

MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
29592 ELLENSBURG AVE  
GOLD BEACH OR 97444  
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007  
REGULAR MEETING: 6:30 P.M.**

**CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR POPOFF AT 6:30 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 Vacant		
Council Position #4 Vacant		
Council Position #5 David Alexander	X	

**\*\*NOTE:** Comments and participation from the audience shall be limited to 5 minutes without redundancy.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** (A)

- A. Approval of Council Minutes of 2/12, 2/16 & 2/21/07.
- B. Review of bills paid in the amount of \$ 413,131.02.

**MOTION:** Johnson moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, second by Flynn, Johnson Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE: 3 AYES 2 VACANT

**CITIZEN AND/OR AGENCY REQUESTED AGENDA ITEMS:** (B)

REPORT FROM CHIEF MERKLEY ON POTENTIAL FALL-OUT TO CITY IF COUNTY GOES BANKRUPT - NO DECISION REQUESTED

Chief Merkley read his concerns into the record regarding the O&C Impact to the City of Gold Beach. Merkley also read a letter he wrote to Sheriff Mark Metcalf that was formatted from a letter written by OSP to the Sheriff's office.

Additional manpower for the police department: Gold Beach is unique, that's why we live here. I understand that our population is now at 2,400, depending on which site you visit. We are the county seat, most county and state workers live and work in and around Gold Beach. We have the only hospital in the county. We have no less than 5 homes and/or residences for the developmentally disabled, we have the only 24-hour grocery store within a 15-20 mile radius, and we have the only

pharmacy within a 15-20 mile radius. We are a major tourist destination spot. We have more motels than any of the 4 nearest communities. We have more, or as many low-income apartments as any of the 4 nearest communities. We have an unknown number of day visitors, during May through September and we have more than 200 RV spots just within the city.

What are our choices? The sheriff's patrol operates the only 24-hour law enforcement in central and north Curry County, presently. Shirley has taken positive steps and suggested adjustments to the budget that have addressed some of the ripple effects of the county's budgetary problems. But there are additional considerations that the council itself must consider and address.

We can do nothing and hope for the best. I am going to list some of the things I think the city could do to increase the funding for the police department. (Suggestions are listed on B) This is a great time for the City of Gold Beach to have a fantastic pool of potential police employees. If the sheriff's office diminishes their patrol activity, there is a pool of quite a few deputies that we could draw from. By doing that, we would not need to send them to an academy. They would come to us certified and fully trained. We currently work with them. It's a great pool and I don't know that we would ever have a pool like this to draw from again. Cost of living-if we don't have this pool to draw from, if and when the sheriff's office diminish their patrol status, the likelihood of most of those individuals moving away is great. It will be difficult for them to attract new deputies to replace them. If it is going to be difficult for the sheriff's office, it will be more difficult for us in that our police scale and benefit package is less than what the sheriff's office offers.

If nothing is done, more office injuries will result with the resulting ripple effects. i.e. increased workers comp, manpower and overtime, etc. Gold Beach could become a victim rich environment if the sheriff's office folds their night shift. Merkley gave other examples of how crime and the effect to our citizens would be increased if nothing is done. It would be difficult to threaten anyone with arrest if it is known the jail size has been reduced from 40 beds to 10.

There would be a slower response time. Attrition of officers, burnout, inability to handle call load, expanded hours and added stress, etc. Law enforcement does not make money, it

does protect, serve, save property and hold people accountable. It's the council's responsibility to close the barn door before the horse gets out. To do nothing will not fix anything. As your law enforcement administrator, I'm telling you there is a problem and it has the potential of getting worse. Please explore the possibilities of all these things I said-I could be right.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

ORDINANCE # 604 ( C )

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY MAP FOR THE CITY OF GOLD BEACH IN THE MATTER OF A CURRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONE CHANGE

**Popoff stated:** Within the UGB the county and the city are required to adopt changes jointly. The zone change is in Wedderburn, which is the county's jurisdiction, however it is in the UGB so the city has to sign off on zone changes in order to complete the process with the state.

