

**LA PINE CITY COUNCIL  
TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES**

October 7, 2009 from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm

Crescent Creek Club House

La Pine, Oregon

1. Call to Order

Mayor Shields called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Establish Quorum

Roll Call

Mayor Kitty Shields

Councilor Barbara Hedges

Councilor Adele McAfee

City Attorney Jeremy Green

City Recorder Luana Damerval

Administrative Ass't Patti Morgan

Quorum Established.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

John Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

00:01:25

4. Opening Statement From Mayor Shields

Mayor Shields welcomed the public to the first Town Hall Meeting for the City of La Pine. She said the meeting is to be informal and interactive. She listed some general meeting guidelines:

- She will encourage closure of a topic to move onto another topic after a certain point in time.
- One or two speakers should speak for a particular group
- Please state your name and address the first time you speak, and state your name only, every time you speak.

00:04:27

5. Public Comments

John Taylor, 51375 Riverland, discussed the proposed airport efforts by various individuals and groups.

Mayor Shields stated she was at that same meeting and she does not recall the consultant saying that the proposed airport was not feasible. She said the discussion concerned land use within the City and if an airport fit into that usage. Mayor Shields said that the City does have to stay within the State land use rules.

She encouraged Mr. Taylor to go the Comprehensive Plan Hearings and that the airport was not out of the picture.

00:09:35

Ted Scholar, 15640 Corniel Drive, stated he did not see anything in the Comp Plan that concerns economic development. Mayor Shields stated that in a conversation with planning consultant, Deborah McMahon, she was told that a City is to have the mechanisms in place that would allow for all the economic development that is needed. Mayor Shields said that economic development can take place when everything is there for it.

00:12:45

Councilor McAfee stated that La Pine is designated as an Enterprise Zone. She also discussed the Bio-green plant in La Pine, if approved, would be one of the largest construction projects in the State of

00:13:50

Gloria Fleming, 50662 Deer Forest Drive, stated that there is a section in the Comprehensive Plan devoted to economic development. Mayor Shields stated this subject is not listed directly in the City project list and goals.

00:15:30

Pam Cosmo, 51420 Cedar Road, discussed the Comprehensive Plan, where a copy is located at, etc., City Recorder Damerval stated that there is a copy of it at City Hall and it is also on the website for the City of La Pine.

00:17:50

Dan Varcoe, Chamber of Commerce, encouraged the public to get involved with the Comprehensive Plan by attending Public Hearings and Planning Commission Meetings. He said this is the time to give feedback on the Comp Plan.

00:19:01

Pat Murphy, 51427 Cedar Road, asked what assumptions are being made for the 20 year Comp Plan. Alan Unger, County Commissioner, stated he could probably answer that question. He said it is a blueprint for a 20 year growth period. Alan Unger said it addresses goals to plan for the quality of life in the community. He said policies and codes are created from the Comp Plan.

00:21:40

Miles Petroff, 15919 Leslie Drive, stated he had been on a planning commission for ten years in Chino Hills, California. He recommended a community based committee to work between the citizens and the Councilors.

00:25:00

City Recorder Damerval stated that there will be a Planning Commission Hearing with both the Deschutes Planning Commissioners and also the La Pine Planning Commissioners regarding a re-zoning issue in the La Pine Industrial Park. It will be held on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at Midstate Electric Conference Room starting at 5:30 pm. She also said there is a Comprehensive Plan Hearing on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center Conference Room starting at 6:00 pm. City Recorder Damerval announced that the Planning Commission for the City of La Pine will be held on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm in the South County Building Conference Room.

00:26:40

Kathryn (inaudible), 16830 Cagle Road, complained about the condition of the roads around Cagle Road as well as Cagle Road. City Recorder Damerval stated that the City is in the process of putting out road work bids and that the plan is to put three more inches of gravel on Cagle Road. She said they will probably be doing work on the other roads in the near future.

