

MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
29592 ELLENSBURG AVE
GOLD BEACH OR 97444
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2007
WORKSHOP: 12:15 P.M.**

CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR POPOFF AT 12:15 P.M.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mayor Karl Popoff	X	
Council Position #1 Sue Johnson	X	
Council Position #2 Don Flynn	X	
Council Position #3 Peter Peterson	X	
Council Position #4 Vacant		
Council Position #5 David Alexander	X	
Police Chief Russ Merkley	X	

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF PERMIT FEES AND ALCOHOL RELATED EVENTS (A)

Police Chief Merkley presented his proposal for implementing fees for special events. He stated he re-worked the figures from what he previously discussed in 2004 (B).

Merkley stated we are about 2 months into the budget year and already he only has 63% of his overtime budget left and it should be at 84%. The big items, the fair, party at the port, etc., are over and the vast majority of OT was used on those events. I would like to see us implement certain fees to partially cover some of those OT costs.

He presented statistics (C) regarding a year's worth of permits issued by the city-34 off premise, 21 renewals, 3 new and 7 temporary. If an additional \$50 fee were assessed to these permits, it would raise \$3,250 per year, which would help cover the costs of the parade, party security and OT for these events. 07-08 OT budget is \$3,300.

Alexander expressed concern that the fees are mandated by the state and is not sure we could raise it. If not, perhaps it could be implemented by calling it a security surcharge or something of that sort and keep it separate from the basic state-mandated fee.

Flynn-Have Shirley look into it and also check with our insurance carrier to make sure we wouldn't take on a greater liability by tacking on the security surcharge or paying for additional security.

Alexander-The event sponsors should be given the opportunity to provide their own security as long as they kept to the standards the Chief of Police would set. That way the sponsor would have a choice.

The physical location of a security company was discussed. Alexander said there was a security company in Brookings that the Port of Brookings uses but he didn't know if the Port paid or the event sponsors paid.

Johnson-Would the permits include some of the occasions, which would be very small? The vast majority of events would not require security. We need to find if and how much other cities charge. To compare apples to apples, we need to know what their fee is for this type of permit. I'm not opposed to raising fees for permits and things because everyone is doing it but to get back to what we haven't yet discussed is the need for the fees.

Merkley-I have done some research and will do more-most communities have an extra fee.

Johnson-Although I agree with Merkley about his OT budget, when the budget is figured out by the budget committee, these events are included. For years the city has done what they are doing now without any extra fee assessed to them for a parade-they are already paying for police protection. I can't see telling them the city is going to charge them a fee for the parade because of the extra manpower needed when we have never had to do that before.

Merkley-It is an event that attracts far more than just the citizens of Gold Beach.

Johnson-Yes, and it is a Curry County Fair, not a Gold Beach Fair. Other agencies should be helping including the Brookings Police, the County and the State Police. I don't care if they do say they don't have the manpower available. Let them pay some OT to their people for helping on their own highway and in their county. Alexander said they should be held responsible.

Merkley-It hasn't happened in the 4 parades he has been involved in. It will take someone more influential than I am to set that up. It takes a minimum of 7 people for the parade. If we asked Brookings to come up and assist, it is a reciprocal type of thing and we would have to agree that we would send manpower to help them with their special event. (Johnson said this isn't "OUR" special event) If the event occurs in Gold Beach we are responsible for the public safety issue regarding that event.

Johnson-That is up to the Fair Board, not us. They are the ones who should be deciding where they are going to get people to do whatever is necessary to have their parade, not the city.

Alexander agreed but said they won't if they decide everything is hunky dory and the city is going to bite the bullet on it.

Flynn-Perhaps we could ask the sheriff if they are going to re-build their Sheriff's Posse and reserves. The Sheriff's Posse always provided traffic control and was also in the parade itself.

Peterson-Asked which events cost us extra. (Merkley said some just need a walk-thru but not a constant presence of police)

(Johnson said she would think the patrol person could handle that and she didn't see an OT issue-Merkley agreed.)

Peterson-We're basically talking about 3 or 4 events-I can't see charging a fee for a parade. Having patrol at a party or the fairgrounds, yes, extra money is needed, but not for parades. We need to have the kids involved-we don't want to do anything to throw up a roadblock for them.

Johnson-Part of our responsibility as a council is economic development and things. Parties bring people to town, which helps our city. I cannot be a part of calling the fair board or the party at the port and telling them we are going to charge you for having extra patrol. These people are already paying for police protection and these things are considered in our budget every year when the OT is set.

Popoff-We should contact the sheriff's department and Brookings PD and telling them it is a county fair and we need some assistance. (Johnson said it is the fair board and they

should be taking care of this problem if more people are needed out there)

Johnson-We should check on the price of permits at other places and maybe raise that on a scale, if it is determined we can raise them. Go to the fair board and tell them that in your estimation, seven people are required for public safety and traffic control for the parade and it is up to the fair board to provide this. Seven people shouldn't be hard to come by when we have two patrolmen on anyway. (Merkley said that Saturday morning they only have one man on) Johnson suggested changing the schedule so you have two on. (Merkley said if you have two officers on day shift, you have to take one off night shift) Further discussion regarding the number of officers working each day - two counting the chief. Johnson asked if the officer could take a day off during the week (like Wednesday) and then use him on Saturday? (Merkley said he can't dictate what days anyone takes off) Johnson asked who makes up the schedule. (Merkley said he does) Johnson said then schedule the officer that way.