**MOTION:** Alexander moved to approve the first and second readings of Ordinance # 604 by title only, seconded by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

First Reading by Title Only:

**MOTION:** Johnson moved to approve the first reading, by title only of Ordinance # 604, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY MAP FOR THE CITY OF GOLD BEACH IN THE MATTER OF A CURRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONE CHANGE, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE: 3 AYES 2 VACANT

RESOLUTION R0607-14 (D)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COUNCILOR'S ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2007 AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION R0607-8

Johnson nominated David Alexander and moved to close nominations, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

**MOTION:** Johnson moved to approve Resolution R0607-14, inserting Councilor Alexander as the Mayor Pro-Tem, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

RESOLUTION R0607-15 (E)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO INVEST THE CITY'S MONEY IN THE STERLING SAVINGS BANK AND REPEALING RESOLUTION R0102-29

**Popoff stated:** Almost 2 months ago, staff met with executives from Sterling Bank. As a result of that meeting, staff would like to move the City's money from the County to Sterling. This would allow more flexibility in investments and less bookkeeping. I would like to make it clear that the city received excellent service from the county staff and this move has absolutely nothing to do with the service we received.

Alexander moved to approve Resolution R0607-15, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** (Includes policy discussion & determination.

APPOINT BUDGET OFFICER FOR 07-08

**MOTION:** Johnson moved to appoint Shirley Walker as Budget Officer for 07-08, second by Alexander. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

SUBDIVIDING OR PARTITIONING PROPERTY WHEN SEWER IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE DUE TO MAO WITH DEQ (F)

**Popoff stated:** A motion is required to allow the planning department to okay subdividing or partitioning with a disclosure statement that sewer is not currently available and no water meter would be installed until the sewer was available. This would allow the development to move forward but occupancy would not be allowed until sewer was actually available & hooked up and a water meter installed.

**MOTION:** Flynn moved to allow subdividing or partitioning with a disclosure statement that sewer is not readily available, and no water meter will be installed until a sewer permit is obtained, second by Johnson. Johnson, Flynn and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 3 AYES 2 VACANT

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Popoff stated:** We have rules we go by. Whether you agree with someone or don't agree with them-it makes no difference. We listen with politeness, we are not rude, we are not uncivil. Any sign of that, I will give the person one

warning. The second time I will ask them to leave. I expect courtesy from everyone, including everyone up here. I am a little unclear on the rule so I am going to err on the safe side. You can discuss certain items that you may want to bring up but if we start discussing recall, I'm not going to allow that. That is an election process-the rule is pretty clear as far as electioneering near government offices-you can't do that.

**Katchina Starr**-28788 Hunter Creek LP-Gold Beach. I'm also representing Julian-my husband who lives at the same address. We just wanted to let you know how much we support the police chief and the police department and the fire department. They have been a help to us and we depend on them for help in our business and in our lives. They've always been there when we needed them. It is astounding to me that we would talk about not having full service. If there needs to be budget shifts in order to do this, I think we should definitely do it. I think you need to listen to citizens living inside the city limits which are paying for these services and using them. I just wanted to let you know how much we support them all.

**Julian Starr, Jamie Roybal** gave their 5 minutes to Michele Martin, giving Martin the maximum of 15 minutes.

**Michele Martin**-29811 Colvin Street-Almost one year ago, it was asked of each of you, former Councilman Mark Coltrane lived in the city limits of Gold Beach while he was councilman and running for re-election. On Saturday, a phone call was placed to Endicott Gardens, a bed and breakfast on Jerry's Flat Road and a discussion took place with the management, who indicated that councilman Mark Coltrane was living there for at least one year with his dog. This bothers me because a case can easily be made that Coltrane fraudulently and knowingly served, ran and was re-elected and voted as a city councilman without being a city resident. I found it hard to believe that Councilman David Alexander, who worked daily with former Councilman Coltrane, and seems to be Coltrane's close friend, did not know what Coltrane's living arrangements were and still unethically looked the other way when asked about Coltrane's residence and allowed him to participate in city government. Councilman Alexander, if this is true, you participated in a voting fraud issue and should have divulged any information you had on Councilman Coltrane before it became an issue. I find it hard to believe that as close as you are to former Councilman Coltrane, working with him everyday and being fellow council members that you didn't know