00:29:05

Art Uecker, President of Chamber of Commerce, stated that one of the City's long term goals is also a personal goal of his and that is the City Charter. He said he would like to see the City Charter allow people to run for the Council Chamber that do not reside within the City limits. City Attorney Green stated that when the City is closer to adopting a Charter, they will be looking into that issue. He said he would need to research the matter.

00:37:05

Patty Lee King, (inaudible), Hackett Drive, stated that she would be interested in being involved with the City and even the City Council if that was ever open to non-residents.

00:38:40

Pam Cosmo, 51427 Cedar Road, stated that she does not feel there has been enough outreach by the City to the community as a whole. Mayor Shields asked for a show of hands for everyone that lives in the City boundaries. She said there were about 13 people that raised their hands. She then asked for a show of hands from non-residents and that number was at least 20.

00:41:30

Vicky Jackson, (inaudible), complained that Councilors did not attend the TAG meetings. She stated that she does not want the City of La Pine to die. Ms. Jackson then asked the Council if they had any plans to hire a City Manager. Mayor Shields stated that the City is currently trying to determine the future staffing needs for City Hall.

00:44:30

After Vicky Jackson expressed concern about various issues such as the traffic issue, Councilor Doug Ward stated that the City has been working hard to fix them. He said some of these issues are ones that the County has control over. Councilor McAfee stated that a group of stakeholders is working on ordering a traffic analysis to be done for the City of La Pine.

00:47:27

Robin Mirrasoul, (inaudible), stated that she wanted to thank the Council and public for their donated time to serve. She said that with the City not having a City Manager, the perception of La Pine is that there is no forward movement. Ms. Mirrasoul said that the biggest mistake the City made was not replacing the City Manager. She also complained that there was not enough representation from the City Council at various City events and activities. Robin Mirrasoul stated that the perception is that the City Attorney is running the City and that the City is spending an enormous amount of money on attorney fees making decisions that the Council should be making and then going to the attorney about mitigating any requests.

00:50:56

Mayor Shields stated that the former Manager, Christina Nelson, worked frequently with the City Attorney. She said that City Attorney Green is not running the City. Mayor Shields stated that City Attorney Green gives the same amount of advice now as he did when the City had a City Manager.

She said that the City staff is getting things done. Mayor Shields stated that the Council is trying to see how it works to continue with the staff that we have while the City is focused on the time consuming Comprehensive Plan.

Councilor Ward stated that we do not know what you want unless you tell us. He said the City has reduced the attorney fees by 25%. Councilor Ward said the City may be budgeting for the City Manager in the next fiscal year. He did say that the City has a very small budget and many things are mandated by the State of Oregon. Councilor McAfee stated that she would be an advocate for a City Manager or City Administrator.

00:55:50

John Taylor thanked County Commissioner Alan Unger for attending the Town Hall Meeting. He said he was concerned that the Water and Sewer Districts have not been absorbed into the City of La Pine. John Taylor said that the City is way overdue with absorbing the Water and Sewer District.

00:58:49

(Inaudible), 17681 Souza Court, asked about receiving notice of when the Council Meeting and other City related meetings are held and their locations.

00:59:20

City Recorder Damerval discussed the various locations where meeting notices are regularly posted as well as the Wisebuys and Frontier when there is enough time. She also said they are posted on the website for the City of La Pine.

01:00:55

Sandy Jones, Newberry Eagle Newspaper, asked what happened to the City Manager. Mayor Shields stated that the former City Manager chose to move on. She also said Christine Nelson was not laid-off, she resigned. Mayor Shields also stated that there was no budget for this fiscal year for a City Manager.

01:02:45

Councilor Ward stated that \$1.80/thousand is saving the people of La Pine money on their property taxes. He said if the City hires a City Manager, that tax rate will go up.

01:04:03

Andrea Wood, (inaudible), stated that the City Council needs to find someone that fits in La Pine and also fits the vision of La Pine and that the former City Manager did not fit that vision. Councilor McAfee stated that Christine Nelson is not here to defend herself.

01:05:23

Tom (inaudible), 1658 Daisy Place, stated that it sounds like everyone has a personal agenda. He said that government processes take time. He suggested that the community put up a Reader Boarder in the middle of the City and advertise meetings; councilors needed and even staff positions.

