

Morrow County Court
July 13, 2016
Irrigon, Oregon
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Richard Tovey, County Counsel/Deputy District Attorney
Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Assistant
Melissa Lindsay, Judge-Elect
Jim Doherty, Commissioner-Elect

Audience

Barb Huwe, Irrigon

Call to Order: 8:58 a.m., followed by pledge of allegiance

City and Citizen Comments

Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon City Manager

- Mr. Palmquist previously informed the Court of a project to install sidewalks that fall within ODOT's (Oregon Department of Transportation) right-of-way. That process is taking longer than anticipated, he said.
- The Irrigon City Council will soon be considering a way to use Community Enhancement Funds from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) II Board. The program being considered would offer \$1,000 to owners of nuisance properties to help clean up their property. He said \$50,000 of the \$140,000 received from CREZ II is being earmarked to enhance properties within the Irrigon zip code area.
- The Irrigon Watermelon Festival will take place Saturday, July 30th at the Irrigon Marina Park.

Open Agenda

Mr. Sorte asked that a Human Resources item, a Morrow County Fair Contract, and the Bombing Range Road Overlay Project Contract be added to the agenda.

Old Business

Order Number OR-2016-6 – Order Abolishing the Office of County Judge and Establishing a Board of County Commissioners, Effective January 9, 2017

Judge Tallman stated he objected from the onset to eliminating the Judge position. He said he believed juvenile cases would be better handled at the local level rather than by the State Circuit Court.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve “In the Matter of Abolishing the Office of County Judge and Establishing a Board of County Commissioners,” Order No. OR-2016-6. Commissioner Rea seconded. Aye: Commissioners Rea and Russell. Nay: Judge Tallman. Motion carried.

Resolution Number R-2016-14 – Providing a Tax Exemption for the Homesteads of Surviving Spouses of Certain Public Safety Officers

Commissioner Rea moved to approve “In the Matter of Providing a Tax Exemption for the Homesteads of Surviving Spouses of Certain Public Safety Officers,” Resolution No. R-2016-14. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution Number R-2016-15 – Cooperative County and City Weed Policy

Mr. Sorte said this Resolution outlines what noxious weed abatement services the County can offer to the five communities. The Resolution specifies the services of the County’s Weed Coordinator/Inspector will be on an as-available basis and billed at current overhead/rental rates established by the County.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve “In the Matter of Acknowledging Morrow County’s Policy for Providing Noxious Weed Abatement Services to Cities Located within Morrow County,” Resolution No. R-2016-15. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Resolution Number R-2016-16 – Amending Morrow County’s Credit Card Policy

Mr. Sorte said this is a “housekeeping” measure that memorializes the changes approved by the County Court on March 2nd.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve “In the Matter of Amending Morrow County’s Credit Card Policy,” Resolution No. R-2016-16. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

First Reading, Ordinance Number ORD-2016-5 – Zoning Ordinance Update, Article 7, Dimensional Adjustments, Variances, Special or Temporary Use Permits and Non-Conforming Uses

Carla McLane, Planning Department Director

Hank Pieper, GIS Planning Tech

The First Reading by title was provided:

“An Ordinance Amending the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance, Updating Article 7 and Other Provisions Relating to Dimensional Adjustments, Variances, Special or Temporary Uses, and Non-Conforming Uses.”

She said the Second Reading and Final Adoption are scheduled for July 20th. She reminded the Court they agreed to exercise the emergency clause to forego the usual 90 day timeframe since the wait could impact a developer's plans.

Contract Signing - Bombing Range Road Overlay Project

Sandi Putman, Public Works Management Assistant

Ms. Putman said the project is scheduled to begin on July 25th and will take two to three weeks.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve signing the contract between the Morrow County Public Works Department and Granite Construction Company, Hermiston, for the Bombing Range Road Overlay. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Pacific Ethanol Energy Site Certificate Amendment

Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the letter to the Oregon Department of Energy designating the Morrow County Planning Director as the contact for the Energy Facility Siting Council review of the Pacific Ethanol Project. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Delegating Right-of-Way Permit Review to the Public Works Director

Mr. Sorte explained he initially thought delegating the authority to the Public Works Director could be done through Resolution. However, he said he learned a Morrow County Code Ordinance from 1967 required permits be approved by the County Court. If the Court wishes to delegate the authority, it should also be addressed through Ordinance, he recommended. The Court directed Mr. Sorte to move forward as recommended.

Appointment Request to the North Morrow Vector Control District Board

Greg Barron, Manager, North Morrow Vector Control District

Mr. Barron provided an update of activities and general overview of the Vector Control District prior to his board appointment request.

