

Rainier Economic Development Council
City Hall ~ Rainier, Oregon
Regular Minutes ~ December 10, 2009

Call to Order - Terry Grice, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call - Present

Terry Grice, Chair Tim Navarro, V. Chair Jennifer Dennis, Treasurer
Paul Rice - arrived at 6:35 p.m. Scott Cooper

Absent - Robert Piercy, Secretary

Others Present - Tim Stewart, Foss Maritime
Carol Brandt, Clatskanie Chief
Terry Deaton, REDCO Staff

Visitor Comments - None

Guest Speaker - Tim Stewart, Foss Maritime

Tim Stewart first asked REDCO what their role is in the community. Terry Grice explained the concept of urban renewal and a few of the projects and grants completed in Rainier.

Tim told the council Foss Tugboats was founded by Thea Foss. The tugboat captain Annie Brennan character is based on the life of Thea Foss. Foss Maritime is a non-union business. The presentation covered their development of the first hybrid tugboat, special techniques used to reduce fuel consumption, history of the company with a thorough insight into the operation of their business. It was an extremely interesting and informative presentation.

Jennifer Dennis asked Tim Stewart what attracted him to Rainier. Tim was very attracted to the small, homey feeling with good schools, in addition a nice park and especially Rainier being a very safe community. With a family of eight children, these were important points when deciding to move from Alabama.

Approval of Minutes - Scott Cooper moved to approve the November 12, 2009 minutes. Jennifer Dennis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Unfinished Business - The council members reported on their Urban Renewal training in Portland at the Lane Powell Firm. Tim did not attend the training and asked about the business grants. Jennifer explained some of the past REDCO grants and projects were not allowed according to Urban Renewal statutes. Terry Grice mentioned the Eagles fireworks community grant was one that was not allowed. There is a way REDCO could work through the City to help support the Daze in the Park.

A motion was made by Paul Rice, rather than have a guest speaker next month, REDCO will hold an urban renewal workshop to address projects and grants. Scott Cooper seconded the motion which carried. Pizza will be served at the workshop for the council.

Paul Rice asked if the City had decided to look into the option to use the federal tax incentives Karen Williams explained during the urban renewal training. Jennifer said this program works best for large projects in the \$10 million size or larger. This would offer a \$2 million savings for the City on their sewer project through tax breaks. The information was given to Debby Dudley for the City. No one knows if the City followed up on the program.

Resolution #75 to change the order of business for the regular monthly meetings for accounts payable to be placed before Chair Comments was presented by Terry Grice and approved.

New Business - A resolution for the agenda, change of order moving the Approval of Payables to be placed before Chairman Comments, will be prepared for the next meeting.

REDCO received a letter from Columbia County Commissioners and the City Council withdrawing their participation in the IGA for the USG loan payment. A second letter was received from the City Council requesting the monies for all the projects REDCO has budgeted for City projects with a total amount of \$556,200. Terry Grice explained that it is clear we cannot do this. He felt the City Council did not understand the legal requirements for urban renewal funds to be distributed for capital projects. Craig Bachman, attorney for Lane Powell, will discuss these letters with the City of Rainier and Columbia County's attorneys. He advised REDCO not to turn over project money until they received documentation of project completion and monies spent according to Oregon Revised Statutes.

The White House has a job creation forum which Terry Deaton signed up for REDCO participation. She asked if the council would be interested in this project since we are limited to participate in projects and grants until the USG litigation is resolved. Jennifer Dennis mentioned if we were become involved in such a project,

REDCO might want to invite Karen Kief, program coordinator for the Oregon Employment Department “Jobs Program”. They provide free help to business in exchange for training. State pays the wages and training. The council decided to included the job forum in the workshop next month.

Terry Grice asked all the REDCO council officers to sign the check authorization signature card at Bank of America. This is required for their signatures to be authorized on REDCO checks.

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(h) for conference with attorney convened at 7:38 p.m. Reconvened public meeting session at 8:05 p.m.

Chairman Comments - Terry Grice asked everyone to have a merry holiday and thanked them for attending.

Council Comments - Tim Navarro thanked REDCO for bringing Tim Stewart from Foss and his excellent presentation. He noted only Terry Grice, Terry Deaton and himself the remaining members of REDCO since June 2008 when the litigation began.

Paul Rice thought it would be good to send Christmas cards to the City Council from REDCO and to our guest speakers from Teevins and Foss. It was agreed he would do this for REDCO. He thanked Terry Grice for his skill as chairman and for his time.

Scott Cooper thanked everyone for helping him learn about REDCO.

Jennifer Dennis is super pleased with Foss for sharing their business and answering our questions. She would like to see the guest speakers continue, to include small businesses as well.

Approval of Payables - Tim Navarro made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,464.92 for December. Jennifer Dennis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjournment - Terry Grice adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Terry Grice, Chair

Terry Deaton
REDCO Staff Administrator

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