01:08:20

Mayor Shields stated that even though the City gets all the notices out in a legal manner, sometimes people do not look at the posted notices.

01:09:03

Tony Debone, Park & Rec District, stated that they are in the process of hiring a Director for the Park & Rec District. He said that the Sewer and Water Districts acquisition need to be addressed in the near future. Tony Debone stated that, regarding a business license, he suggested a flat \$50 fee and also having the City sweep in front of their business once a year.

01:12:02

Councilor McAfee stated that she has had experience running a business license program for the City of Bend. She said it requires a lot of start-up work as well as staff time.

01:13:30

Art Uecker, La Pine Insurance, stated that the Chamber of Commerce was against a business license because the City offered nothing in exchange for it such as nuisance ordinances, etc. Mayor Shields stated that there are too many projects and also that priorities are always changing. She said that the business license start-up is very complicated and very time consuming.

01:17:54

Vicky Jackson spoke about the former City Manager, Christine Nelson. She said she would very good at coming to the community meetings. Mayor Shields stated that she is spending less time on City issues than she did a year ago when there was as City Manager.

01:19:33

Councilor Ward stated that many of the traffic issues mentioned in this meeting are under the discretion of ODOT (Oregon Dept of Transportation). He said until the legislature gives them money, there is nothing that can be done. Councilor Ward said these things are going to get done but they will take more time. He also said he was in support of hiring a City Manager and will push for the funding in next year's budget.

01:21:26

City Attorney Green stated that there is an MOU circulating between the County, ODOT, LIGI (La Pine Industrial Group) and the City of La Pine regarding having a traffic analysis performed in the La Pine corridor. He said once that is completed it will determine what traffic improvements are needed.

01:23:26

City Attorney Green suggested citizens could write letters, e-mails, and phone calls to ODOT concerning the traffic safety issues in La Pine. He said the public comments to ODOT could not be ignored.

01:25:18

Vern Walters, Dorrance Meadow Road, said the traffic analysis study is going to come up with a solution. He also said that a few years ago the County offered to loan money for engineering work to the City if they could show a way to repay the monies. Vern Walters said that the County should loan the City the money, once this new study is completed, and also that building permits could be issued because the solution to the problem was in the works or coming.

01:27:23

City Attorney Green stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) only addresses the employment of a consultant to complete the studies. He said that the study would just identify problems and solutions. City Attorney Green said there is no currently binding agreement in that MOU to implement the identified solution nor does it speak to the County's funding of that solution. He said that is something that

LIGI can propose and then it can be discussed by the four stakeholders. City Attorney Green emphasized that the MOU is at the preliminary stage and being circulated among the stakeholders.

01:29:44

Councilor Ward stated that ODOT's preliminary estimation to put in stop lights, etc., is approximately 1.5 million. He said the only place that money can probably come from is the State legislature through ODOT.

01:30:45

Mayor Shields stated that all stakeholders, the County, ODOT, LIGI, and the City of La Pine are serious about getting this traffic issue fixed.

01:31:15

(inaudible), stated that you don't just write to ODOT, you write to the County Commissioners, Senator Wyden, the Governor, the greasy wheel gets the grease.

01:31:52

Mayor Shields discussed that the ending time for the Town Hall meeting had been scheduled for 7:00 pm but apparently there had been some misinformation communicated so in order to respond to the public's needs and desires she asked the Council about extending the meeting. Councilors and City staff agreed to extend the meeting until 7:30 pm.

01:32:50

Robin Mirrasoul stated that the City may be able to operate more efficiently if there was a City Manager. She also said that the City needs to take action on exploring the acquisition of the Water and Sewer Districts. She also said she supported a business license fee. Robin Mirrasoul also stated that 75% of the taxes the City receives are from business owners, not residents.

Councilor Ward stated that the City is not playing "catch up." He said the time is not right for the City to acquire the Water and Sewer Districts. Councilor Ward also said he was not in favor of raising the tax rate at this point in time.

01:36:20

Mayor Shields stated that raising the tax rate to \$1.98 per thousand is not going to pay for everything that is on people's wish list. She said that they purposely kept the tax rate below \$2.00 so that the incorporation of the City would pass.

01:38:56

Mayor Shields stated that 51.2% of the taxes for the City of La Pine come from residential properties. She also said that the renters living inside the City are paying their taxes in their rent.

01:40:18

Art Uecker stated that not having a City Manager has significantly caused a real slowdown in City administration. Mayor Shields stated that she is not doing any administrative duties.

01:41:50

Councilor Ward stated that the City is moving forward on a number of fronts. He also said that this Town Hall Meeting is the best meeting, with the number of attendees that the City has ever held with the public.

01:43:25

Mayor Shields stated that City Recorder Damerval handles the administrative duties for the City. She said that the Administrative Assistant, Patti Morgan, was hired to assist with the increased workload.

01:44:30

Jim Fleming stated that Water and Sewer Districts is a big issue for the public. Mayor Shields asked if he would be interested in spearheading this issue. He said he firmly believes in people getting involved in the process. Mayor Shields suggested forming a committee.

01:45:50

Councilor Hedges stated that she sometimes does not know where to go for answers, herself. She said that she would like the Town Hall Meetings to be held every six weeks. Councilor Hedges suggested having a spokesman for every area of issues. She said she would like to see a City Manager that has some legal and business background to supplement information from City Attorney Green and also be timelier.

01:47:50

Pam Cosmo, Cedar Row, stated that she would like to be notified ahead of time about the upcoming meetings.

01:48:49

City Recorder Damerval stated that there is a standard list of e-mail addresses that the meeting announcements e-mailed to ahead of time. She said that people can either call City Hall and ask to be put on that list, or we can use the list of e-mail addresses from tonight's meeting and add them to the agenda meeting notice e-mail list.

01:49:25

Pam Cosmo asked how the new McDonald's received approval because of the traffic and safety issues at the Reed and Hwy 97 intersection.

01:50:04

Mayor Shields stated that there was not time left tonight to get into that issue. She also said that it might be good to have another Town Hall Meeting every few weeks.

01:50:23

Linda Johnston, area resident, stated that people do not really appreciate what it is like to be in a Councilor's footsteps. She said that forming committees and having them give the Council suggestions; the Council will not have to address the issue, again.

01:51:40

Patty (inaudible), Hackett Road, stated that the City Manager provides leadership and knows infrastructure and regulatory rules. She said that on the City website it could show what the City is working on and also keep the public informed.

01:52:51

City Recorder Damerval stated that the City's goals are on the website.

Patty (inaudible) stated that goals are different than what the City is working on at the current time. She said there still needs to be more communication coming from the City Council members to the public.

01:53:20

Art Uecker thanked the Council and staff for doing this Town Hall Meeting for the community. He suggested doing the Town Hall meeting again, perhaps quarterly.

01:54:40

Councilor McAfee stated that the City has been in this do no harm phase into a more visionary phase. She said this is where the public really comes in and more progress occurs.

01:55:05

Mayor Shields stated that the Council has wanted to do a Town Hall Meeting for awhile and has been talking about it.

01:55:37

Dan Varcoe stated that he appreciated all the public that showed up for the meeting and made it a priority in their schedule.

(Inaudible), said the next few months are going to be very critical for the City. He recommended a part time City Manager or part time Planner for the first year and then have the position go to full time the following year. He also suggested that they talk to other communities that have at large councilors and see how it worked for them.

6. Adjourn

**A motion was made by Councilor McAfee and seconded by Councilor Hedges to adjourn the Town Hall Meeting.**

***Vote as follows:***

***Mayor Kitty Shields***

***AYE***

***NAY***

***X***

***Councilor Doug Ward***

***X***

***Councilor Barbara Hedges***

***X***

***Councilor Adele McAfee***

***X***

**Motion passed unanimously.**



Mayor Shields adjourned the Town Hall Meeting at 7:34 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Kitty Shields

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder Luana Damerval