

**FOREST GROVE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
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*Minutes are unofficial until approved by Council.
Council approved minutes as presented January 12, 2009.*

1. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Richard Kidd called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. **ROLL CALL: COUNCIL PRESENT:** Victoria Lowe, Camille Miller, Thomas Johnston, Ronald Thompson, Peter Truax, Elena Uhing, and Mayor Richard Kidd. **STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Sykes, City Manager; Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director; Rob Foster, Public Work Director; and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Robert Griffin, Forest Grove, referenced a news article he submitted to the *NewsTimes* asking City leaders to do more to welcome visitors during sport and tournament events, such as Pacific University's swim meets. Griffin suggested inserting a welcome letter from the Mayor and Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce in sport programs advising visitors of places to eat, places to stay, and things to do while in Forest Grove in effort to generate revenue for businesses and to ensure teams and families feel welcome. In addition, Griffin suggested the *NewsTimes* do more to notify residents of the upcoming events and welcome the teams to the City.

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 (Charter Review Committee) Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2008.
- B. **ITEM REMOVED, REFER BELOW.**
- C. Approve City Council Work Session (B&C Interviews) of December 1, 2008.
- D. Accept Committee for Citizen Involvement Meeting Minutes of September 9, October 14, and November 18, 2008.
- E. **ITEM REMOVED, REFER BELOW.**
- F. Accept Historic Landmarks Board Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2008.

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- G. Accept Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2008.
- H. Accept Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2008.
- I. Accept Washington County Elections Division Abstract of Votes pertaining to the final results of the November 4, 2008, General Election.

MOTION: Councilor Lowe moved, seconded by Councilor Uhing, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED 7-0 by voice vote.

3. B. APPROVE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Thompson removed the above item from the Consent Agenda and referenced Page 7 of the minutes, noting the Transit Committee heard a presentation from TriMet and not Ride Connection, to which Ruggles indicated she would amend.

Hearing no further discussion from the Council, Mayor Kidd asked for a motion and vote to approve Consent Agenda Item 3. B. as amended.

MOTION: Councilor Lowe moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to approve Consent Agenda Item 3. B. as amended. MOTION CARRIED 7-0 by voice vote.

3. E. ACCEPT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 3, MAY 1, JUNE 5, JULY 10, AND AUGUST 7, 2008

Truax removed the above item from the Consent Agenda and referenced the minutes of May 1, 2008, noting the comments in the minutes pertaining to various crime issues cause him concern because most of the crimes associated with light rail occur in the Gresham area. In addition, Truax referenced the minutes of June 5, 2008, noting a typographical error, to which Ruggles indicated she would advise the staff liaison to make a correction.

Hearing no further discussion from the Council, Mayor Kidd asked for a motion and vote to approve Consent Agenda Item 3. E. as amended.

MOTION: Councilor Truax moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to

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approve Consent Agenda Item 3. E. as amended. MOTION CARRIED 7-0 by voice vote.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

5. A. Forest Grove Senior Center, Courtney Jaren, Director

Courtney Jaren, Forest Grove Senior Center Director, advised Council that the Board voted last month to change the name of the Forest Grove Senior Center to the Forest Grove Senior and Community Center, noting the Center is in the process of making changes to its sign and brochures. In addition, Jaren presented a brochure outlining the various programs, services, and activities offered at the Center, noting the facility is available to rent for special events.

5. B. 2008 Timber Harvest Report

Foster introduced Scott Ferguson, Watershed Management Forestry Consultant, who presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the 2008 timber harvest activities and accomplishments, noting the 2008 timber harvest decision to custom mill the logs and sell the lumber produced a net revenue of \$582,000. Ferguson referenced a flow chart showing the timber harvest results (volume, revenue, expenses, number of loads, etc.) and referenced a comparison chart showing the 2002 through 2008 harvests.

In response to Thompson's concern pertaining to the August harvest projections versus the volume that was harvested, Ferguson indicated the harvest resulted in a larger volume of quality poles than originally anticipated. Thompson suggested cruising the timber before harvesting in the future so that projections and revenues would be more accurate.

In response to Johnston's inquiry pertaining to the status of the unsold timber, Ferguson advised that 50,000' remain unsold at the mill, noting the mill is currently trying to find a buyer for the remaining timber. Johnston also suggested cruising the timber before harvesting in the future so that projections and revenues would be more accurate.

Lowe commended Ferguson for his expertise and for meeting the Watershed Management Plan goals.

