

**FOREST GROVE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM  
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*Minutes are unofficial until approved by Council.  
Council approved minutes as presented January 11, 2010.*

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Peter Truax called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. **ROLL CALL: COUNCIL PRESENT:** Thomas BeLusko, Jr., Thomas Johnston, Victoria Lowe, Camille Miller, Ronald Thompson, and Mayor Peter Truax. **COUNCIL ABSENT:** Councilor Elena Uhing, excused. **STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Sykes, City Manager; Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director; Tom Gamble, Parks and Recreation Director; Jon Holan, Community Development Director; Janet Lonneker, Light and Power Director; Kerry Aleshire, Police Chief; Rob Foster, Public Works Director (present in the audience); and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

**1. A. POLICE DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

Chief Aleshire read the oaths of promotion to Mike Herb who was promoted to Police Sergeant and Matthew Smith who was promoted to Detective. In addition, Aleshire introduced Amy Erickson who was recently hired as a Police Records Specialist.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA: Items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be adopted with a single motion, without separate discussion. Council members who wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda may do so prior to the motion to approve the item(s). Any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed and acted upon following the approval of the Consent Agenda item(s).**

- A. Approve City Council Joint Work Session (City of Cornelius and Forest Grove School District Board of Directors) Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2009.
- B. Approve City Council Work Session (2009 Timber Harvest Update) Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2009.
- C. Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of November 23,

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2009.

- D. Accept Community Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2009.
- E. Accept Historic Landmarks Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2009.
- F. Accept Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2009.
- G. Endorse Temporary Liquor License Application (Limited-On Premises Sales) for St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 1660 Elm Street (Applicant: Alex Doyle).

**MOTION:** Councilor Johnston moved, seconded by Councilor Lowe, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **ABSENT:** Councilor Uhing.  
**MOTION CARRIED 6-0 by voice vote.**

4. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

Sykes added to the Council Meeting Agenda an Executive Session, which was held earlier at 6:30 p.m., in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(e) to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

5. **PRESENTATIONS:**

5. A. **Urban and Rural Reserves Update**

Holan reported the purpose of the above-noted presentation was to provide an update on the regional Urban and Rural Reserves efforts. Holan referenced a map titled "Bragdon/Hosticka Map", pointing out the proposed urban reserves for the David Hill area west of Forest Grove.

**Council Discussion:**

Mayor Truax opened the floor and roundtable discussion ensued as Council reviewed the map and the proposed areas for Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Hillsboro. In conclusion, Holan reported a series of public hearings will be held in January on the proposed Urban and Rural Reserves Plan and intergovernmental agreements will be drafted between the cities and Metro.

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6. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2009-71 ADOPTING NEW LIGHT AND POWER DEPARTMENT ELECTRIC RATES AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2007-65

Staff Report:

Lonneker and Downey presented the above-proposed resolution requesting to increase Light and Power electric rates by five percent (5%) for all customer classes, effective January 1, 2010, noting the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) increased its wholesale rate by seven percent (7%), effective October 1, 2009. Lonneker reported the City's proposed electric rate increase would help offset current operating expenses; however, the City would be absorbing some of the BPA rate increase through reserves. Lonneker noted the proposed electric rate increase would represent an additional \$3.30 per month for an average residential bill. In addition, Lonneker pointed out an amendment to Schedule 6, noting the Energy Charge should be set at \$5.46. In conclusion, Lonneker presented a chart outlining the regional utility rates, noting the City would remain among one of the lowest 50 percent in the region.

Before proceeding with the Public Hearing and Council discussion, Mayor Truax asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2009-71.

Sykes read Resolution No. 2009-71 by title.

MOTION: Councilor Johnston moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to approve Resolution No. 2009-71 Adopting New Light and Power Department Electric Rates, Effective January 1, 2010, as amended, and Repealing Resolution No. 2007-65.

Public Hearing Opened:

Mayor Truax opened the Public Hearing.

Proponents:

No one wished to testify and no written comments were received.

Opponents:

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No one wished to testify and no written comments were received.

**Others:**

No one wished to testify and no written comments were received.

**Public Hearing Closed:**

Mayor Truax closed the Public Hearing.