what was going on. My question to the council is this: Will there be an investigation by the Gold Beach Police Department to determine what each of you knew about this fraud and what votes were placed by Coltrane as a council member when he wasn't a city resident and if those votes passed, passed motions that should now be null and void. I know I can think of one vote that recently passed by a 3-2 majority when Councilman Coltrane voted with Council members Flynn and Johnson at a recent special meeting called by Flynn and Johnson to re-visit the department acquisitions of donations purchased an ATV emergency generator at no cost to the city.

With the city council currently in negotiations with the Port of Gold Beach regarding the use and placement of drain fields on the port property for the city's new wastewater project, I'm really concerned because there is almost 10 million dollars at risk that the Flynn and Johnson and Walker connections on both the city council and port commission really raise red flags. Flynn, who is the port manager, and receives compensation for that position, has a conflict of interest in regard to negotiations. Councilwoman Johnson, whose husband, Moe Johnson, is president of the port commission, has an implied conflict of interest in regards to negotiations with both the city and the port. It seems that both these council members should not be allowed to discuss or debate any of these issues because of their conflict of interest.

I share the same concerns that former Gold Beach Chief of Police Bob Rector addressed in comments at the last city council meeting. I feel that Mayor Popoff and I, along with former City Administrator Bare, and Police Chief Merkley, were the only persons trying to address the same concerns that Bob Rector expressed regarding public safety. I was present meeting after meeting as councilmen Flynn and Johnson continued to embarrass and discredit the police chief after issues regarding the donation for an ATV had already been resolved at a city council meeting. When Flynn and Councilwoman Johnson organized that special meeting in attempting to re-allocate the funds the way they wanted, I kept wondering why Councilman and Port Manager Flynn contacted City Administrator Bare and advised him that the port could use the ATV more than the city.

When the special meeting was unsuccessful, Flynn continued harassing and hammering away at city employees, losing his temper and explaining "it isn't over". Regarding the ATV and

(couldn't hear) continued his efforts to overturn the decision at meetings. A case could easily be made that Flynn wanted the free ATV and trailer solely for the Port of Gold Beach interest. It is apparent Flynn has focused in accomplishing his personal agenda rather than the city's best interest in addressing public safety concerns. It is my opinion that he displays poor judgment and criticism to the point that there is lack of confidence in decision making for emergency planning.

Further it is my opinion Councilman Flynn and Councilwoman Johnson's attitude towards public safety is detrimental and embarrassing to the community.

**Popoff**-Here's where we run into a little bit of a problem.

**Martin**-I'll tell you this. This letter has gone over to KOBI, Mail Tribune, and to our local papers. Either you can hear it now or you can hear it from them. It's not a recall thing here (Alexander said "yes it is") no, it's not David. What this is talking about Karl and maybe you let Milt bully you around like you have in the past, yes, there are witnesses-that is not how we need to run a city here. You need to listen and look at where the monies are going and what you're going to do about it. We have budget meeting coming up and these things need to be addressed, so it's up to you. Let me continue?

**Popoff**-If it has anything to do, I want to make this just as clear as I can, not to be rude, or trying to inhibit your right to speak here. (Martin said "yes you are") But if it has to do with the recall process, I will not allow it.

**Martin**-This is my personal opinion. I am directing these allegations at our council people here. It's nothing about the recall at all.

**Popoff**-I am obviously going to let the councilors and myself have the opportunity to speak about these things but go ahead. As long as it doesn't have-once again, it better not hit that.

