

MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
29592 ELLENSBURG AVE  
GOLD BEACH OR 97444  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008  
REGULAR MEETING: 6:30 P.M.**

**CALLED TO ORDER 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 Peter Peterson	X	
Council Position #4 Vacant		
Council Position #5 David Alexander	X	

**\*\*NOTE:** If anyone wishes to address this Governing Body, please present a completed "Business from the Audience" request to the Mayor at this time. Your request will be added under the CITIZEN COMMENTS section of our agenda. Comments and participation from the audience shall be limited to 5 minutes without redundancy.

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:**

Presentation of Mayor, Councilor Appreciation Award to the Curry County Animal Shelter and their volunteers. (A)

**POPOFF STATED:->** We are fortunate to have lots of volunteers at the Shelter but 5 people have been outstanding in devoting their time. I'm very proud of our volunteers-we couldn't achieve what we do without them-they make our town a better place to live in. It is an honor to present this award.

David Darnell: Marisue Terry: Catherine Powers: Patty Wells and Gerda Ramer. If you are in the audience, please come forward and accept a "City of Gold Beach Pin" as a token of our appreciation.

Popoff presented the award to Steve Nagal and the pins to those in attendance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** (B)

- A. Approval of Council Minutes of 5/12 & 5/15/08
- Review of bills paid in the amount of \$111,738.72

Accept abstract of votes cast for the City of Gold Beach, Measure 08-55 at the May 20, 2008 Presidential Primary Election (Charter Amendment extending Mayor & Council terms to Dec 15<sup>th</sup> instead of Nov 15 to allow time for the votes cast to be certified)

**MOTION:**-> Alexander moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn, Peterson and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 4 AYES

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE APPROVED 08-09 CITY OF GOLD BEACH BUDGET ( C )

**POPOFF STATED:**-> I will open the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. This public hearing is to hear comments from the public regarding the approved 08-09 City of Gold Beach Budget. Our policy on public comments is limited to 5 minutes per person. I am going to restate the position this council takes concerning audience participation. I do not allow applause during public meetings. I don't allow booing, stamping of feet or anything along those lines. The person who is speaking, whether or not you agree with what they are saying, deserves courtesy and that applies double for us sitting up here. I have a hearing problem so I have to concentrate on the person that is speaking. I will give one warning, the second time I ask them to leave.

Is there anyone in the audience that would like to comment? If you didn't sign up to speak, and would like to, please feel free to do so. I want to hear what you have to say about the budget.

**Laurence Johnson**-94316 Berry Road. (C-1) In these days and the way we're headed economically, the budget committee deserves a big vote of thanks for taking such good care of business. The volunteers and the council-it's a lot harder to step up and volunteer than it is to sit back and criticize. You all have my appreciation for a job well done.

**Sandra Gilkey**-94470 Chase Lane. (C-2) Commended the budget committee and council for their commitment in putting as much money as possible into the sewer treatment plant fund without cutting any services.

**Jim Freedman**-94253 Gauntlett Street. (C-3) Six months ago you began the process of developing next years budget. It has

been a long and arduous task. However, throughout this whole process, you have managed to move forward in an open and transparent manner. Each of the city's departments have been given the chance to get their fair share of our city's scarce resources. It is tough to make decisions. It is especially tough when you have to work with such limited resources. Nobody has gotten everything they want. There can be no blue skies. There can be no, as Dr. Suess would say (couldn't hear). In the end you all came together, you unanimously voted to produce a balanced budget. It's tight but it's balanced and you did it without using either smoke or mirrors or smoke and mirrors. Should you now choose, and it is up to you, to vote to change this budget, which is balanced, I can only see two different ways to go forward. First, take any increases, which you vote to give out of city's departments budgets, which are also balanced, or take the money away from the people of Gold Beach who are already struggling under the load they have to carry, just to be able to survive by increasing the fees they have to pay. It's your choice, make the hard decision to stick with the budget that you have. It's balanced, and it has been unanimously passed by the budget committee, or bust it and take your chances. It's a tough vote-it's a tough choice to make. That's why we are paying you the big bucks.

**Popoff** asked twice if there was anyone else in the audience that would like to comment on the budget. There was none.

**POPOFF STATED:->** If no one else wishes to comment, I will close the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.

**CITIZEN AND/OR AGENCY REQUESTED AGENDA ITEMS:**

REQUEST FROM PLANNING COMMISSION TO FORM A STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE- ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE ( D )

**POPOFF:->** Bill Matthey, John Truesdell and Larry Cody have submitted a request to the council to form a study group (the Architectural Committee) to investigate the feasibility of the formation of architectural guidelines for the City of Gold Beach. The Committee will research both the methods and criteria involved in implementing future architectural construction and remodeling guidelines, for eventual implementation into the City's Zoning Ordinances. All Five Planning Commissioners currently support the formation of this committee. **John Truesdell** will address the council on behalf of the planning commission.

**John Truesdell**-29000 Viscaino Court-I currently serve as a member of your planning commission. Mr. Truesdell read Exhibit D into the record, outlining what he would like to see explored.

**Peterson**-I commend you guys for coming up with the idea and volunteering to donate your time. I think it is wonderful. The Mayor and Councilors all agreed.

**Popoff**-You have our permission to proceed on this.

**RUSS MERKLEY, CHIEF OF POLICE (E)**  
Introduction of Sheriff John Bishop  
Request for adjustments to the approved budget  
Municipal Court - Reauthorization-Funding source  
Police Levy for November election  
Public & Officer safety issues

**Merkley** stated he would like to publicly state that I apologize for inappropriate comments that I made at the last council meeting. They were inappropriate and I am a professional and I apologize for that. I would hope it doesn't happen again and I apologize to the public.

Merkley introduced the new sheriff, John Bishop. When he was sworn in, it was standing room only in the courthouse. It shows a tremendous of overall support for him county wide. He brings a great amount of knowledge and strength and has the ability to pull people together to make things happen.

**John Bishop**-Thanks for having me here tonight. As he said, it's going to be a job. I hope what I can bring to the table won't disappoint anyone. We all worked together today on a case. I hope I can bring Brookings and the county closer together and also Port Orford. I have a good working relationship with all of the chiefs. I'm hoping my local history will also help. (He stated some of his background) My door is always open and if you have any concerns, come and see me.

The Mayor and Council congratulated Bishop on his appointment.

**Merkley** stated he was not a politician and didn't want to be one. My decisions and my point of view are sometimes different than yours. You have received a budget amendment request from me. (E) I really have 2 main points. I really request adjustments to the budget in two areas. First being

the officer manager's position. We've heard a lot about it, I've spent some time discussing the work ethic and job requirements for that position. I asked that you find in the budget, the amount of money necessary to increase the position from ¾ time to full time. The amount is \$6,784. The only other real request I make, although you have others, is the salary and benefit adjustment-I request an increase of \$1,500 for that line item. That allows for any wage adjustments that would come up, advancements, etc. Those two items, although I have others, are paramount to me. They are so important to me that I believe the office manager's position is so underpaid, both hourly rate and hours, for that position, I will not be taking a pay raise, it will be given to the office manager to increase her wages. I could go through and read my whole "wish" list, which includes an additional officer, not including the levy. Merkley went over the list of requests. (See attached (E) for complete list) I would also like to request that any agreements you make during the union negotiations that require additional money, especially out of the OT budget, that those be addressed separately. Call out, cover shifts, I need to have x number of dollars in that budget for OT purposes. So any contractual needs that you make needs to be above and beyond my requests.

Merkley also thanked the volunteers of the city. He mentioned that a donation drive was held a few years ago that brought in \$1,000 towards the purchase of taser weapons and extra cartridges for each department and also a video camera and waterproof digital cameras. In that effort, the citizens came through with \$6,200. A boat was donated that we received \$12,000 for it. We built a security fence on the south side of the building that has been very successful in reducing unwanted traffic. Merkley stated other items that have been purchased with donated funds. Donations were also received from the Atkins Foundation in Brookings that included the purchase of an ATV. Donations have amounted to approximately \$74,000. You could say we saved 12 years of salary if the office manager was full time with the amount of donations we received.

I would like to see a capital investment fund set up for about \$12,000 a year for the police department so we wouldn't have to come up with the money for computers or large items all in one year. A Five Year Levy is being proposed for 2 officers in the amount of \$665,638, which includes all equipment. I would like the council's support for this levy both public and private. Sheriff Bishop is going to work toward that end. I

believe there is a way we can 'pony-up" and at some point if that is passed, if a criminal justice district is formed, I believe the city can directly benefit from that and it could possibly take over the levy at some future date, it would just meld into it. The sheriff's office currently has and will have a direct and permanent impact on the police department and our ability to do our job. Backup and cover officers are at a premium or non-existent and it still takes 30-50 minutes for a call out to respond.