**Council Discussion:**

Mayor Truax and Councilmembers echoed staff's comments, noting the City's proposed electric rate increase was not for the purpose of generating revenue but was necessary to help offset some of BPA's rate increase.

In response to Johnston's concern pertaining to interval meter reading, Lonaker explained the fees are only assessed when a meter is read due to occupancy changes or new accounts are established. In response to Johnston's inquiry pertaining to the City's energy assistance program, Lonaker advised that funds are still available, noting the City increased the program's budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10.

In response to Lowe's inquiry pertaining to green power service, Lonaker explained that customers who voluntarily sign up for the program are billed at \$4.00 per 200KWh unit.

Hearing no further discussion from the Council, Mayor Truax asked for a roll call vote on the above motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** AYES: Councilors BeLusko, Jr., Johnston, Lowe, Miller, Thompson, and Mayor Truax. NOES: None. ABSENT: Councilor Uhing.  
MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**7. APPROVE B STREET TRAIL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Gamble presented the Plans and Specifications for the B Street Trail Project for Council approval, noting the project will cost approximately \$617,000 and will be funded by various funding sources. Gamble outlined the trail design,

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noting the design includes viewing/rest areas, bridge features, trailhead features, picnic areas, and parking stalls. In conclusion, Gamble commended the Parks and Recreation Commission and Trails Advisory Committee for assisting in the development of the trail system, noting construction is planned to begin as soon as possible with most work near Gales Creek to be completed in the spring of 2010.

**Council Discussion:**

In response to Johnston's concern pertaining to budgetary impacts, Gamble confirmed that no general funds would be allocated for the project.

In response to Thompson's inquiry pertaining to the Trail Master Plan, Gamble indicated there is approximately 12 miles of trail connecting the "Emerald Necklace" around the community.

Miller commended Gamble, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Trail Advisory Committee for successfully obtaining interagency agreements and grant funding for the project.

Hearing no further discussion from the Council, Mayor Truax asked for a motion and voice vote to approve the B Street Trail Plans and Specifications as presented.

**MOTION:** Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Lowe, to approve the B Street Trail Plans and Specifications as presented. **ABSENT:** Councilor Uhing. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0 by voice vote.**

**8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Sykes reported on upcoming events as noted in the Council calendar and reported on other various upcoming local meetings and events. Sykes distributed various handouts pertaining to the City's winter road operations; theft of utility payments; results of the SWOT analysis from the joint session with the City of Cornelius and Forest Grove School District; and a memorandum regarding the title transfer of Scoggins Dam. In addition, Sykes asked for Council feedback on whether staff should proceed with

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implementing a public rights-of-way (ROW) permit or if the permit should be incorporated into the business license application. BeLusko voiced support of incorporating the ROW permit as part of the business license application, noting the Code was not intended for revenue purposes. In addition, BeLusko stressed the importance of following through with code enforcement after the educational period ends. Johnston voiced support of incorporating the ROW permit as part of the business license application, noting the importance of requiring the applicant to identify the location and seek approval before placing item(s) in the ROW. Thompson voiced support of incorporating the ROW permit into the business license application, noting the importance of protecting the public's rights. In addition, Sykes reported on various ongoing projects and other City-related matters.

**9. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

BeLusko reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission and Public Arts Commission meetings. In addition, BeLusko reported he attended the League of Oregon Cities Ethics Training, noting he found the training to be very beneficial.

Johnston had nothing to report.

Lowe reported she was recently appointed to serve on the League of Oregon Cities Water and Wastewater Committee. In addition, Lowe reported the Fernhill Wetlands Council is seeking citizen/public participation.

Miller reported the Committee for Citizen Involvement is gearing up for the Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

Thompson reported the Forest Grove Senior and Community Center is seeking volunteers for its emergency food distribution, noting background checks are now required.

Mayor Truax reported on various local, regional, Metro, and Washington County meetings he attended and reported on various upcoming meetings and events he was planning to attend. In addition, Truax reported a Council Retreat has

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been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2010. In conclusion, Mayor Truax publicly recognized former Mayor Richard Kidd who was present in the audience.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Truax adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder