

City of DuPont
Regular City Council Meeting
March 10, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Call To Order: Mayor Jenkins called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Those present were Mayor Jenkins and Councilmembers Coffey, Ehrenreich, Grayum, Trotter, Marin, and Westman. Councilmember Wilcox was excused.

Staff Present: Those present were Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Masko, City Administrator McDonald, City Attorney Kerslake, City Clerk Larsen, Interim Police Chief Goodpaster, and Public Works Director Zahn. Interim Fire Chief Merritt was excused.

Pledge: Mayor Jenkins led the flag salute. The flag salute was followed by a moment of silence in honor of our Military.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Jenkins deleted item 6g, change order for Civic Center Reader Board. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Coffey/Westman 6/0 motion carried.

Public Comment:

Jason Pierce (1848 Miller Dr.) expressed concern that the City has not replaced two firefighter positions after they have been vacated and that the current firefighters are over worked. He stated that there are FEMA Grants available for staffing. He stated that the proceeds from a Fire Levy could not be collected until 2010 and encouraged Council to address the problems in the Fire Department now. Mr. Pierce stated that former Fire Chief Dick Small who was also on the Fire Service Task Force (FSTF) inquired about the status of the Fire Department and a final copy of the FSTF Report as he was unable to attend the last few meetings.

Maria Pierce (1848 Miller Dr.) expressed concern for Council recommending a 2.5 million Fire Department Budget when there are approximately 600 calls per year. She stated that her concerns remain the same as the last public comments she made. She stated that her opinion on the levy does not concern her employment. She also expressed concern that Council only had three options from the FSTF to consider that all included Lakewood Fire District #2.

Allen McArthur (declined to provide his address) expressed concern for the management of the City's tax dollars. He recommended that Council look into problems within the Fire Department as to reasons why a combination Fire Department is not working in DuPont. He stated that the Fire Departments in other small cities work well with volunteers and Reserve Firefighters. He cited good leadership and team work as reasons for success.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items:

- a. *City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2009;
- b. *City Council Special Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2009;
- c. *City Council Special Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2009;

- d. *City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2009;
- e. *City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2009;
- f. *Claim Vouchers List – March 10, 2009;
- g. *Approval of Net Versant Change Order for Civic Center Wiring.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda items. Marin/Grayum 6/0 motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Federal COPS Grant for Funding Additional Officers

Interim Police Chief Goodpaster stated that if the City were successful in obtaining this type of grant, it would fund two additional Police Officers for 3years. The City would be obligated to fund both Officers for an additional year thereafter. He stated that it is a very competitive process occurring in March. The additional officers could be hired on as early as November.

Council inquired about the next steps, City obligations, and match funding.

Interim Police Chief Ron Goodpaster provided addition information on current staffing, stated that the City would have to maintain the officers for 1 year at the conclusion of the 3year grant funding, provide for incidental expenses, and that no match funding is required.

DuPont Logo

City Administrator McDonald provided background information on the development of a new City Logo through the Tourism Board (formerly Visitor Readiness Task Force) efforts. The board is recommending the City adopt the same logo that has been created for consistency and marketing purposes.

Councilmember Trotter added that the study on branding recommended a tag line of “welcoming for 5,000 years” and that an Economic Development Conference she attended recommended that in order to brand a city, they must be welcoming. She stated that it is a good time to move forward.

Councilmember Ehrenreich expressed concern for changing the logo too often. He stated that this could get expensive and confusing.

Council concurred to change the City’s logo.

Mayor’s Report:

- Provided information on flower pots that the Kiwanis club is selling as a fundraiser this year.
- Annual Shamrock Walk scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2009, beginning at PowderWorks Park and continuing down the Sequalitchew Creek Trail;
- “Safe At Home” class scheduled for March 28, 2009, at City Hall 303 Barksdale Ave;
- Grand Opening of new City Hall 1700 Civic Dr. scheduled for March 27, 2009, at 11a.m.;
- Town Hall Meetings scheduled for April 6th and 20th at 7p.m. to provided factual information on the Fire Department and answer citizen’s questions.

City Administrator’s Report:

- Provided a project status report with most projects parked due to the economy. He stated that this is impacting Community Development Relations. Due to a decrease in revenues, we do have open positions that we are not filling and we are adjusting staffing levels. The Mayor and City Administrator also met with the Planning Agency and suggested

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they not meet as frequently resulting in less staff time. The agency may also be down 3 members;

- RFP Landscape Maintenance review committee being developed and requested a Council volunteer. Councilmember Trotter volunteered;
- Second History DVD draft ready;
- Budget status and revenue reports forthcoming.

Council Reports:

Councilmember Coffey announced the Council retreat on March 14, 2009, from noon to 4 p.m. at Patriot's Landing. She highlighted the topics for each of the Council study sessions in March, April, and May.

