

City of Mt. Angel
City Council Meeting Minutes

CITY COUNCIL

August 9, 2016

6:15 P.M.

The Mt. Angel City Council met in a special session at the Mt. Angel Fire District, 300 Monroe Street, Mt. Angel, Oregon.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular session of the City Council was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Mayor Otte.
2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor Otte led the salute to the flag.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

COUNCIL

Andrew Otte, Mayor
Kelly Grassman, Council President
Darren Beyer, Councilor
Karl Bischoff, Councilor
Pete Wall, Councilor
Ray Eder, Councilor

STAFF

Mike Healy, Interim City Manager/Chief of Police
Justin Hogue, Assistant to the City Manager

ABSENT

Don Fleck, Councilor

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. **Authorization of Interim City Manager to appoint or remove employees
City of Mt. Angel Charter of 2014, Chapter IX, § 35(8)**

Assistant to the City Manager, Justin Hogue, provided the Council with a document, submitted as part of the official record, with information regarding Unfinished Business Item 4a. Authorization of Interim City Manager to appoint or remove employees, City of Mt. Angel Charter of 2014, Chapter IX, § 35(8).

Interim City Manager Mike Healy stated that Public Works would like to hire Alan Dahlberg for the new Public Works Utility Worker I position. Interim City Manager Healy spoke highly of Mr. Dahlberg's work ethic and skills and prior work history with the City. He stated that Mr. Dahlberg was interviewed and that standard procedure was followed when selecting him to fill the position. There was discussion on his certifications and current job. Councilor Bischoff stated that it is a testament to Mt. Angel for Mr. Dahlberg to want to rejoin the City's workforce.

Councilor Beyer moved that the Council approve the Interim City Manager's personnel decisions regarding an ongoing disciplinary matter, as well as the hiring of one employee in the Public Works department; Councilor Bischoff seconded.

Beyer:	AYE	Otte:	AYE
Bischoff:	AYE	Grassman:	AYE
Eder:	AYE	Wall:	AYE
Fleck:	ABSENT		

The motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

None

6. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Otte reported that he received a letter, which he submitted for the official record, regarding the increase in utility rates. He spoke of the streetlight fee appearing on bills for outside city utility customers. There was discussion on the unique situation of the subject lot referenced in the letter in regards to its location, which is mostly out of and partially within city limits. Interim City Manager Healy explained that the home that sits on the lot is located outside of city limits and that he made the determination that the utility customer was correctly charged out-of-city rates.

Mayor Otte spoke of the drainage ditch, stormline, and easement located on the property. Councilor Grassman read a portion of the letter that spoke about a streetlight not existing in front of the property, maintenance of the exist drainage ditch, a city easement, and taxes paid to the city on a portion of the property. She then stated, that according to the letter, the utility customer's base rate rose from \$52.64 to \$93.00. There was discussion on the uniqueness of the property. Councilor Wall asked if there was a desire to annex into the city. Mayor Otte replied there was not. Councilor Grassman commented that the owner of the lot does not wish to annex into the city and views the fees as a way to compel them to annex. Councilor Bischoff asked if the lot received city water and sewer services. Mayor Otte and Councilor Grassman replied that the lot receives both services. Councilor Eder clarified that the primary complaint is the streetlight fee. Mayor Otte replied that he believes the owners understand the necessity for the increase in water and sewer rates, but take issue with the streetlight and stormwater fees. There was discussion on the location of streetlights and the city sharing the cost for providing that service.

Councilor Wall spoke of his prior experience as City Manager of Toledo, during which time, Toledo became the first city to implement a streetlight fee. He explained that people utilize streetlights when driving on city streets and you are paying for that service to provide public safety for the community.

Mayor Otte commented that he personally knows the owners of the lot and that they spoke well of how Utility Billing Clerk Kay Wiesner addressed their complaint concerning the new fees and he complemented Utility Billing Clerk Wiesner on how she handled the situation.

Councilor Wall stated he can understand the frustration with the streetlight fee, but not the water and sewer rate increases. Mayor Otte spoke of prior work performed in vicinity of the lot referenced in the

letter and the complications that arose between the City and Marion County when addressing stormwater, specifically the location of a catch basin, to improve Ebner Park.

There was discussion on making an exception on the streetlight fee. Councilor Grassman requested a breakdown of the utility bill for the subject lot. There was further discussion on making an exception on the streetlight fee. Councilor Eder wanted to confirm how much would be saved by the utility customer per month if an exception was provided on the streetlight and stormwater fees. Interim City Manager Healy asked what the desire of the Council was. There was discussion on the fees and base rate increases.

Interim City Manager Healy explained that out-of-city utility rates were not implemented in the past, but began to be implemented the same month as the new city wide rate increases and fees. Mayor Otte asked if anyone paid the outside city utility rates in past as the rate had been in effect for many years prior. Councilor Grassman replied that no one had been paying the outside city rate. Interim City Manager Healy stated that the previous City Manager had made the decision to implement all increases July 1, 2016 and so August 1st was the first bill that reflected the increases.

Councilor Grassman asked if there had been any complaints regarding rate and fee increases from outside city utility customers living on Academy Street. Interim City Manager Healy replied that none had been brought to his attention. Councilor Eder asked that information be provided on the number of outside city utility customers and how much it would cost the city to provide an except on streetlight and stormwater fees for such customers. There was discussion on how much it would cost the city monthly.

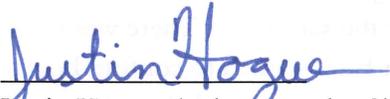
Mayor Otte stated that the largest issue for the lot referenced in the letter is the easement on their property for stormwater and the point they are making is that they have already provided for the City stormwater system by giving up rights to that portion of their property. Mayor Otte stated he would respond to the owners of the subject lot. There was discussion on when to review the situation and requested information. There was consensus that it would be reviewed at the next regular Council meeting.

Mayor Otte stated he spoke with Jennie Messmer, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments Director, concerning the City Manager recruitment. He spoke of procedure options for the recruitment of a new City Manager. There was consensus by the Council for Mayor Otte to meet with Director Messmer to review the City Manager candidates and select finalists for interviews. Councilor Wall spoke of an issue he discovered with one of the candidates that would be problematic. Mayor Otte asked about scheduling interviews. The Council discussed availability for the purpose of scheduling interviews with City Manager candidates.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Otte adjourned the meeting at 6:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Justin Hogue, Assistant to the City Manager

Attested by:


Andrew Otte, Mayor