Commissioner Rea moved to reappoint Kevin Gilbertson to the North Morrow Vector Control District Board, term to be August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2020. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission License Renewals

Mr. Sorte said the County received Renewal Notifications for Love's Travel Stop #650 and Willow Run Golf Course. When asked for input, the Sheriff's Office responded there were no issues with either establishment. Mr. Sorte explained by taking no action, the licenses automatically renew. The Court agreed to take no action, thereby, authorizing the renewals.

Law Enforcement Services Intergovernmental Agreement – Sheriff's Office and City of Heppner

Commissioner Russell moved to approve signing the Intergovernmental Agreement for Sheriff's Services with the City of Heppner, dated July 1, 2016. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Bartholomew Building Conference Room Usage Request

Mr. Sorte said policy for usage of the conference rooms in the Bartholomew Building has not yet been established but a request has been received. He said CAPECO (Community Action Program of East Central Oregon) would like to use the lower conference room on the first Thursday of each month, July-October. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

Morrow County Fair Contract

Commissioner Rea moved to approve Judge Tallman signing on behalf of the County all Morrow County Fair Contracts that encompass the operational needs related to Fair activities, such as Personal and Professional Services Agreements, Exhibit Space Agreements, Entertainment Contracts, and Concession Agreements. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Purchasing Request

Mr. Sorte explained the request is to pay for the installation of a metal roof over the handicapped seating area of the arena. He said the committee attempted to obtain three bids, but one company declined. Gentry Homes Construction is the low bid of the two received.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve awarding the bid for the installation of a cover over the handicapped seating section of the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena to Gentry Homes Construction, in the amount of \$14,298 and authorize Judge Tallman to sign on behalf of the County. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Human Resources – Request to Advertise and Fill Vacancy in Assessor's Office

Mr. Sorte said the Data Analyst position was accepted by a current employee in that office. This means there is now a vacancy for either an Appraiser Trainee, or Appraiser I or II.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the request from the Assessor's Office to advertise and fill a vacant Appraiser Trainee or Appraiser I or II position. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Department Reports

Assessment & Taxation

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

Mr. Gorman reviewed two reports - "Summary of Property Tax Collections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016" and "Tax Account Delinquency List."

County Counsel Report

Mr. Tovey listed projects taken up by the Office of County Counsel in recent weeks.

Administrative Officer Report

Mr. Sorte said he continues to work on policy development and ordinance updates.

Claims

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the July 2016 Retirement Taxes dated July 11th; Void Check dated July 11th; and Accounts Payable dated July 14th, in the amount of \$247,654.38. Commissioner Rea seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the minutes of July 6th, as presented. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of July 6th, with correction. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Two letters regarding the West of Bombing Range Road Route preference for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project listing Morrow County among the signers – one to the Congressional Delegations of Oregon and Idaho; and another to Ray Mabus, Secretary of the U.S. Navy.
- Notice to Adjoining Landowners and Interested Parties from the Planning Department regarding a Planning Commission Public Hearing on July 26th for a Land Partition and Replat, Kyle Robinson, applicant.
- Irrigon Chamber of Commerce upcoming activities flyers.
- Judge Tallman reviewed hardcopies of a PowerPoint presentation on the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Quality Measure Performance Update.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Rea said she attended a Columbia Development Authority meeting where three leases from solar companies were approved.

Department Reports, continued

Planning Department

Ms. McLane

Mr. Pieper

- Ms. McLane reviewed the agenda for the Land Conservation and Development Commission meetings, July 21-22 at the Port of Morrow.
- Ms. McLane discussed a fee waiver request from the Rodeo Committee regarding the previously discussed structure over the handicapped seating area at the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena. She said two Land Use Applications are associated with the project – a \$100 Zoning Permit and a \$250 Flood Plain Development Permit Application. After Commissioner Rea noted the bid from Gentry Homes Construction stated “Permits and drawings are included in the price,” the Court decided against the fee waiver request.

Commissioner Rea moved to authorize Judge Tallman signing the Land Use Application Zoning Permit and Flood Plain Development Permit Application for the construction of the cover over the handicapped seating area at the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rea moved to delegate authority to Judge Tallman to sign the contract with Gentry Homes Construction for the construction of a cover over the handicapped seating area at the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena, following a review by County Counsel. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

- Ms. McLane and Mr. Pieper discussed the goal of purchasing a GIS plotter for the Planning Department from the Building Permit Fund. They discussed the multiple benefits to Planning, other departments, members of the public and other entities (subject to fees, outside the Planning Department). The purchase will require a bid process, said Ms. McLane.

Citizen Comments, continued

Barb Huwe, Irrigon

- Ms. Huwe discussed upcoming events in Irrigon and invited all to attend.

11:51 a.m. – Executive Session

ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

12:09 p.m. – Closed Executive Session – No decisions

Adjourned: 12:11 p.m.