**Martin**-Better not?

**Popoff**-Better not hit anything to do with the recall.

**Martin**-I don't have a thing that has (couldn't hear) with the recall here. Flynn, who is the port manager and receives

compensation for the position, it has to do with the fact that these councilors up here are making decisions about a 10 million dollar project with our sewer system. You've got the port manager, you have Sue, whose husband is involved in the port. It's about you allowing this to happen-it cannot happen. It needs to stop. And what are you going to do about it? There is definitely a conflict of interest going on here. How do you go about making your decision when you have the port manager here and as an acting councilor, talking about the 10 million dollar sewer project that's going on. How do you come about those decisions? You've got 3 councilors here. If he stands aside and says "I'm not going to partake in the voting that comes about with this decision" - you don't even have a quorum. How would you remedy that?

**Popoff**-We don't have a quorum as yet but we are in the process of accepting applications. No, we would have a quorum but I have the vote in case of a tie.

**Martin**-You have a quorum right now but I know Don has said in the past that if anything that had to do with the port that he would step aside from that discussion. When a special meeting was unsuccessful, Flynn continued to harass and hammer at the employees saying (couldn't hear) regarding the ATV as is again, showing some anger here. It's apparent Flynn has focused on accomplishing his personal agenda rather than city's best interest in addressing public safety concerns. It is my opinion that he displays poor judgment and criticism to the point that there is a lack of confidence in decision making for emergency planning.

Further it is my opinion that Councilman Flynn and Councilwoman Johnson's attitude towards public safety as such (couldn't hear) detrimental and embarrassing to the community. Let's follow the money.

I'm hearing from former council members and others that have indicated that Shirley Walker could be making as much as \$53 K in base salary plus additional funds and perks such as retirement fund, contributions, and acting as city administrator that could bring her a total compensation of over \$100 K a year. And these are questions I'd like to have answered.

Who is the acting administrator right now? (Popoff said No-one) But it says in our budget that it is budgeted out that during that time and there was also a ruling that Shirley

would be acting as administrator during that time would be compensated for that. (Popoff and Johnson asked "when") It was back when Marlyn Schafer was Mayor. (Couldn't hear) Cause I'll be requesting some salaries and stuff. There needs to be full disclosure to what Shirley Walker makes annually for the past 10 years. I look at previous budget and it seems that money might be funneling to her from several departments. If she does get additional compensation, when the city administrator position is vacant, or there is a part time administrator-does she receive a difference of salary or benefits? You're nodding your head No, OK.

Additionally, has Shirley Walker met the minimum requirements and qualifications that was advertised for the Gold Beach City Administrator? (Popoff said "she's not the administrator) Fine, those are questions I'm asking, we'll see where it goes with this.

Is there an ordinance and resolution, or a previous minute action, which is applicable which allows Shirley Walker to receive additional compensation in the absence of a city administrator, full time or part time? (Popoff-Not that I'm aware of) OK.

Additionally, attorney Frank Roberts is a member of the city's budget committee, is a former employer of Councilwoman Johnson and possibly the port attorney. Rumor has it that Councilman Flynn, port manager, may have done private investigative work for attorney Roberts. Again, you guys need to separate this out and get people involved in here that aren't packed into one. Councilman Johnson's husband, Moe Johnson, the potential relationships are troubling when handling so much money, multiple projects and involving more than one public entity.

Last year, as a councilperson I was selected to participate on the city budget committee. The budget committee met without informing me of the meeting and I was left out of the loop. I immediately became suspicious and wondered if it was intentional. Although I received an apology for not being notified, everyone else was there. It is my opinion that the budget committee was a "rubber stamp" committee. Chief of Police Merkley was informed by the budget committee that he was not allowed to attend the budget meeting, which I found it hard to believe a department head is not allowed to participate. This all goes back to the former Chief of Police, Bob Rector's comments and concerns of others regarding what is important to the citizens of this community. The city

council needs to have open meetings and full disclosure, otherwise, with all the perceived conflict of interest, it creates the impression that some things (couldn't hear) or ethical may be happening.

