



City of Lyons

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MINUTES LYONS CITY COUNCIL MEETING/HEARING May 3, 2011

OPEN MEETING 6:00 P.M.

The Lyons City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Morgan. Present were City Councilors Mike Lucas, Troy Donohue, Lon Conner and Dan Burroughs. City Staff in attendance were City Manager Mary Mitchell and Assistant City Manager Audrey McNerney.

Mayor Morgan asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. He then inquired as to whether there were any declarations of conflict of interest or ex-parte contact regarding the agenda items. There being none, the meeting continued.

GUESTS. Susan Patterson, George L. Geddes, Mike Medley, Mark Orr, Ron Adams, Kim Fredricks, Sharon Goodman, Sandi Landers, Kathryn Keeney and Marc Hughes.

Sharon Goodman – Santiam Youth Peer Court. Goodman distributed a report showing what the purpose of the Peer Court is and what they do. She also distributed a Court Activity Report for the period 1/1/2010 through 12/31/2010. Peer Court is a program for first time juvenile offenders who admit guilt and who are then sanctioned by their peers. She said that the report sets forth how the system works. She stated that the Peer Court now services Lyons, Mill City, Gates, Aumsville and Turner. Goodman's office is located at the Stayton Police Department where she follows through on each case and works closely with the police officers who issue citations. The officers know that if a ticket is issued there will be a consequence to the juvenile cited. If there is a juvenile who cannot afford the cost of Peer Court the charge can be worked off by performing community service. She commented that there are over 40 youths who volunteer their time to be jury members, bailiffs, etc. and that many of the offenders volunteer to be on the Peer Court after their experience. She advised Council that there were several local attorneys who volunteer their time to act as a judge.

Lucas referred to Goodman's comment regarding the "affordability of Peer Court" and asked how that worked. Goodman responded that there is a \$50 fee for a matter to be referred to Peer Court. She explained that the juveniles have to personally pay this fee, not their parents, since they committed the

crime. If they do not have the funds she gives them the opportunity to work off the fee by providing extra community service hours. Mitchell asked if this was the same model used in the previous Peer Court program. Kim Fredricks responded that the models were basically similar. This model has been very consistent. Keeping the youth out of the juvenile court system and not having them reoffend is the goal. Donohue asked what the reoffend rate was. Goodman responded that in the time she has been there she has had only one juvenile reoffend. Mitchell stated that the City had worked with Peer Court in Mill City prior to their losing funding approximately 3 years ago. Mitchell also stated that she felt that this was an excellent program which did a lot of good, teaches accountability and keeps offending youth from having a juvenile record. Morgan stated that the City does not have a police department but works with Linn County Sheriff's Office. Goodman said that she is in contact with Sgt. LeBard of the Linn County Sheriff's Office and is working with him in connection with a few referrals he has made. Goodman commented that she usually has the offenders write a letter of apology to police officers who have referred their case to Peer Court. There was discussion of her role in supervising the punishment which is usually determined by the juveniles on the Peer Court Jury. The offending juveniles are usually given a choice as to whether they want to accept the punishment sanctioned by their peers or go back to Juvenile Court. They usually opt to accept the punishment sanctioned by their peers.

Morgan asked how the City could help. Goodman said that she would like to have funding support from the City since the program is in dire need. She stated that representatives from the City were always welcome to attend a Peer Court session and observe the process. Council members commented that it appeared to be a good program.

Susan Patterson – North Santiam Chamber of Commerce. Patterson said that she was a volunteer with the North Santiam Chamber of Commerce and, as a resident of the Canyon, has a vested interest in the economic health of the community. She mentioned that the Chamber had forwarded a request for a contribution to help support Chamber activities, mainly around supporting tourism in the community, economic development and keeping businesses alive. The proposal has changed in that they have regrouped and re-evaluated their business center which is located on Highway 22 in Mill City. They have found that they are not getting the foot traffic they had anticipated. Also, Santiam Hospital, which had donated the use of the property, had re-evaluated its use. The Chamber members were surveyed regarding the feasibility of the continuation of the Visitor's Center. The Chamber also consulted with Travel Oregon, an expert in tourism. Travel Oregon recommended that the Chamber look at alternative resources to build tourism in this community. They suggested building a healthy website and having more than one location in the community with tourism information. The Chamber has decided to relocate and have tourism kiosks at Trexler Farm in Mehama and at Green Mountain Real Estate in Mill City. They also plan to have another kiosk further up the canyon, possibly in Detroit. Their primary focus will be to "beef up" their website since that is where most people look for tourism information. Patterson said that the Chamber was respectfully requesting a \$1,500 contribution for the 2011-2012 fiscal year to help the business community and to increase tourism in the area.

4. Mike Medley – Request for Partnership in CDBG Grant for Upcoming Year. Medley stated that there were many advantages to having the City of Lyons sponsor another CDBG grant on their behalf. He said that it took some time to figure out how the process worked and how to do everything correctly. Medley went on to state that while there are other cities that could partner with, those cities don't have the

experience that Lyons' staff has from working on the previous grant. He said that there are many reasons it was important to have a partner from Linn County and that there wasn't another Linn County city who could take the lead. Mitchell commented that her only concern with partnering was that the City is in the process of finalizing the Storm Water Drainage Plan and the Infrastructure Finance Authority might be an option to request funding from. However, when the issue was researched, Mitchell determined that the City does not qualify for Community Block Development Grant monies.

