

CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 13, 2015

The January 13, 2015 Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Gerald Sands

**Present by Roll Call:** Council Members Aaron Derr, Lonna Bussert, Marie Chuinard, and John Nordine

**Motion to Excuse:** Motion was made and seconded to excuse Brad Parrish.

m/s (Bussert/Derr) CU

**Staff members present:** Clerk/Treasurer/Jacqueline Perman, PWD/Kenneth Dexter, and GCPD Sergeant John Tufts

Mayor Sands introduced three separate items to be placed on the agenda;

- The Building Department agreement
- URS Scope of Work for \$25,195.00
- Chamber of Commerce/Electric City & Grand Coulee Consolidation

**December 9, 2014 Council Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the December 9, 2014 minutes as written.

m/s (Bussert/Nordine)CU

**December 9, 2014 Public Hearing Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the December 9, 2014 Public Hearing minutes as written.

m/s (Nordine/Chuinard)CU

**December 30, 2014 Special Council Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the December 30, 2014 minutes as written.

m/s (Derr/Bussert)CU

**Police Report:**

Sergeant John Tufts reported on incidents within the city.

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce/City Consolidation:**

Bob Valen and Debbie Starkey came on behalf of the Chamber to discuss consolidation of Electric City and Grand Coulee. They presented an overview of potential city consolidation which included the advantages, limitations and options drawn up by SCJ Alliance. The budget would be approximately \$30,000.00. Council member Derr would like to have them contact other planners and see what they would charge. When asked if the council members would be for or against it they answered the following:

*Council member Derr:* More for it than against it. He would like to see them go out for a bid or ask others\ planners before approving any money to be awarded.

*Council member Chuinard:* Is against the consolidation

*Council member Nordine:* Should have been done long ago.

*Council member Parrish:* Not for or against it.

*Council member Bussert:* Would like to see Delano included.

**Chamber of Commerce/Peggy Nevsimal:**

Ms. Nevsimal showed the council a power point of the advertisements that the chamber paid for last year. The chamber mailed in a request for funds in October 2014 for \$43,550.00. When she asked if she needed to appear before the council she was told, 'no' by the City Clerk. She accused the clerk of telling her that she could not come to a council meeting. She received a letter saying the Chamber was going to receive \$24,479.58 for 2015 and she wanted to know why they were not getting more. Council member Derr replied the city is trying to build a reserve savings account to ~~do a capital expenditure for the city~~ and he feels that

she is being very hostile to the council. Council member Chuinard agreed with him and added that the city has just begun to receive the larger amount of hotel/motel funds and we have not had the time to see how 50% or another percentage would work out. Council member Parrish replied that he did not feel that the city should be paying for her wages. She denied that she asked for that. The Motel/Hotel committee stated they gave the clerk direction to tell the Chamber and others that they did not need them to appear before them at that time. If the committee changed their mind they would ask for an appearance. Debbie Starkey said the money is not earning any interest in a savings account and should all be given to the Chamber to spend. Lonnie Ritter said the money does not belong to the City but all the money should be given to the Chamber for advertising. Steve Salstrom wanted to know who gave the clerk the authority to write a new policy and resolution. He also wanted to know where the policy came from and why the mayor was not aware of it. Clerk Perman replied that the original policy was passed in 2006 and is outdated and the mayor was aware of it. Council member Bussert and Peggy Nevsimal asked why it is inserted in the new policy that the Police Chief, and the Public Works Director are in the decision making process. They feel they have no right to make any decisions regarding the hotel/motel monies. When Public Works Director, Ken Dexter tried to explain why he was told to be quiet. Clerk Perman replied the provision was in the old policy and gave an example why their input is needed. When the city did the Earth Day celebration we needed to procure approval from both for safety reasons. Council member Bussert challenged the statement that the provision regarding the Police Chief and Public Works Director having input was in the old policy. City Clerk Perman showed Council member Bussert where that provision was included in the old policy. Perman also said while we were updating the policy she suggested to the attorney that we only have two funds, one for Tourism promotion and one for Capital expenditures, instead of the four mentioned in the old policy. When Council member Bussert challenged the validity of that fact she showed Bussert in 4.2 where it says the city should have four funds. Clerk Perman suggested we invite the attorney for the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Birdie Hensley, Steve Salstrom and others in the audience said to keep the attorney out of this. The audience started to chant, "Vote it down! Vote it down!" Council member Derr suggested to vote on the policy and Resolution. City Clerk Perman suggested to table this until February so they can think about the issue and to wait on the attorney. Council member Derr tabled the conversation and further discussion on both Resolution's regarding hotel/motel taxes. All discussion stopped.

