

MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
29592 ELLENSBURG AVE
GOLD BEACH OR 97444
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008
SPECIAL MEETING: 3:00 P.M.**

CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR POPOFF AT 3:00 P.M.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

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

The mayor announced there would be no public input taken at this meeting.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of possible temporary dual assignment of Police Chief/Interim Sheriff.

The mayor began the discussion by reporting that Pete Peterson and David Alexander had called for a meeting regarding the possible temporary dual assignment of Chief Merkley to act as interim sheriff and work half time for the city. He then turned the meeting over to Peterson who explained that he had been to the county meeting yesterday when the commissioners announced that Lt. Bishop would not be taking the interim sheriff position. He later talked to a "higher authority" regarding the possibility of Chief Merkley being asked to fill in. Peterson said it would be a good opportunity to work with the county.

It was explained that the chief would do half time at the City and in giving up half his salary, someone could be contracted to do the other half of the chief's job.

Chief Merkley addressed the council and said the employees need someone at the sheriff's office to take over the budget and handle the O & C situation and it is precarious time for them. He said he is not going to apply for the position, but if he is asked, he would like to do it but if the council does not authorize it, the issue is dead.

Popoff asked the chief is he has someone in mind to do the part time work and the chief said he knows a man who was an officer in Myrtle Point and if we paid him \$15.00 per hour, then half of his (the chief's) salary would allow the man to work for 30 weeks at 32 hours a week.

Johnson said the council had just recently, at the meeting on Monday night, been browbeaten about how short of staff the police office is and now the chief is saying that he would cut the time back by half of his shift and she didn't see how they could do that.

Flynn said if the chief moves into half time with the sheriff's position, being a half-time sheriff and we did contract a temporary officer, he felt there might be a conflict of priorities and thought one man couldn't take care of emergencies in both places. He also talked about injuries on the other job, and who would pay for his sick leave days and he had numerous other concerns and questions that he would want answered before we jump into making a decision.

Peterson said the county has an emergency situation coming up, that they have to have a sheriff and we could consider this an experiment and we would be helping the county.

Johnson said her job as a city councilor was to look out for the citizens of Gold Beach, not the citizens of Curry County.

Alexander asked the chief if he had talked to his family and if it was O.K. with them. He asked if, should Lt. Bishop remove his name from the ballot, would the chief run for sheriff. Merkley answered that he might consider that as an option but couldn't say at this time and would have to think about it. He said he has no agenda there.

Alexander read from Sec. 1.1.2 of the City Personnel Manual that an employee couldn't take another job if it would interfere with his current job at the city, so he felt we would be violating our own policy manual.

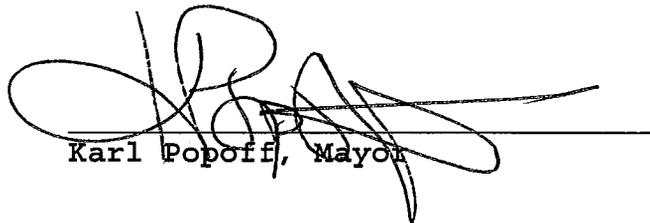
Popoff made some comments about a proposed contract for the half time officer and Johnson said she thinks the city does not have contract employees, but she would have to look it up. The chief said when Reserve Officer Stewart took over when Officer Kinney was hurt, he was there under contract.

Johnson asked why we would believe that the county would want a half-time interim sheriff. The chief then answered that he would be doing that job full-time and only half-time for the city. Johnson had been under the impression the consideration was for half and half, not full time plus half. The chief verified that is what it would be. Johnson reminded him that he had told them that his blood pressure was high, he couldn't sleep, etc. because of the stress and long hours he is working for the city now, so how can he expect to work full time at one job and half time at another. He said he wouldn't have to be there all the time and probably part of the job is sitting in a chair. He said he works 40 to 45 hours for the city each week and said he wouldn't have to actually work all the time for the county. Johnson said she expected they would want him there full time if that was what they hired him for.

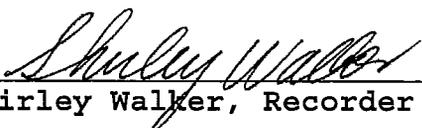
Johnson said she would never vote for that proposition, that he is the Chief of Police for the City of Gold Beach and she didn't see how he could do that and the other job also.

Flynn said he would not vote for anything like that without a lot more research and advice from professionals and it was decided that Peterson and Popoff and Alexander would call the city attorney and get an opinion. They wanted to set another meeting for Monday after we have more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.


Karl Popoff, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shirley Walker, Recorder