

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF OAKLEY
September 14, 2023

Mayor: Larry Mickelsen

Council Members:

Ralph Barnard
Tuck West (absent)
Al Lowe
Buffy Cooper

City Attorney: Peter Wells

Public Works Director: Jared Mitton

City Clerk: Dannika Colson

Cassia County Deputy: Tyler Matthews

City Engineer: Dave Waldron

Visitors: Russell Hinds

Sheriff's Dept: 1DUI, 1 hit and run, 3 traffic stops, 1 minor accident, 3 911 hang ups, 2 follow ups, 1 vicious dog, 2 SRO calls.

First Item of Business: The senior citizens want to place a 3x3 marquee to advertise the menu for the weekly meal and their activities. The Seniors are after visibility so they want to explore street location options. The location of the marquee was discussed at length. If the marquee is placed on the side of the building that meets the state highway, the seniors would then need to discuss this with, and obtain permits through the State. Jared is concerned that if the Seniors are allowed to place signage on the street, that it will conflict with what he has discussed with Farmers Corner about not being able to add their signage to the right of way. Jared also mentioned that if we allow one, we must allow all to keep things consistent. Al proposed the idea of the marquee being attached up high on the building and extended out to where it could be viewed from the street. Jared was more comfortable with this idea and said that it would work just fine. The building sits far enough back that and extended sign won't obstruct anything. The council agreed that this may be the better option. Al to take info back to the Seniors and see what they think.

Second Item of Business: Al was contacted by the Oakley Stake in search of a community project they can work on in October or November. Al suggested to the council, that they could spend some time in the cemetery. Another idea was raking leaves in the park. Al to report back to stake.

Third Item of Business: New Ordinance/ Housing Regulation, Pete asked the council

what exactly they wanted to do with this Ordinance. He also suggested that the council hold a work meeting to figure out the rest of the ordinance. A work meeting was scheduled for October 3rd at 7pm

Fourth Item of Business: The personnel handbook was discussed in length, council decided with the help of the city attorney, that the policy for annual performance interviews for cost-of-living increases was already in the handbook, and that it was a matter of just enforcing it. The council agreed that the interviews should take place before the first budget reading in May, and that the city clerk be responsible for keeping track of these interviews and reminding the Mayor and City Manager to complete them each year. Jared presented the issue that 40 hours of comp time isn't quite enough during the summer and wanted to change the comp time policy. Council discussed the different options and moved to change the wording to the policy to "Accumulation of hours beyond 40 must be approved by supervisor." Al moved that the adjustment be made in the handbook, Buffy seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Fifth Item of Business: Water rates; The council discussed the need to raise water rates and decided that the discussion needs to be added to the next meeting's agenda. They agreed that they would gather more information. Jared mentioned that the pipes in the city's water system are way beyond their life expectancy and that there will need to be some upgrades and maintenance on the system. The council asked Jared to look into future projects that need to be done on the water system, so that they have a better idea of what rates need to look like to be able to maintain our current system. Dave agreed to put together some numbers for Jared to have at the next meeting to present to the council.

City Managers Report: The storage tank project is well underway. Gary Jones Construction has the outside footing built up and pipes laid, rebar should be coming within the next week and the first pours after that. The first pipes for the system have been fused. Well pipe was supposed to be in this week, but it's looking like next week before it will be in. The project is moving along well. Jared is looking into getting more interviews for City Technician position, and the OVAC Grant will be submitted tomorrow Sept 15th. Jared met with Tony from the USDA to look at the well site and he discussed the possibility of moving the existing well house to the new well location, to save some money on the project. Tony was hesitant at first but then upon inspecting the building, told Jared that he would take the idea back and see if he couldn't get that approved.

Seventh Item of Business: Al moved to approve August's meeting minutes, Buffy seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Eighth Item of Business: Buffy moved to approve the bills, Al Seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Ninth Item of Business: Ralph moved to adjourn the meeting, Buffy seconded and the vote was unanimous.