Councilmember Trotter stated that the Park Agency is down one member and encouraged citizens to apply. Announced that April 18th is Parks Appreciation day and that 12 teams have signed up for South Sound Baseball league at PowderWorks Park.

Councilmember Grayum provided a handout on the Open Public Meetings Act from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) training he and Councilmember Marin attended.

Department Reports:

Councilmember Westman inquired about the federally mandated program and red flag rules requirement to aid in decreasing identity theft.

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Masko provided background information on the requirement from the Fair Trade Commission to protect customers' information. The deadline for the requirement is May 1st. Staff is working on a Resolution to bring before Council in April.

New Business:

Ordinance Regarding Parking Restrictions – First Reading

Interim Police Chief Goodpaster provided background information on the proposed Ordinance stating that Chloe Clark Elementary has had parking issues and concerns with congestion for some time. He stated that the City had previously implemented temporary signs to help mitigate the problem as it is too expensive for the school to fix the driveway. The proposed Ordinance would allow a 5minute loading zone during drop off and pick up times. The signs would be an unfunded cost to the City of \$300 to \$400.

Council discussed the excessive fines for a violation, revenue from citations as a source to fund the signs, language on the signs, enforcement, and possible ways to share costs with the school district.

Cara Mitchell (2221 McDonald Ave) thanked the Council for considering this Ordinance as it is desperately needed to help with the traffic congestion. She stated that the fine appears harsh and recommended finding an alternative.

Allen McArthur (declined to provide his address) thanked the Police Chief for exploring this issue. He recommended looking at Haskell Street for alternate bus routes. He stated that usually people will respond to the spirit of the sign not necessarily the specific language. He stated that the fine is the same as if someone violated a disabled parking requirement.

Public/Council Comment:

Jim Skinner (1463 Thompson Cir) stated that as a bus driver he utilizes an air horn to solve congestion in school zones. He recommended playing the new history video during the grand opening ceremony at the Civic Center.

Maria Pierce (1848 Miller Dr.) pointed out that staff reported that the recession is affecting Community Development but that the Fire Department budget has risen from 1.6 million to 2.8 million. She stated that if the levy fails it may be back on the ballot in November. She encouraged Council to look at issues in the Department now instead of waiting. She inquired as to why volunteers have not been recruited, hiring our own Firefighters hasn't occurred, Civil Service rules were changed, and why we are building the Public Safety Building to Lakewood standards. Ms. Pierce cautioned that if the City does annex with Lakewood that citizens would have to pay additional taxes.

Allen McArthur (declined to provide his address) thanked Council and staff for their hard work on the Fire Issue and all the citizens for their input. Inquired about the urgency of passing the Fire Levy now and why other cities are successful operating on a per call contract basis. He encouraged Council to continue to operate on a contract basis until all questions can be answered. Mr. McArthur also inquired about where the taxes go from customers' cell phone bills.

Mayor Jenkins encouraged Mr. McArthur to contact Finance Director Masko to provide the information on exactly where the tax dollars go.

Jean Wilcox (2766 McNeil St.) encouraged community to realize that the City has grown and we can no longer operate as a small town. She stated that we are surrounded on all sides and that we have asked our neighbors for help with Fire Services. She stated that Lakewood Fire District #2 is our nearest neighbor that is able to provide the help we need. She stated that we need to provide services for our citizens and our business community to allow them to succeed.

Linda Cumberbatch (806 Haskell St.) thanked Council for stepping up to address our Fire issues, stating that it would be irresponsible not to do so. She encouraged all citizens to attend the Town Hall Meetings to discuss the Fire Levy and get factual information as there is a lot of misinformation out in the community.

Phill Chase (309 Barksdale Ave.) provided handout on Fire Department structural types. He highlighted some departments that have career Firefighters augmented by volunteers. He stated that he is not sure why this structural type will not work in DuPont. He inquired as to the direction Council is going with the Fire Department regarding contracting, annexing, regional fire authority, or a standalone department.

Councilmember Coffey confirmed with Ms. Masko that we are in the process of hiring a firefighter for a hobo position. She also announced that this will be the last regular City Council meeting in this building.

Councilmember Westman inquired as to whether or not Council could consider parking issues in other areas of the City and if the issues could be addressed in one Ordinance.

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Mayor Jenkins added that she has scheduled coffee with the Mayor one time per month to communicate with the citizens.

Councilmember Marin asked for clarification on what a “hobo” firefighter is.

Councilmember Coffey stated that it is just the name of a regular firefighter position where they are not scheduled on one particular shift and have the flexibility to fill in on any shift to decrease overtime.

Adjournment:

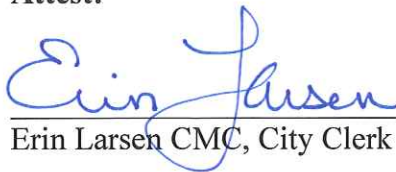
Mayor Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

City of DuPont:



Tamara L. Jenkins, Mayor

Attest:



Erin Larsen CMC, City Clerk