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Uhing commended Ferguson for introducing Forest Grove to a new certified wood timber market.

Mayor Kidd and Truax concurred, noting even though this year's harvest was challenging, Ferguson met the City's goals.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2008-69 CALLING AN ELECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING A NEW HOME RULE CHARTER TO CITY VOTERS

Staff Report:

Sykes presented the above-proposed resolution for Council consideration, noting staff is requesting that Council accept the Charter Review Committee's final report and recommendation to place the proposed new Charter on the ballot for voters' consideration. Sykes reported the Committee recommended to Council to place the proposed new Charter on the March 10, 2009, ballot for voters' consideration; however, staff is proposing that Council consider placing the proposed new Charter on the May 19, 2009, ballot, because other Washington County jurisdictions are not proposing measures in March. Sykes noted if other jurisdictions have measures on the ballot, the election costs are divided among all the jurisdictions. Sykes explained that the estimated cost to place a measure on the March ballot is approximately \$2.50 per registered voter and the estimated cost for the May ballot will be approximately \$0.95 to \$1.50 per registered voter due to other proposed measures on the ballot (i.e., school board elections).

Before proceeding with the Public Hearing and Council discussion, Mayor Kidd asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2008-69

Sykes read Resolution No. 2008-69 by title.

MOTION: Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Johnston, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-69 Calling an Election within the City of Forest Grove to be held on May 19, 2009, for the purpose of submitting a New Home Rule Charter to City Voters.

Public Hearing Opened:

Mayor Kidd opened the Public Hearing.

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Proponents:

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

Opponents:

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 Kidd closed the Public Hearing.

Council Discussion:

Uhing referenced Page 9 of the proposed new Charter, noting Section 31 (b)(1) should read "Failure to qualify for the office within 10 days prior ~~of~~ to the time the term of office is to begin", to which Ruggles indicated she would amend.

Truax suggested having copies of the proposed new Charter available at the Library and the Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce for the public.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Councilors Lowe, Johnston, Miller, Thompson, Truax, Uhing, and Mayor Kidd. NOES: None. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Councilor Miller dismissed herself at 8:18 p.m.

7. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Downey presented the quarterly financial report ending September 30, 2008, noting this report is the first quarter of the City's fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Downey presented a report outlining the revenues and expenditures of each department in the General Fund and other funds. Downey indicated the slowdown in the economy has not yet directly affected the City's finances but that is beginning to change, noting interest rates are declining, building activity has a noticeable decline, and the rapid drop in the stock market could have a significant impact on the City's contribution rate to its defined benefit retirement

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plan. Downey noted the Building Permits Fund is using reserves to fund daily operations due to the significant drop in building activity. In addition, Downey addressed inquiries pertaining to assessed property values, retirement plans, bond rates, street maintenance, General Fund, building permits fund, system development charges, and equipment funds, noting staff will continue to monitor City's finances.

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 provided an outline of the tentative agenda for the upcoming Council Retreat, which is scheduled for January 10, 2009. In addition, Sykes announced the Boards, Committees, and Commissions Annual Recognition Reception is scheduled for January 15, 2009.

9. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Lowé thanked Council for supporting the Fernhill Wetlands aspirations.

Johnston reported he received many positive comments about the new street lighting and holiday parade.

Thompson reported on the Transit Committee meeting, noting the Committee reviewed its draft issue and mission statement and reviewed its Community Transit Service Questionnaire. In addition, Thompson advised that he is planning to ask the City Manager and/or Mayor for a letter of support for Ride Connection, noting Ride Connection is planning to submit for a Job Access Service Grant that would fund transportation for low-income job seekers/commuters in Forest Grove.

Truax reported on the Forest Grove Rural Fire Protection District meeting, noting the Board approved the David Hill/Thatcher Road easement. In addition, Truax reported on various upcoming meetings he was planning to attend.

Uhing reported on the Economic Development Commission meeting, noting the Commission finalized its mission statement. In addition, Uhing reported on the Historic Landmarks Board meeting, noting the Board discussed historic district eligibilities.

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Mayor Kidd reported on various Metro and Washington County meetings and tours he attended and upcoming meetings and events he was planning to attend. Mayor Kidd reported on various Washington County transportation issues, various regional and local issues, and various upcoming community events and activities. In addition, Mayor Kidd provided an update on the ethics reform proposed changes and fee-based revenues (i.e., street maintenance fees).

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Kidd adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder