City. She provided the council with a handout showing proposed ideas. She is looking into grant monies to fund the project. She has sent out some letters of inquiry to see if funding may be available. She would like for the city and council to review the plans to let her know where we would like to go with this and if we need a professional engineer to be involved. Jeff Ketchel from the Grant County Health District said as part of the chronic disease program, they may be able to assist the city and he would like to volunteer any assistance the City may need. Mayor Sands asked if the council would like to pursue the plans provided by Council Member Hensley. The Council unanimously agreed to go forward park plans.

**Council Received:**

- Grant County Health District Handout.
- Packet from Council Member Hensley regarding city parks.
- Chamber Expenditure Report.

**Voucher Approval:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve expenditures for following vouchers.

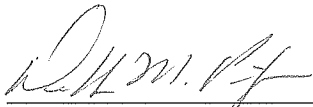
- EFT and Vouchers #8897-#8906 Claims amount of \$45,804.60 dated 11/09/2011-11/22/2011

m/s (Rupe/Borden) CU

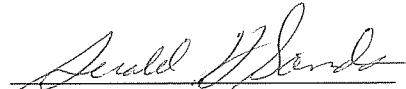
**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

m/s (Sands/Borden)CU



Debbie M. Pifer, Deputy Clerk



Gerald H. Sands, Mayor