

WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2009

1. Call to order by Mayor.

Mayor Harold H. Jones, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Harold H. Jones, Jr.
Meyler Gibbs
Gene Martin
Ryan Kern
Mike Uhlrich
Justin Cordry

Staff Present: Kurt Hassler, City Administrator
Denise Powell, City Clerk
Libby Baskerville-Hiltgen, City Attorney

3. Citizen Comments.

No comments were made by the public.

4. Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2009, as presented by Gibbs and seconded by Cordry.

Vote: Ayes: Justin Cordry
Meyler Gibbs
Ryan Kern
Gene Martin
Mike Uhlrich

5. Appropriations Ordinance 2009-11.

Motion to approve Appropriations Ordinance 2009-11 by Martin and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Justin Cordry
Meyler Gibbs
Ryan Kern
Gene Martin
Mike Uhlrich

6. Electric Distribution Study.

Discussed the plan for the electrical distribution system upgrades, possible substation construction, and electric rate changes. Also, discussed financing options, land acquisition and ways to reduce electric usage such as the elimination of mid block street lights.

7. Personnel Manual.

Motion to adopt the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policies and Procedures for DOT presented by staff by Martin and seconded by Cordry.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

8. Ordinance No. 734.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 734, adopting regulation, changes to Chapter 2, noting changes in 2-224, for animals and fowl, by Gibbs and seconded by Kern.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

9. Ordinance No. 735

Discussed an ordinance regulating propane tanks in the City.

10. Sidewalk Policy.

Reviewed the proposed Sidewalk Policy as presented by staff. Council requested the following changes: 1) the policy established to add new, repair or replace sidewalks; 2) delete the verbiage of first come; 3) add council will review applicants; 4) add when money is gone money is gone; 5) add language that there is no obligation to fund; 6) change language to say the city would pay up to 50% of the cost of installation. They would also like some budget numbers for the December meeting.

11. Facility Rental Policy.

Motion to adopt the Facility Rental Policy as presented by staff by Cordry and seconded by Martin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

12. Accident Investigation Policy.

Motion to adopt the Accident Investigation Policy as presented by staff by Kern and seconded by Gibbs.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

13. Land Restoration Policy.

Review the Land Restoration Policy as presented by staff. Council asked that verbiage be added to state the City will do what is financially feasible; if the city has to remove a fence, trees or shrubs they won't replace them and the City will give property owners notice if any have to be removed.

14. Radios.

Motion to approve the purchase of 9 VX-230 radios from Commenco for an amount not to exceed \$1,570.50 they can be sent back in they don't meet City's requirements by Cordry and seconded by Gibbs.

Check on price of batteries. Try to get them to send us one programmable radio to make sure they are what we need.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

15. Executive Session.

Motion to go into executive session for 25 minutes for non-elected personnel to include Mayor, Council and City Administrator at 9:42 p.m. by Gibbs and seconded by Martin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Gene Martin
		Ryan Kern
		Mike Uhlrich

Motion to return to regular session at 10:07 p.m. by Gibbs and seconded by Cordry.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

16. Reports.

A. Kurt Hassler:

- 1.) Ambulance – A copy of the letter discussed at the last meeting was signed by representatives of all County Ambulance Services and has been mailed to the County Commissioners according to Kurt Hassler, City Administrator.
- 2.) K-15/US 36 Update – Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in March, 2010.

- 3.) Zoning Code – Staff is working on a proposed Zoning Policy and hopes to have it ready for distribution in January.
- 4.) Backflow Preventers – City Employees Tom Zabokrtsky and Dennis Stigge recently attended classes for the backflow preventers. Staff is reviewing the existing code will present at a future meeting.
- 5.) Radio Read Meters – This item has been put on hold until staff has time to pursue it further.
- 6.) Heat for Quonset – Reviewed quote and discussed options for heating Quonset. Also, got quote from Washington Roofing to coat outside of Quonset at an amount of \$22,328 to coat roof. No action was taken.
- 7.) Christmas Gifts – Staff presented four options for staff Christmas gifts. Council agreed to order hooded sweatshirts for all city employees.
- 8.) Water Well Circuit – The water well circuit that runs from the northwest corner of the city to the wells is in poor shape and doesn't meet clearance codes. Staff is exploring options of whether to replace the line or purchase electricity. Hassler stated Bluestem Electric submitted a bid of \$8,000 to get power to the wells. To put in wireless telemetry would cost \$20,000 as bid by Mid America Consultants. Discussed providing electricity to Blue Valley Telecommunications and the Boston's well. Council asked if electricity was purchased from another company if the generators the city owns would provide the necessary backup needed when purchased power fails.
- 9.) Special/Adjourned Meeting – Discussed scheduling an adjourned meeting at Noon, Monday, December 28th to approve yearend expenditures. Also, discussed the regular Council Meeting scheduled for January 4.
- 10.) Surplus Items – Hassler informed the council he would be advertising for sale several surplus items the city has.
- 11.) EMT Contracts – Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Jody Ouellette to teach an EMT class by Martin and seconded by Cordry.

Vote: Ayes: Justin Cordry
Meyler Gibbs
Ryan Kern
Gene Martin
Mike Uhlrich

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the EMT contract with Debra Rieth, Amber Sterba and Melinda Parrack by Gibbs and seconded by Kern.

Vote: Ayes: Justin Cordry
Meyler Gibbs
Ryan Kern
Gene Martin
Mike Uhlrich

B. Gene Martin:

- 1.) Discussed job work orders, vehicles parked around town in violation of city code, and the future of old city hall. Also inquired about the steps at the water plant, which Hassler stated have been poured.

C. Justin Cordry:

- 1.) Commissioners Helms and Commissioner Otott took a letter regarding ambulance service expenses by Justin Cordry's house Nov. 2, 2009. They also visited with him concerning discrepancies between the ambulance evaluation and annual report and why Washington expenses are higher than other services in the County. Cordry did not have the letter but stated he would get it to Hassler so it could be shared with all Council Members.
- 2.) Cordry asked to have the spreadsheet on the fuel adjustment emailed to him for review. Hassler stated it is in an excel spreadsheet and would be easy to understand.
- 3.) Asked if follow up letters were mailed to electric meter customers after the Council voted on what the City would pay for and what the responsibility of the customer will be. Hassler stated he had not mailed the letters but had been in verbal communication with most parties and letters would go out soon.
- 4.) Cordry stated he also wanted letters sent to applicants not hired for the street department position.

D. Harold Jones, Jr.:

- 1.) Discussed the necessity of two employees in the water/wastewater department.

17. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Cordry and seconded by Martin.

Vote:	Ayes:	Justin Cordry
		Meyler Gibbs
		Ryan Kern
		Gene Martin
		Mike Uhlrich

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Denise M. Powell, City Clerk