I'm putting together a public document request in which I will be attempting to acquire full disclosure on all employees' wages, salaries and benefits.

**Popoff** closed the public discussion. There are a few things I'd like to say if the council doesn't mind.

This whole thing has been in many ways a real nightmare and difficult for me to sleep. As far as Councilor Coltrane. I was talking with a member of this community and she came up with "don't you have to be a citizen of the city before you can serve as a city council person"? I said Yes. She said "what about Mark Coltrane?" This was approximately 3 weeks ago. I immediately phoned Endicott Gardens, talked to Pat Endicott and was able to determine that yes, he was living out there. When I determined that, I asked Councilor Coltrane for his resignation. He, acting like a gentleman, (I can't speak for him) when it was presented to him, he did not squawk, scream, he took it as a gentlemen, and had that resignation, in my box the next day. That was taken care of. When it comes to my attention, I do check.

Now we're down to 3. We have 2 openings. To this day, I do not understand what conflict of interest there is between the port and the city. I'm going to give you a reason. (Johnson said there isn't one, that's why). I have to agree with Johnson on that, I don't see one. I don't see the end to it, what would be the purpose of it? Is it empire building or something? Whatever happens, whatever is good for the port is good for the city too, and vice versa. We rely upon one another. As far as the sewer treatment system-we knew we were going to have a difficult time, if any time at all, to be able to get that drain field because it was .....

**Johnson**-It is very promising that they can dig ours deeper and we won't have to have any more. So just in case you feel there is a conflict, it is very possible that that won't happen. A real conflict, or a potential conflict of interest has to involve financial gain to the people or your immediate family-that's the way it's worded. There is no financial gain here for him or I either one because he's on the port commission and I'm on the council, even if we do negotiate

with them. Hopefully, your mind can be relieved about that and we won't have to go through that anyway. It's looking very promising.

**Popoff**-I'm going to let Councilor Flynn tell exactly what he told those commissioners down there at the time he was hired. Councilor Flynn-if you wouldn't mind-make that public.

**Flynn**-Item # 1: The City and the Port, and I should know because I'm kind of on both ends of this thing-the City and the Port-no way are we in negotiations yet. We have to determine what needs to be done and what the city will be asking of the port, should they have to ask for anything more at all.

Item # 2: Some of our press has the documentation that before I accepted the position with the port, I came to the city council members, I said "look, if anybody has a problem with that, including Ms. Martin, no one had a problem with it, I made the statement that if we did get into negotiations, I would recuse my self from any negotiations. I had the same conversation with all of the port commissioners that since I was on the city council, I would not be involved in any negotiations, any dealings with it. I have stood by that. Again, I have documentation that that was my status-that I would not be involved. My personal feeling is, and so far it's worked out pretty good, is that my position down there and up here has given me a little bit of insight into what is going on-what is happening with the city, what is happening with the port, so I have a better idea of what is actually happening. I'm not tied to one side or the other. Again, my job is just to find out what's going on, what we can do, what we can't do and I present that to both sides. The port does in fact pay my paycheck. That does not go up if I get a better deal for the port and my non-paid position with the city does not go up if I get a good deal for the city.

I'm not involved in making deals, so I have no conflict of interest.

If anyone out there would care to contact the Oregon Government Standards and Practices Commission, 100 High Street South East, Suite 220, Salem OR, I'm sure they will send you a copy of the Oregon Government Standards and Practices laws. If you feel you want to go to the trouble to find out what a conflict of interest is-whether it be an actual conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest-take that document, turn to page 7 and it will very clearly define those

matters. I'm not going to tell you what they are, I expect someone out here in the media or concerned citizens to determine that themselves. The first 3-5 pages are great. They talked about small towns, the problems with getting people in in small towns. There is this "overlap" if you will. From my position, I did everything I could to alleviate even the appearance of a conflict of interest. I have stood by that, I've taken every step that I know how to take, every step that my legal counsel has advised me to take, to get rid of that, OK? Again, working for the port and being on the city council is a long ways from even coming close to what the standards are for a conflict of interest.

