

City of Lafayette

Joint City Council/New Carlton Fire District Meeting

FEBRUARY 9, 2012—6:30 p.m. held at the
Lafayette City Council Chambers at 486 Third Street, Lafayette, Oregon

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heisler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 9, 2012.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Heisler led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Assistant to the City Administrator Maben conducted the roll call of the Council and the New Carlton Fire District Board Members:

Mayor Heisler, present; Councilor Pagella, present; Councilor Harper, present; Councilor Joy, present; Councilor Smith, present; Councilor Sproul present.

Board Member Allen Sitton, present; Board Member Larry Pekkola, Jr., present; Board Member Ron Sticka, present; Board Member Scott Bernards, absent; Board Member Ken Wright, absent.

City Staff Present: City Administrator Polasek, present; Asst. to the City Administrator Maben, present.

Audience Attendance: Mary Heisler; Don Gonzalez; Dave Morgan.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

SHOULD FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NEW CARLTON FIRE DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE BE MERGED INTO A SINGLE DISTRICT?

Fire Chief Terry Lucich gave a background on Lafayette and New Carlton Fire District, explaining that it is time to look into the future, join services and obtain a full time Fire Chief and provide even better service to the public.

City Administrator Polasek, using the fire district map on the wall, pointed out the various surrounding districts, including Lafayette. He explained “where we’ve been, where we are going and how we get there.” He shared information from an old 1980 budget, which showed the fire department budget when Lafayette had fewer than 1,000 in population. He advised that twenty-two years later the department still has no employees. He also explained that during the budget process last year, it was evident that Lafayette is lacking sustainable funding for fire and emergency services. He felt that an annexation or merger is the approach in the right direction and read aloud the Lafayette

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vision statement about “planning for the future”. He also advised that options are limited, but asked the Council to consider a proposed merger between the districts. He explained that combining the resources of both districts would allow a new district through an economy of scale to provide enhanced services that neither jurisdiction can achieve alone.

Carlton Fire Board Member Larry Pekkola, Jr. explained how the New Carlton Fire District came to be a rural department, branching away from being a city department.

City Administrator Polasek advised that Lafayette has the 2nd lowest regional tax rate, and that Lafayette has no tax base for services other than the General Fund. He also explained that increasing water/sewer rates can not fund adequate services and that services must be sustainable. He also provided comparative data, which showed how funding could be generated and provided plans of a proposed building that was prepared by a consultant. The plans, showed 2 scenarios, one with a ½ acre lot and one with a 1 acre lot; he explained that the Veterans Park area would provide adequate room for a building if additional land was purchased.

There were deliberations on the need, coverage, financing, hiring of ESCI as a consultant, and whether a merger would benefit the City of Lafayette.

Don Gonzalez, fire volunteer, explained that if the proposed fire district was attractive, it would entice more volunteers, which would provide better services in the future. He advised that a nice department and good equipment attracts volunteers.

The Council directed staff to invite the Dayton Fire District to participate, draft a proposal for a consultant and bring back to the Council for deliberation.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING

Board Member Ron Sticka moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Allen Sitton seconded. Motion carried (3-0) (Allen Sitton, aye; Larry Pekkola, Jr., aye; Ron Sticka, aye.

NCFD Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION per ORS 192.660(2)(i) REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE JOB PERFORMANCE OF A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mayor Heisler read the Executive Session announcement.

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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The Council exited Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

ENTER REGULAR SESSION

The Council entered into regular session at 9:42 p.m. Councilor Smith left at 9:41 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

City Administrator Polasek explained that it will cost more to GSI to facilitate our water permit extensions and to finish the Water Conservation Plan. He also advised that the City was notified by PERS to expect an approximate 5% increase in the employer portion of PERS payments, and that this will be calculated in the upcoming budget. He further stated that the city's auditors will be in attendance at the March meeting and that the Scouts will also be attending that meeting. In addition he explained that the City has an opportunity to purchase a used "box van," which has only 38,000 miles on it for \$9,000 and that it was inspected today. He reminded the Council that during the budget process \$12,000 was budgeted for this purchase, and the price is under budgeted amount. In addition, he explained that he would like to get started on the improvements to the Community Center and add more electrical services and replace the appliances. There was Council deliberation, with the consensus to make more improvements, but to have Mayor Heisler, Councilor Joy and Administrator Polasek do a walk through together to decide which areas should be improved and remodeled.

CULVERT ISSUE ON 7TH STREET EXTENSION

City Administrator Polasek advised of a ditch at a citizen's house that has an issue with the culvert and that he had met with the owners and explained to them that right-of-way's must to be built to city standards. The City Engineer will look at the issue, possibly in March, and see if there are any options and what the costs would be.

FARMING PRACTICES CREATING EROSION INTO THE NE PORTION OF THE CITY

City Administrator Polasek advised that farming practices have been creating an erosion problem with debris entering into the city's storm drains. The Department of Agriculture has been involved and sent an enforcement letter to the property owner.

The Council asked that no lots be allowed to be improved until this problem is resolved.

CITY LOGO

Mayor Heisler asked that the Council consider obtaining a new city logo.

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Councilor Sproul expressed concern on what the costs would be to remove the old logo on vehicles, signs, etc., and to replace with the new logo.

Councilor Harper advised she would like the logo to be professional and felt it was a good way to define the city.

Councilor Pagella suggested to make a community contest and obtain citizen input.

Mayor Heisler felt that several local resources could be checked out before going to a professional designer.

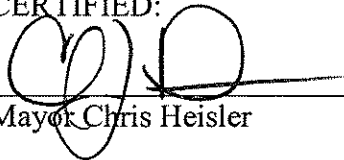
There was consensus to move forward and have staff prepare an option.

ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilor Pagella moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Harper seconded. Motion carried (4-0) (Councilor Pagella, aye; Councilor Harper, aye; Councilor Sproul, aye; Councilor Joy, aye).

Council meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

CERTIFIED:



Mayor Chris Heisler

ATTESTED:



Asst. to City Administrator Melanie Maben