Lucas commented that last year's project had been considerably more cumbersome than had been anticipated. He said that he would like to know how much staff time and cost had been expended by the City in administering this grant. Lucas also asked for an estimate of the time which could be saved this year because of the experience gained from last year's project. He went on to state that the City's sponsorship of the grant had been intended as a "one time deal" to help NSCEDC get the grant. Mitchell said that she couldn't determine "off the top of her head" what the cost had been to the City. She said that problems had come about because of a change in personnel at NSCEDC. Mitchell stated that once she and McKenzie began working together on the project they were able to do a very good job. Medley asked for an estimate of the kind of work load the City would likely face. He commented that because of the way the grant is constituted it is possible that they could financially support the City's extra efforts. Mitchell said that she couldn't estimate the time that the project would take since NSCEDC does the bulk of the work. She said that she would be willing to work on this project again since she saw a major improvement throughout the grant process once McKenzie and Medley began its administration. Morgan said that tangible results can be seen from the various businesses that have received assistance through this program. Lucas said that he wasn't questioning the benefits of the program but that it is the Council's responsibility to protect the expenditure of staff time. Mitchell said that if Council agreed to support the program again she would track the time expended on the project this grant season. If it takes up more time than is anticipated it would be up to Council to determine if the City wanted to continue future sponsorship. Medley said that he felt that this was a good idea. He also said that this grant period they were prepared to take on the vast majority of the documentation. He said that the City is the official signatory and does have the responsibility to be sure that everything is done correctly. Medley said that he felt that the City's workload could be kept to a minimal level.

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO COUNCIL.

Morgan announced that if anyone would like to comment or address the Council, this was the time to do so.

Mark Orr asked if there was a website or somewhere where he could go to find out where these businesses are located. Medley advised that the work with their clients is completely confidential. Some clients are happy to share that GROW has worked with them and others prefer the confidentiality which we respect. Orr said that he thought that what they were doing was great.

BUSINESS.

3. Resolution# 437 – Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption. Morgan stated that the Plan had been pre-approved by FEMA so its adoption can be an action item.

5. Update on Storm Water Drainage Plan. Mitchell advised Council that Ukiah Engineering had not been timely in providing the draft copies of the Plan. City Council, Planning Commission and Staff need to have the opportunity to review the drafts. She distributed a draft copy (received today) to each Council member and requested that each of them review the draft, mark it up with any changes or comments they may have and return the marked up document to her by next Monday. The recommended changes and copies will be forwarded to Ukiah and they will be prepared to make a presentation of the final draft later this month.

6. Ballot Issue. Morgan referred Council to correspondence between the City and Steve Druckenmiller, the County Clerk. He said that an issue had been brought to the City's attention whereby at least one ballot failed to have everything on it that could be voted on. Morgan said that they had inquired with the elections office as to the extent of the error and found the Clerk's office to be quite hostile in their response. A letter was sent requesting their plan of resolution and what corrective action they planned to take. We have not yet received a response.

Additional Public Comments – Limited to Agenda & Discussion Items. Ron Adams said that he received a personal phone call from Linn County advising them that there had been a mistake on the ballot and that they planned to contact every voter to get the matter straightened out. Orr asked what the problem with the ballot was. Morgan explained that there were two types of ballots. One had the information allowing a vote for the two open positions on the Water District Board and one did not. He said that there was no way to know if voters within the Water District had the correct ballot which would allow them to vote on the two open Water District Board positions. Burroughs commented that two people in the City of Lyons who lived in the same household had received one of each type of ballot.

ACTION ITEMS.

Morgan commented that there were several action items to be taken. Santiam Youth Peer Group has conveyed their need for funding; the North Santiam Chamber of Commerce has presented their request for funding, and the NSCEDC has requested that the City partner with them in connection with a CDBG Grant. He went on to say that the City's budget for monetary contributions is a total of \$5,000 for the fiscal year 2011-2012. Mitchell made a recommendation that the City allocate no more than \$500 to each individual entity requesting a contribution. She said that by giving specific entities more, it would thwart the City's ability to donate to other worthy groups. Conner asked how much of the budgeted funds had been allocated already. Mitchell said that so far contributions (for fiscal year 2011-2012) of \$500 each have been allocated to Senior Meals on Wheels and NSCEDC and the City now has the requests from Peer Court and the Chamber of Commerce. She went on to state that the funds go very quickly; we normally have requests each year from Friends of the Family and the Mehama Ball Park as well as other worthy programs throughout the year.

Donohue made a motion to contribute \$500 to the Santiam Youth Peer Court. Burroughs seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carries.

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Conner made a motion to contribute \$500 to the North Santiam Chamber of Commerce. Lucas seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carries.

Lucas made a motion to enter into the partnership with NSCEDC for the CDBG Grant for one more year, provided that Council evaluates the time spent by City staff in connection with its administration. Conner seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carries.

Burroughs made a motion to adopt Resolution #437, A Resolution Adopting the City of Lyons' Inclusion in the Linn County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. Donohue seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carries.

There being no further business to come before Council the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Audrey McNerney
Assistant City Manager