I think it is important that public safety issues be discussed as openly and as publicly as possible so there isn't any misunderstanding. That's the way to solve problems. I'm talking basically from a law enforcement venue. We have one of the lowest tax bases in the state. As a homeowner we don't pay high taxes but we suffer because we don't. The levy will only be the cost of a couple of cups of coffee each day.

Merkley said he gets a paycheck whether we have municipal court or not. However, I truly believe, with little or no expense to the city, by whatever means the city attorney said, to reauthorize the city judge to hear our citations as well. It won't be totally free but I'm sure with the revenue generated by this court, it will more than take care of whatever expenses there are in addition to providing additional revenue in the general fund for whatever purposes you deem worthy.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

ORDINANCE # 616 (F)

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE CITY'S ELECTION TO RECEIVE STATE REVENUES

Second Reading

**MOTION:->** Johnson moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 616, as read by title, into the record, by Mayor Popoff, second by Flynn. Johnson, Flynn, Peterson and Alexander voted "AYE". VOTE 4 AYES

RESOLUTION R0708-21 (G)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS, IMPOSING AND CATEGORIZING THE TAX

**POPOFF STATED:->** This resolution will adopt the 08-09 budget in the amount of \$12,085,057.

**MOTION:->** Johnson moved to approve Resolution R0708-21, second by Flynn.

Alexander read a statement into the record (G-1) explaining some of the items in the budget. As previously told to our rate payers, there is a \$100K transfer to the sewer fund to help offset the amount the city has to borrow. That a strong commitment has been shown to public safety because out of the \$1,226,608.00 of the General Fund Budget, \$591,746.00 (close to 50% of the general fund budget) has been budgeted for public safety. Alexander also gave background on the budget committee and his opinion regarding the principle of democracy.

Johnson, Flynn & Alexander voted "AYE". Peterson voted "NAY". VOTE 3 AYES 1 NAY

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**MAYOR - Karl Popoff:**

Popoff-I had the privilege of representing our city in the Rose Parade this past weekend. Lot of fun, 2.5 hours long and I walked behind a bunch of horses. I'm a lifetime Oregonian and it's the first time I've ever been in the Rose Parade. I commend Portland Mayor Potter for coming up with the idea of having the "mayor's march for mayor's representing their cities.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Margie Roberts**-I live in Indian Hills but we own a hanger at the airport. We do pay taxes in the city and we also pay a city utility bill.

Roberts read a statement into the record (H-1) Commending the Budget Committee, Mayor & Councilors for their diligence, dedication and hard work during the budget process. Loans have been paid off early and you have managed to increase the transfer from the General Fund to the Sewer Reserve Fund. You have budgeted around 50% to public safety that is very generous. Port Orford netted \$108,003.00 from tickets in the course of a year. I would like to see Gold Beach do that.

**Luane Merkley**-29500 Daisy Lane-I would like to congratulate our graduating class of Gold Beach. It was a wonderful event. \$160,000 in scholarships were given out to our 50 some students.

I would also like to thank the volunteers in our community. We have an extraordinarily large number of volunteers. Just the other night the Gold Beach Police Department swore in 3

new police reserve volunteers and they are going to swear in one more. These people give their time to the community by their involvement in law enforcement. I am working full time as a dispatcher for the sheriff's office so it is nice to see my new boss here. We really enjoy John Bishop and what he has to offer as our sheriff.

In the last month, since I have come across some very concerning things in the fact that we do not have the coverage that we need-law enforcement wise. Not in Port Orford, Gold Beach, Brookings or the county in general. It frightened me to death to have someone who is in fear and we did not have an officer to respond. They are doing a good job but they are trying to build a sand castle with a teaspoon because they just don't have the funding. The levy is a wonderful way for us to get some additional officers in Gold Beach. I do know Sheriff Bishop has some plans to get more funding and I appreciate that. It's very different to sit in our cozy houses and feel comfortable and confident than when you sit down in that dispatch center and you hear everything that goes on and you see for sure what goes on in the entire county. It's real eye opening. It's been a couple of years since I've done that.

I also want to thank our chief for offering my services as a volunteer for Municipal Court. I am willing and able to help out in the Municipal Court arena.

I was a little disheartened when the budget was passed without making any changes in the police department-not that part-but there was a noticeable giggle coming from the audience. I certainly hope that the person that giggled and thought it was funny that the police department wasn't getting more funding doesn't need a police officer.

The city resident thing-I don't know anybody who lives in their PO box, so anybody who is their PO box as their residence (that's great rent) a very small place to live. I really think that the city residents are the ones that have a little more say in what goes on in our city.

I do appreciate you guys and what you are doing. I was very pleased to see the dog shelter recognized and honored.

Thank you.

**Popoff**-I don't hear that well, if there was somebody out there giggling over that, and if I would have heard it.....It's just not appropriate. Mutual respect at my meetings is very important to me.

**Barbara Eells**-28053 Hunter Creek Road-In listening to the numbers of the overall budget and the amount for law enforcement and fire department-that sounds like a huge amount of money and I realize the budget (couldn't hear) and has to be done. However, my personal opinion is you can't pay law enforcement people enough. They are going out every day and putting their lives on the line for people whether they deserve it or not. Having good law enforcement is priceless. I'm not suggesting you change your budget or do anything else. I have listened to what Chief Merkley said. I know Gail Whitmore real well-I know how competent she is-if there is any way to put her full time, it should happen. If there is any way to assist Chief Merkley.... I was amazed at the amount of money he got through grants or citizen involvement to help his department to come up to modern times and be as efficient as they can.

We can look at priorities but if I call 9-1-1 and Mrs. Merkley is sitting at dispatch and doesn't have somebody to send out-it's going to be pretty frightening. We have a tremendously high rate of child abuse, elderly abuse and domestic violence. We have a huge drug problem in this county. We need all the sheriff deputies and police officers that we can manage. We need to treat them right, respect them and as much as possible, give them what they need.

It would be my hope, and I am remiss in not paying enough attention to city council meetings, it's what I'm hearing in the community, reading in the paper, but it would be my hope that any consideration of budget for the Gold Beach Police Department is made objectively and professionally. That there is no hidden agenda, whether it's a city council person, an employee of the City of Gold Beach-that everything is done above board and that there is no personal issue here. We lost one good chief in Bob Rector, I don't want to see another good chief gone.

Thank you.

**Popoff**-We will have two more townhall meetings (scheduling of those meetings is up to the chief) that will be held specifically for information and answering questions regarding

the upcoming tax levy for two officers. I encourage everyone to come to these meetings and become informed.

**Merkley**-re the Tsunami test that was ran earlier in the month. It was heard a little bit better than the month prior. Our emergency services director tested a new system (a speaker-voice system) in Brookings and it was heard for approximately 2.5 miles. The next month it will be held here, he will be bringing it up here and site it at the coast guard station so hopefully it will reach the entire length of Gold Beach Proper, including Rogue Hills, Rogue Shores and hopefully up to the hatchery at Indian Creek. The test will be the first of July at 5:00 p.m. Wherever you are, if you hear it or don't hear it, please make a note of it and the next day, call either us or the sheriff's department and let us know if it was successful or not. If it is successful, he is going to try and sell it to the state, that they will hopefully help purchase this new system. It should increase the number of people who actually hear it. It will be voice as well as a siren. So we will be able to use it for many purposes, not just a Tsunami siren.

**Johnson**-Will it reach to the Hunter Creek area? They have been particularly vocal about having a siren and we finally got one installed out there.

**Merkley**-It will probably not reach Hunter Creek. It is not designed to reach that far. This will be in addition to the current sirens.

**Alexander**-Would it be helpful if some of us volunteered to go to certain spots and actually listen for it? I would be happy to drive wherever you would like me to be. If you want to position me, give me a buzz.

**Popoff**-On behalf of the council and myself, we do want to congratulate the graduating class of 2008. We're very proud of them. They had a great year with sports and academics. It is a year that will be long remembered. I'm just hoping the kids will want to stay here. I'm tired of losing our young people that want to stay but unfortunately they can't.

**Mr. Henry**- (Popoff said Mr. Henry is a direct descendant of Patrick Henry, of the famous Patrick Henry of Virginia) I live on Caughell Street and I want to announce that Thursday,

at 2:00 P.M., we're having a citizens emergency response team meeting here at city hall and everyone is welcome.

**Popoff**-Thanked everyone that attended the meeting this evening. I hope more citizens come and learn how your city government works.

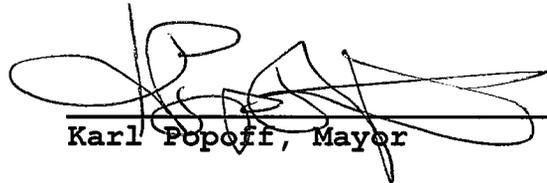
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next regular meeting for the Gold Beach City Council is scheduled for Monday evening, JULY 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 29592 Ellensburg Ave., at 6:30 P.M.

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

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

Passed by the Gold Beach City Council on July 14, 2008.

  
Karl Popoff, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Shirley Walker, Recorder