As far as Ms. Johnson. Both her husband and herself are in non-paid positions. They don't make anything, no one in their family makes anything no matter what the deal is between the port and the city. Please, I'm just asking, go to this agency, their web site is [www.gspc.state.or.us](http://www.gspc.state.or.us) - look it up, please.

I'm going to make this statement one more time. I don't have a problem with the ATV. I've said that how many times in open council meetings. I don't have a problem with the ATV. If I had the money I would have bought one for them myself. This city will not find anyone more supportive of law enforcement than myself. I've been there, done that. That's all I can say folks. I'm sorry.

**Popoff**-I'm going to address something else that Ms. Martin brought up and that concerns Shirley Walker and her pay. For the record, and if anyone wishes to correct me on this, fine, but it is my understanding that it is \$53 K a year. Granted, that's quite a bit of money but on the other hand, she's been here for 22 years. Since my time as Mayor, and I'm going on my 7<sup>th</sup> year, she has never taken a raise, anything more than what anyone else has received. Never has. Secondly, she was getting those raises prior to me coming on because of city administrators-that were very grateful for what she was doing because they were going through quite a mess of their own and if you want to go back and look into that, great, but nevertheless, I'm not going to right now. They were rewarding her for the work that they were giving her. Now, there was even a time she did receive a healthy raise-she split that with the other 2 ladies in the office-people don't know about that one either, but it's true. She didn't take the whole amount-she split it. Now Shirley has her faults like all of us. Fact is, as far as I know there is only one that has ever

been faultless and it isn't me. On the other hand, she has been a monumental help to me and to this council. We're prepared. I've never ever known her to do anything that was grievous to the city. Much of the things that have taken place, a lot of the good things, she's had quite a hand in. I'd like to have that ended, I really would.

I want to see this city progress beyond that. No one has more respect for Michele Martin than I do. I have said this before. That she, more than anyone up here, reflected by vote, if I had a vote. As I have said so many times before, and I will continue to say it, these are honorable people up here folks. I've know this man (Flynn) for over 20 years. As I've told others, I will tell you now too, so it is nice and public. I don't know of too many men that I respect more than him. I really don't. He has a certain point of view right now and I don't necessarily disagree with it. This is a good man. Sue and I, we started off pretty rocky 6 six years ago-sometimes we still are and I'll tell people-one thing you've got to know about this lady, she is probably the most financially, fiscal, conservative person I've ever seen in my life. (Johnson said it's not my money I'm spending, I'm spending city money). So, she is going to say no to a lot of things and I understand that if it has to deal with money. Money that we're still in the process of trying to recoup. We're getting closer and closer all of the time.

As far as someone trying to manipulate or trying to have a conspiracy as it will, between the port and the city-once again, I can't buy that. I don't understand what the gain would be.

This has been a heartache type of thing. The city goes through these things every once in awhile. The first 18 months that I was mayor, I made 10 appointments up there that was not fun. I almost wanted to quit. We do not, so everybody understands, we do not get a paycheck for this. Councilors get a \$95 per month stipend. I get \$100 per month. Many times that \$100 per month I have to also use for travel, not all of it. This past year I used right around \$300-\$400 of it. That is the extent of our financial reward if you can call it that. I had a nice joke with the chief. I went in and berated him because I was signing his check and it was almost as if it was the first time I noticed that the police chief makes more than the mayor does. We don't make money.

The conflict of interest-there isn't any, period. Rumors-that's an interesting thing. Has anybody ever heard rumors and then found out that they were anything but true? I think most of us have. Ms. Martin mentioned Rumor-Rumor has it. Quite frankly, I've seen so many rumors. I've had I don't know how many rumors circulated about me. If someone would just come to me and ask me, they would find out what the truth is. If they would just come down to the city and ask our staff what the truth is, a lot of these problems would be taken care of. But if you act on rumor, don't be surprised if you get a nice big pie in your face. There are other things I want to talk about but right now I'm going to give Councilor Alexander an opportunity to speak.

I am going to hold a town hall meeting. I haven't got the date firmed up yet. It will be probably be the early part of April. In that town hall meeting, I am going to explain, for the last few years now, I've been going into the grade school and high school and teaching about city government. I have found very quickly how local the public's idea or knowledge about what city government is and how it works. I'm going to give a class in it. After that, I am going to let people speak about whatever they want-any questions they have about the city, one thing or another, they're going to have that opportunity to do so. I want citizen involvement. I don't want to see them just now. I want to see people that are willing to step up and take these places because it takes guts to sit up here folks. You get a lot of things thrown at you. Not many of them are true but you get them thrown at you. You have to develop a fairly thick skin or you leave.

I have been honored to serve as the 10<sup>th</sup> mayor of this city. The city is 4 days older than I am. There have been a lot of people that have come through here in those 62 years. I consider it a great honor and I will continue to serve as with my peers up here, as best as we possibly can. It doesn't mean we'll be mistake free but we're going to continue to try.

**Alexander**-On the attack that was made on me earlier-I'm not even going to address it at this time, the truth will come out. I'd like to speak about citizen involvement and the fact that we are very blessed that certain citizens will get involved. It seems that a lot of times those citizens will come from the same family. I no more consider a conflict of interest that Mr. and Mrs. Martin served this city, one as a city councilor, and the other in the city planning department as a planning commissioner, whose actions were brought to this

council on appeal, as a conflict of interest, anymore than I consider you (Johnson) and your husband or Don's (Flynn) working for the port, recusing himself from decisions. I think these people should be honored for giving of themselves to the benefit of this city. How can you call honest service and the other conflict of interest is just beyond me, I'm sorry but it's just beyond me.

I think that Gene (Martin) and Michele (Martin) should be honored for their service. I think that Milt (Walker) should be honored for his service. I think those citizens who are willing to give of their time and their talents to this city should be honored and not denigrated.

One other thing-I wanted to commend the volunteers who go down to the Curry County Animal Shelter and walk the dogs. Here are animals spend most of their lives, while at the shelter, basically behind bars. The opportunity for them to get out and go for a walk is something that is made possible by volunteers who go down, get an animal. The shelter will provide a leash, you can walk the animal on the jetty, on the beach, you're losing a little weight and the animal is getting the exercise it needs and that taste of freedom that can't be bad for anyone. I would like to point out that the animal shelter has a dog pound promenade. This next one is set for March 24<sup>th</sup>. If you get a chance, get a dog, get a leash, and take them for a walk.

**Johnson**-I don't see any reason to respond to any of that-I put a letter in the paper that has my opinions in it.

I did want to read this: My neighbor lady called me the other day, as she does, when she reads a lot of stuff in the paper. She said "alright, I want to know what is going on at city hall-what's the matter down there?" I said "everything is going along fine at city hall. It's all the stuff around it that you are hearing. Everything is going as smooth and good as it always has. There's no problems in there." She said she has tried to stay informed and I believe she said she watches us and she reads the paper. She asked why no one ever hears any of the good things? All we read about is when there are headlines about the stuff that is going on now.

At first I was just going to write a little letter but instead right off the top of my head, I wrote down some things and I think it is important for people to know.

In response to my neighbor lady and others who have called me, I want to make it known that in spite of the turmoil, the City of Gold Beach is, in my opinion, in the best condition it has been in for many years. Things are going along smoothly and on schedule with the new sewage treatment plant, exactly on the benchmarks set by DEQ. We have engineers hired that are doing that for us. Financially we are getting our cash carry over built back up so we can repay more from the general fund, the money that was taken for many years from the sewer and water funds. The more we pay back, the less your sewer bills are going to go up when we go for the big debt.

