

ORTING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2009

Mayor Cheryl Temple called the meeting to order with the flag salute at 7:00 pm in the Orting Public Safety Building. Roll call found in attendance Councilmembers Scott Drennen, George Wilson, Dick Ford, Guy S. Colorossi, Joachim Pestinger and David Inge. Councilmember Pestinger moved to excuse Councilmember Nicola McDonald. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried.

ATTENDANCE:

City Employees City Administrator Mark Bethune, Finance Director/City Clerk Susan Davis, Administrative Assistant Roxanne Pollard.

Professional
Representatives City Attorney Chris Bacha, Parametrix Engineer Dave Roberts.

Visitors Doug Schwarz, Shawn Mahoney, Barbara Hansen, Neil R. Guptill, Ryan Pickering, Steve Goodwin, Arthur Vasquez, Rhonda Madison, Peggy Loftus, Margaret O'Harra.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of March 11, 2009.
- B. Approval of Claims Warrants No.13040 through No. 14095 in the amount of \$60,969.71 and Payroll Warrants No. 18053 through No. 18096 in the amount of \$79,905.23.

Councilmember Colorossi moved to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared. Councilmember Inge seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Ford asked for clarification on an expenditure to calibrate nine radar guns. He asked staff to provide information regarding how many radar guns the City owns and how often then need to be calibrated. City Administrator Bethune commented that the guns has been acquired from an area department that was surplusng them. He would send the Council more information on the expenditure after conferring with the Police Chief.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Fire Annexation
Agreement

Councilmember Wilson informed the Council that per the interlocal agreement with Fire District 18 the City is starting to explore annexation into the Fire District for fire services. In order to move forward with annexation this year the City and the District will need to act quickly to put the proposal before the Pierce County Boundary Review Board soon.

City Administrator Bethune reported that it will be challenging to get the annexation to pass this year.

The City's property tax is automatically reduced to \$1.60 per thousand from the current \$2.05. The City's .50 EMS levy goes away. If FD 18 were to be successful with a new .50 EMS levy and renewed their fire levy to 1.50 The citizens would experience an increase in overall property taxes of approximately \$262 a year (based on \$250,000 assessed valuation). For the City to break even it could lower its rate to 1.00/1000 and the citizens would still face an increase of approximately \$115/year (based on \$250,000 assessed valuation). For the Citizens to break even on property taxes overall, the City would have to reduce its rate to .55/1000 and would suffer a reduction of approximately \$266,000 a year in property taxes. The presidential election of 2008 set a high voter turnout. For annexation to be successful there would have to be a voter turnout in Orting and the District of about 60%. Annexation only requires a simple majority by both jurisdictions to pass.

Mayor Temple stated that she is in favor of waiting until 2010 to pursue annexation.

Mayor Temple opened the public hearing at 7:23 pm.

Doug Schwarz, of 14817 145th Street East, commented that the City and the District need to be very aggressive when it comes to educating voters about the need for an annexation.

Barbara Hansen, of 506 Grinnell Avenue Southwest, asked if the City will use the Skinner and Anti-recession funds to fund fire services if an annexation does not pass.

The City will not use these funds to pay for fire protection services.

Fire Chief Randy Shelton reported that the district is very concerned about the high voter turnout that would be required to validate an election this year. He is also concerned that the annexation may pass but an Emergency Medical Services levy would fail. He also reported that collections of transport fees are down this year. The District only collects what insurance will pay for an ambulance transport it does not bill residents.

Barbara Hansen asked if the Counties recent discussions about updating their comprehensive plan will affect the annexation into the fire district. Will Orting pursue an Urban Growth area.

Hearing no further comment the Mayor Temple closed the hearing at 7:35 pm.

Councilmember Inge moved to begin the process to prepare to bring the annexation to the Boundary Review Board. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Wilson commented that he is concerned that many citizens do not understand the true of providing full EMS service.

Councilmember Pestinger moved to delay pursuit of annexation with Pierce County Fire District 18. Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried. Councilmember Wilson voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Annexation Agreement

Councilmember Inge moved to begin the process to prepare to bring the annexation to the Boundary Review Board. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried.

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Councilmember Pestinger moved to delay pursuit of annexation with Pierce County Fire District 18. Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried. Councilmember Wilson voted against the motion.

Shoreline Master Program Adoption

Councilmember Colorossi moved to consider the Ordinance for adoption of the Shoreline Master Program a first reading. Councilmember Inge seconded the motion and it carried.

COMMITTEE & STANDING REPORTS

Parks Councilmember Ford reported that the fountain wall is being constructed. The kitchen and bathroom in the North Park Building will be complete in time for the Daffodil Parade. Park rules signs will be going up soon. Gratzner Park field will be put out for bid soon. He also reported some upcoming dates:

- April 4 – Daffodil Parade
- April 19 – Daffodil Classic Bicycle Ride
- May 5 – May Classic Bicycle Race
- June 20 – Kingsmen Poker Run and Car Show
- July 11 – Saturday Market Opens
- July 18 – Big O Motorcycle Poker Run
- October 10 & 11 – Pumpkin Festival

Finance Councilmember Colorossi took a moment to thank Susan Davis and Freda Bingham for all their hard work tracking the City's finances.

Community Development Councilmember Inge reported that committee is starting to explore ways to promote usage of Orting Buildings like the Multi-Purpose Center and North Park Building.

The Chamber of Commerce has decided not to have Festival in the Park this August. This leaves room for another festival or event to happen in August.

At a future meeting the Council will be presented with a discussion of public private partnerships.

Public Safety Councilmember Wilson reported that Nicole Lay and Steven VanZanten will graduate from the Reserve Police Officer Academy and begin serving as reserve officers for the Orting Police Department.

There has been an increase in the number of car prowls and break-ins recently. The Police Department urges you to lock your homes and vehicles.

Transportation Councilmember Pestinger commended City Administrator Bethune for all the work he put into securing federal stimulus funding for the State Route 162 Rechannelization project.

Bridge for Kids Councilmember Drennen reported that the next meeting will be April 15.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Inge moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.
Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried.

ATTEST:

Finance Director/City Clerk Susan J. Davis

Mayor Cheryl M. Temple