

CITY OF CRAIG
COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY August 1, 2013

ROLL CALL

Mayor Dennis Watson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the roll was taken. Present were, Jim See, Greg Head, and Wanda Rice. Absent excused were and Joni Kuntz and Mike Douville.

Staff present: Amy Marshall, Librarian; Kassi Knock, City Clerk; Ron Macintosh, Public Works Director; Joyce Mason, Treasurer; Brian Templin, City Planner; Nicole Robison, Aquatic Manager; Daniel Nelson, Harbormaster; R.J. Ely, Police Chief; Chaundell Piburn, EMS Coordinator; Frank Lazo, Harbor.

Audience present: Kim Patotzka; Jan Storbakken; Beth Parsons; Carolyn Chapman; Faith Lazo; Pete Rice; Taylor Robison.

Mayor Watson and Council Members observed a moment of silence for Ed Head, Karen Howard, and Vicki Sleseman.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was presented, it contained:

- City Council Minutes of July 11, 2013

HEAD/DOUVILLE

moved to approve the consent agenda as written.
MOTION CARRIED

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

James Carle asked about the mandatory meter installation for the trailer park and what type of meter someone without a meter would get. Jon explained the trailer parks are already metered, and the residential meters to be installed should be the same at all households.

Carolyn Chapman wanted to speak on the sewer billing process. The water rates should be billed by what each person uses. The sewer billing is difficult to figure out, which is a base rate of 28.00/unit of the physical structure, and hotels and B&B's aren't. Carolyn is in favor of raising the rates, but thinks it should be billed by what is used to be fair. Jon explained that the water is not per unit, but sewer is. There is quite a bit more debt in the wastewater department than in the water department. The rates are structured as they are to help pay off some of the debt in the departments. Joyce has done the calculations to just charge for what is exactly used without the base rate, and it would bring the charges up to 5 or 6 times what they are currently.

Kim Patotska- Agrees with Carolyn, and had spoken to Jon about the rates. Kim is concerned about the raise this will mean for his tenants. Kim believes the City should be cutting costs elsewhere, as the water/sewer rates are difficult on the residents of Craig.

Jim See explained the base rate on water and wastewater charges makes it possible to keep up operations in the wastewater/water departments. These enterprise funds have to, by law, pay for themselves.

Wanda Rice expressed that she has been on the City Council roughly 15 years. These types of issues have never been approached by the public. Wanda would like for the public to note that as elected officials the Council has to make decisions based on the best interest of the public. Wanda has not had one person approach and discuss this subject with her, yet it has been on the agenda for months. Wanda would like for the public to note the agendas and please come discuss the items they are interested in so that the City Council can make a decision based on the best interest of the general public.

James Carle asked what the cost of the water/wastewater plants are for operations, distribution and such. Jon answered projected expenses for the current fiscal year for wastewater is \$287,000 and water \$281,500.

Frank Lazo is the owner of one of the oldest places in Craig, which is also unmetered. Frank asked if the rate is different between residential and commercial because he is in a commercial zone. Joyce explained, there is no difference between zones.

The rates are based on units on a meter, not on the number of occupants in one unit. City staff decided to treat everyone the same in terms of base rates and units.

James asked if there is any way to increase rates for the buildings like Silver Bay to offset the cost for the residential homes. Jon explained that it has to be decided what is best for the community, with the input from the community and presenting the ideas to the Council.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor- Nothing to report

Administrator- Provided a written report.

Treasurer- Finishing up year-end business, and getting ready for the audit.

Aquatic Manager- Provided a written report.

City Clerk- Provided a written report.

City Planner- Provided a written report.

EMS Coordinator- Provided a written report.

Harbormaster- Seinners are in the harbors, last month only hauled about six boats. Ice house is working great, delivered over 100 tons of ice. New harbor assistant is working out very well. Michelle has a six month review coming up. Fixing water pedestals and changing breakers.

Kim asked why there is nowhere for the Trolling Fleet to lay their poles and work on their gear. Mayor Watson commented that the spaces in the harbor are getting used for moorage. It is something Daniel will look in to.

Police Chief- Left on a call.

Public Works- Construction happening around town, Silver Bay is keeping up with production and keeping the water plant busy.

Parks and Rec- Cancelled the swap meet this week, started soccer this month with Joe Burke and Trampus Conatser, Martha Wood will begin opening the youth center this summer and will continue through the school year. Thanks to Frank and Mike for helping with the greasy pole. Victoria has been ill lately, so is not quite ready to be back to full time work yet.

Library- Provided a written report.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

EMS Concerns moved to Unfinished Business

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Ordinance 655, FY13 Supplemental Operating Budget

PIERCE/RICE moved to adopt Ordinance 655, Supplemental Operating Budget FY13.
MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 656 Modifying Section 15.44.140 Meter installation mandatory

HEAD/RICE moved to adopt Ordinance 656, Modifying Section 15.44.140 Meter installation mandatory.

Jim asked how long the public has to pay off the meter charges. Joyce would like to have a timeline of a year. Greg suggested usage plus 10%. Kim Patotzka would like to see a break for people paying with cash.

PIERCE/RICE amended the motion to include a 10% discount on meters for those paying in cash up-front.
AMENDMENT CARRIED
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 13-15, Harbor Rates Changes

HEAD/PIERCE motion to approve Resolution 13-15, Harbor Rates Changes.

Jon would like to have the council discuss what the council wishes to change in the rates and bring back a finished version to the next regular meeting. The Council will address this Resolution at the next meeting.

HEAD/PIERCE withdrew motion and second.

Resolution 13-16, Water Meter Installation

PIERCE/HEAD moved to approve Resolution 13-16 Water Meter Installation.
MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Final Approval of POWHA agreement

PIERCE/RICE moved to approve the Port St. Nicholas hatchery FY14 agreement.
MOTION CARRIED.

EMS CONCERNS

Jim See was not happy with the way Klawock handled the EMS Concerns. Chaundell noted that because Craig EMS is only providing a transport it is different than what is referenced in State Statute. Taylor Robison commented that the cost is so much different between the Craig EMS and Klawock EMS; the public should be able to choose which service to utilize. Jim mentioned that Craig EMS will respond when called.

NEW BUSINESS

Transaction Fees for Credit Card use for Sales Tax remittance

Joyce requested this item to be on the agenda because businesses around Craig are paying sales tax with their credit card. This poses a problem as the City is charged every time a card is run, for a percentage of the sum. The Council decided to have a resolution brought back stating that unless paying by check or cash, the payee will assume the transaction fee when paying sales tax with a credit card.

Consider new design for Main Street

R&M Engineering came up with a few options for the new design of Main Street. Both options will work for the City. Otis feels there are serious deficiencies in the designs, and until they are corrected, he doesn't feel comfortable proceeding with either one. Jim walked the area today, and based on the square footage of the lots that drain to Otis's property, the water from those properties will drain to his lot. Otis explained some of the discrepancies between the design that are a concern to him. The paving on this road will not be completed this year. Jon and Otis will work on coming to an agreement over the winter.

ADJOURNMENT

HEAD/RICE:

Moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED _____

MAYOR DENNIS WATSON

ATTEST _____
KASSI KNOCK, CITY CLERK