We're able to provide police protection to our citizens at a higher rate per capita than average. A program has been initiated whereby developers have put up hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for the repairs to our old sewer lines and water lines, saving the city the expense. The rough places on our side streets are due to that process and part of the contract is the streets will be repaired when the project is completed. I've had a lot of people complain about that and that should be any time now so we ask that you be patient a little bit longer.

Best of all, we've been paying off city debt and we've been doing this for the last 2 years that I know of and more than that when we could. This comes from our enterprise money. We've been paying off sewer debt for local improvement loans and loans for old sewer improvements at an astounding rate. Some of them as many as 15 years early. The less old debt we have at the time the huge debt of the new plant begins, the less your sewer bills will go up.

We are also making 3 payments per year on the visitors' center, which was on a 40-year contract. We're only required to make one a year, we're making 3 every year.

All these things and more are due to the efforts of this council, our department heads and staff and certainly to the city budget committee. A group of volunteers who are amazing. Their finished budgets are lean and mean.

I finished it with "so don't be alarmed by what you are reading in the paper. All is well at City Hall". And it is, things are going very well here.

Besides the interest on all these loans, we pay over \$81,000 a year, just in fees on these loans. So the quicker those loans

are gone, think of the money we're going to be able to put towards that debt. It's good.

**Popoff**-We've come a long ways in 6 years.

**Flynn**-I appreciate the people that have called me and talked about some of the good things I've done. Nobody's perfect-I'll admit that. I just want to say it is an honor to serve the city. I have a strong loyalty to the city and the police department, especially since I've been there. It saddens me, the problems that are happening with the county, with the sheriff's office. I spent 7.5 years there. I have a certain loyalty to the Port of Gold Beach. I think it is an important part of the whole environment here. We've got to have the port, we've got to have the city. Hopefully, my limited talents will be able to help the two entities work together. That's my goal in life and has been for a long time-is to get people and things to work together. I'm trying my absolute best to do that.

**Popoff**-What I am hoping for and what I think will happen that all of this that looks a little dicey, looks a little bad, will turn out for a greater good. If it will get more people involved. We've had, for so long, an aura of apathy as it were. Sometimes it takes something like this to get the blood running and to get people involved. I have begged people to get involved in your city government. There is no other government that more directly affects you more than your city one. And there is no other government that you can more directly affect than this one. So get involved.

I am taking applications for an interim city administrator. We're going to set up the interviews. Generally speaking, I can go ahead and appoint but after talking with Councilor Flynn, I saw his side of the story and I think it would be a good idea for us to look at them together. The advertisement for the position is that this will make both of the papers and it is being televised. We're also looking for two councilors. Two dedicated people that love this city. Submit your application.

**Johnson**-I'd like to remind everybody that we just filled three and they were all unopposed-3 positions and nobody else ran for one of them. Get involved, like he said.

**Popoff**-I would also like to thank Chief Merkley, I think the world of that man as well too. The proposals, I think, are worth looking into. Thanks for presenting those.

I also want to thank, not as a conspirator by the way, but as a friend and someone who has constantly delivered a service to this city without any pay whatsoever and that is Milt Walker who televises these council meetings each time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

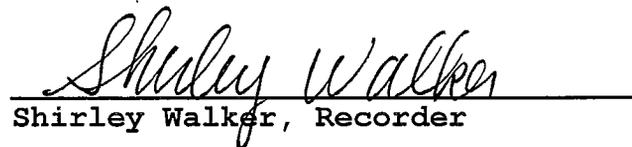
The next regular meeting for the Gold Beach City Council is scheduled for Monday evening, APRIL 9, 2007 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 29592 Ellensburg Ave., at 6:30 P.M.

**ADJOURNED at 7:43 P.M.:**

Approved by the Gold Beach City Council on April 9, 2007.

  
Karl Popoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Shirley Walker, Recorder