Merkley-You can't do that. They are union individuals and you don't say "OK, you have to take Tuesday off". (Johnson said you would tell them they would be trading Tuesday of this week for Saturday) I cannot make someone trade, I can ask them. (Johnson said then go ahead and request it) Merkley said if they choose to not do it, then the only other option is to pay them OT. Johnson said she did not agree that he can't schedule them.

Alexander-How many hours a day are covered 18 or 16? (16-18 hours, 6 days a week) That is tricky scheduling for a chief and 3 officers. Merkley said they have one man on Sunday.

Johnson-Yes, it is tricky scheduling but it seems like that one Saturday out of the year, you could trade a guy.

Merkley-What you are doing, is you are trading that individual and denying him the opportunity for overtime. You can't do that under the union contract. You can't do that. There are certain things you can and cannot do, as far as the union contract. I cannot make someone trade, I can ask them. (Johnson said then go ahead and ask them). If they choose to not do it, then the only other option is to pay them overtime. (Johnson said she didn't agree that can't schedule them)

Johnson-If the department is financially limited to only paying so much OT, you can't convince me that the union makes you go over that because you can't do that.

Merkley-That's what I'm saying-we need a line item that is for special events, then any monies spent for these special events would come out of that and it wouldn't rely on the OT budget. Right now I am at 64%-I don't know what is going to happen. (Johnson said he should bring it up to the budget committee, they turned it down before so try it again) I am presenting problem as I see it and it is up to the council to fix it or not fix it, but this is one way in which the people who are using the services are paying for services, or helping to pay for the services.

Johnson-The consensus is to look into the permit costs. I know we're not going to be voting now but I want to say that I won't go along with a cost for special events, parades and things like that. City people are already paying for police protection. (Merkley said yes but we are also providing security protection) We've been doing that for years on the OT that has been allotted.

Merkley-The people who are using the service should help pay for the service. It isn't just the people of Gold Beach-that we attract people from outside the city. (Johnson said visitors spend money in Gold Beach.

Alexander-Who if the Chamber was the sponsor of the Party at the Port. (Yes, they are mostly in charge of it) It shouldn't fall on the venue to come up with the security, it is up to the sponsor. The people sponsoring the event should do it. It gets to the point where we give them an option to provide their own security or pay for costs and they might be able to find an acceptable security presence for less than compensating the city. For example it wouldn't be and should not be, the responsibility of the Port of Gold Beach to provide security for an event the Port of Gold Beach is not sponsoring, even though it is being held at that venue.

Johnson-Same thing as the County Fair, right? It isn't the City of Gold Beach's either. It should be the sponsor and that is what I keep saying. The Fair Board should be sitting and meeting about this problem, not us.

Alexander-As long as anyone is getting something because "it has always been that way" and they are making out like bandits

on it, there is no incentive for them to take a look at it. If we, as representatives of the citizens of the city say to them it is no longer economically feasible for it to continue as far as the city is concerned, then we can goose them into taking a look at it. If we don't, they won't have any incentive. (Johnson agreed) We can go to the county and say this is a county affair, we want a county presence there.

Popoff-The county divested themselves of the fair a long time ago and where this belongs is the fair board itself. We cannot continue to do things for free if it has an effect on our people and our budget. Therefore, go ahead and go to the fair board and let them know our dilemma. Go to the Chamber and let them know and tell them the restraints we are working under and that we can no longer do this. Either help with the problem or do something else.

Johnson-Why are we saying "WE" should go-the fair board should go to the chamber and say "we've got problems, the city can't continue to do this alone.

Flynn-We should go to the fair board. All agreed. We should write them a letter.

The fair itself was discussed. Alexander said the primary thing he saw with the parade was traffic control. Merkley stated ODOT makes certain demands for parades.

Johnson said that during the party at the port, during the day, people were milling around with their children, no problem. (Merkley said when the lights go out it is a different crowd, a lot rowdier) (Alexander said if they can provide their own security people, fine)

Merkley-The figures I handed out did not cover the entire expense, it would just be a way to help supplement.

Johnson-We still get back to the overtime budget which was set and we have to get by on what was set, just like all departments have to get by on what was set for them to spend. They have done it every year, so somehow, the police have managed to do this extra duty and still get by the rest of the year, I don't know how because I'm not over there scheduling, but it has always worked.

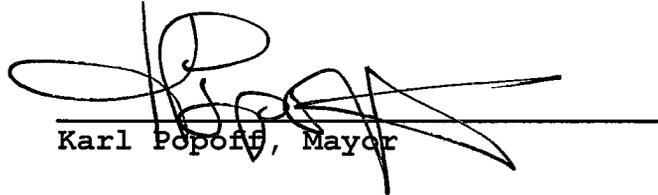
Merkley-It is a lot of extra hours (Johnson said that is what OT is for) It is a lot of extra hours for me. (Johnson said

she is sure that is true) I will get some hard names and figures about raising the permit fees.

Merkley will get more information about the permits. He will also write a letter to the fair board and chamber of commerce regarding special events and parades. He will state the council authorizes the letter.

The location of the hearing/meeting is accessible to the disabled. Advance notice is requested if special accommodations are needed. Call (541) 247-7029 so that appropriate assistance can be provided. The City of Gold Beach is an affirmative action EEOE and complies with section 504 of the rehab act of 1973. Complaints of Discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9419

Approved by the Gold Beach City Council on SEPTEMBER 10, 2007.



Karl Popoff, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shirley Walker, Recorder