

City of Lafayette
City Council Meeting
Special Meeting of the Council
November 5, 2013—6:30 p.m. held at the
Lafayette City Council Chambers at 486 Third Street, Lafayette, Oregon

NOTE: The order of agenda items are listed as they appear on the official agenda.

INVOCATION

None.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heisler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 5, 2013.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Heisler led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Asst. to the City Administrator Maben conducted the roll call of the Council:

Mayor Heisler, present; Councilor Cook, absent (excused); Councilor Pagella, present; Councilor Harper, present; Councilor Joy, present; Councilor Smith, present; Councilor Sproul present.

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

REPORT FROM YAMHILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

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VIDEO PRESENTATION

A video of the Lafayette Fire Department in action was created and presented by Asst. to the City Administrator Melanie Maben. It was well received and appreciated by the Council.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MERGER OF FIRE SERVICES WITH THE NEW CARLTON FIRE DISTRICT

Mayor Heisler opened the topic for discussion.

City Administrator Polasek that the packet contained information during the past year that the City has received on the potential merger of Fire Departments. In addition, he explained that the most important financial consideration for future Lafayette services is to establish sustainable funding for our Fire Department. He explained that an annexation would provide enhanced services and a more equitable means of public financing.

Mayor Heisler advised the City could go for a District within the City only; which would create sustainable funding for the Fire Department. He expressed concern merging with the New Carlton Fire District. In addition, he said that a “need” has not yet been established. He stated that he may be in favor of tax funding if needed. Also, he would ask that the City Administrator provide information on a location, costs, bonding, etc. He did not see that joining with Carlton would be beneficial and stated that Lafayette could have its own District. However, he felt that having a vote on a levy every five years was not worth considering.

Councilor Harper felt that the Council needs to survey the equipment needs in the Fire Department, and at this time he was not in favor of merging with Carlton.

City Administrator Polasek explained financing for operations and capital and advised there are two ways to seek funding, or go with bonds as a capital bond measure; he explained that Fire Department funds currently come from the City’s general fund. In addition, he explained that the voters would want to see a tangible asset such as a fire station; several items can be placed on the ballot. He explained he could work up 3-4 options for the Council’s review and consideration.

Councilor Pagella stated that Lafayette Fire Department will do well in either scenario; the Council can decide on the fire station layout and where to place it.

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Fire Chief Lucich explained that the Carlton building was falling down and in worse shape than the Lafayette building. He explained that they decided to become a District as it was equitable among the City of Carlton residents and the citizens in the surrounding area. As a District, the tax would be 75 cents compared to \$1.50 if it were just city residents paying the tax.

Councilor Sproul asked Chief Lucich if the City of Lafayette created its own District, would we have to get a full-time Chief, more volunteers and additional equipment; or would it remain the same.

Councilor Pagella advised that if it changed, they would have a Board, the Council would not be involved.

City Administrator Polasek explained that the Board would be responsible to fund future items.

Councilor Harper felt that a District may offer sustainable funding, but that if it is a bad plan, then he said we should stop now. He would like to see goals before making any decisions and until there are definite goals a decision cannot be made. He noted that we don't need a solution until we know what the problem is.

Councilor Smith asked why others oppose the merger, he explained that it would broaden the tax base, allow a better opportunity to obtain grants, as well as other things.

Councilor Joy explained that if a new Fire Department is built with sleeping quarters, and we merge with Carlton that we will gain more volunteers.

Councilor Smith stated that the Council agrees that there is a need for a new Fire Station, equipment and personnel; the question is how we get there.

There was additional Council deliberation, resulting in Council direction to the City Administrator to create an apples-to-apples comparison with the tax base. Two options were asked for: 1) a City District and, 2) City annexation into the NCFD.

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ACTION ITEMS

None.

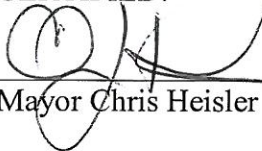
COUNCILOR'S REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Joy seconded. Motion carried (5-0). (Councilor Harper, aye; Councilor Joy, aye; Councilor Pagella, aye; Councilor Smith, aye; Councilor Sproul, aye)


Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

CERTIFIED:



Mayor Chris Heisler

ATTESTED:



Asst. to City Administrator
Melanie Maben