**Ordinance No. 488-2015/Creating ECMC 12.30 titled "Right of Way Use by Telecommunication, Cable Providers and Open Video System Operators:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 488-2015 as written.

m/s (Parrish/Derr)CU

**Ordinance No. 489-2015/Creating ECMC 5.25 titled, "Telecommunication Use Fees":**

Motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance No.489-2015 as written.

m/s (Bussert/Parrish)CU

**Ordinance No. 490-2015/Creating a new ECMC 3.08 titled "Utility Occupation Tax & Repealing ECMC 5.15 and 3.10:**

Mayor Sands wanted to know if the council wanted to raise taxes. Council member Derr said he feels like we are already bleeding the people. Motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 490-2015 as written with no purposed increase in taxes.

m/s (Derr/Parrish)CU

**Resolution No. 2015-\_\_/Adopting Policy 2015-01 titled "Lodging Tax Revenues":**

Council Member Derr made the motion to table this until February 10, 2015 meeting. Please see Chamber of Commerce/Peggy Nevsimal above.

**Resolution No. 2015- /Establishing a Lodging Tax Capital Improvement Reserve Fund:**

Council Member Derr made the motion to table this until February 10, 2015 meeting. Please see Chamber of Commerce/Peggy Nevsimal above.

**Council Committees:**

Council member Bussert asked the Mayor if we can delete the Tourism Committee at this time. Mayor Sands said we can wait. The committees will remain the same at this time.

- Health-Welfare & Safety – Aaron Derr and John Nordine
- Parks – Brad Parrish and Lonna Bussert
- City Streets – Aaron Derr and John Nordine
- Water & Sewer –Aaron Derr and Brad Parrish
- Tourism/Hotel-Motel – Marie Chuinard and John Nordine
- Audit – Lonna Bussert and Marie Chuinard

**Grant Transit Authority Board Appointee:**

Bradley Parrish will serve on the Executive Board of Directors for the year 2015. The substitute will be Marie Chuinard. Jackie will forward the information to Grant Transit Board.

**The Building Department Agreement:**

Jackie explained that our current building inspector, Ken Anderson would like to retire from the job which initiated the drawing up of this contract. The contract has a potential beginning date of February 1, 2015. The Building Department is currently contracted to do any of Electric City’s commercial building permits. This new contract will be for all building permits. Motion was made and seconded for Mayor Sands to sign the new Agreement.

m/s (Bussert/Chuinard)CU

**URS/ Delano Transfer Station:**

Jackie explained the memorandum has to be approved by all four city councils before the Regional Board of Mayors can sign the contract for \$27,065. Motion was made and seconded to approve the costs and directing the Mayor to sign the contract.

m/s (Derr/Chuinard)CU

**Reports/Miscellaneous:**

- **Mayor Sands:** No report
- **Council member Bussert:** Reported the survey has been completed and the city is going forward with the boundary line adjustment.
- **Council member Chuinard:** No report
- **Council member Nordine:** No report
- **Council member Derr:** Reported the two police committees were going to meet.
- **Council member Parrish:** Reported that he has a meeting set up with Stephanie Utter/Bureau of Reclamation regarding a pathway, ADA fishing pier and docks at Coulee Playland.
- **Public Works Director:** Reported we have received approval from Grant County to dispose of the sludge material in their dump ground and Jared will start hauling the bags next week.
- **City Clerk:** Drew their attention to the memo from the Planning Commission encouraging them to familiarize themselves with the proposed changes to Title 18 and to attend the public hearing and make suggestions.

**Voucher Approval:**

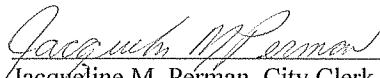
Motion was made and seconded to approve expenditures for the following:

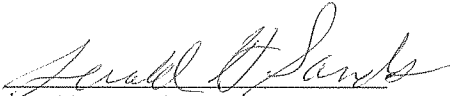
- Warrants #10843 - #10850 dated 12/12/2014-12/31/2014 for a total of \$9,298.72
- Checks # 10857-18891,10906 dated 12/31/2014 for a total of 133,510.90
- EFT’s and Warrants #10892 - #10905, dated 1/2/15-1/13/2015 for a total of \$68,744.42

m/s (Derr/Nordine)CU

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
 Jacqueline M. Perman, City Clerk

  
 Gerald H. Sands, Mayor