

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

Mayor Dennis Thayer called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk, Carolyn Banks called the roll and the following were present: Mayor Dennis Thayer, Council Members Craig Guyton, Ronald Nesbitt, David Duncan, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens. City Attorney Boyd Pettit was not present.

Employee Recognition - Leeroy Shepherd 20 Years of Service

Mayor Dennis Thayer on behalf of City Council presented Leeroy Shepherd with a glass appreciation plaque for 20 years of service. He said LeeRoy was the longest serving employee with 20 years. We thank you and you have been a great employee committed to the city and the community. The Mayor said it was a great accomplishment. On top of that, he had another career with the county and during that time he worked for the City of Euharlee 15 years on a contract basis making a total of 35 years. Mayor Thayer mentioned Leeroy's luncheon. Leeroy said thank you and he appreciates working for the city. He also said he enjoys working with the City Manager, James Stephens and thinks he will lead in the right direction. He also said he enjoyed working with the council.

Council Member David Duncan said he worked with Leeroy for 14 years and while on the night shift, if you ever needed him he would come out and do whatever you needed him to do. Council Member Duncan said thank you.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt motioned to approve the City Council Meeting minutes for 08.02.16 and the City Council Work Session minutes for 08.16.16. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Selection - Mayor and Council

Mayor Dennis Thayer said the steering committee had to be created to assist with the Comprehensive Plan. It can be a total of 5 members. Council Member Joe Turner said, he spoke with Steve Worthington and he would be willing to serve on the committee. Council Member Craig Guyton said, 3 are citizens, 1 is a current employee and 1 member from council as well. Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to approve Steve Worthington, Becky Dabbs, Eric Smithey, employee Charles Reese and from the council Mayor Dennis Thayer for the comprehensive plan steering committee. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept Donation 2004 Ford Explorer Sport Trac - James Stephens

City Manager James Stephens said, Joe Rosada, city resident donated a 2004 Ford Explorer Trac to the City of Euharlee. Mr. Stephens stated that this would be ideal for Don to utilize at the parks and recreation. In return, all he is looking for is 1098 C with the appropriate value on it. It has 200,000 miles, but is operable and will serve the city in the recreation department. Mr. Stephens recommends the acceptance of the donation. Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to accept the donated vehicle. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members

Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor. Mayor Dennis Thayer said to submit a thank you letter as well.

Public Comment Policy – Craig Guyton

Council Member Craig Guyton said, this was talked about a year ago and we made no changes. Fred Werner mentioned it as well, a couple of meetings ago. Council Member Guyton would like to keep public comments at the work session the same, at the end of the meeting. He would like to move public comments to the very first agenda item at the city council meeting. Therefore, we can hear from citizens before we make a vote. The way it is now, we make a vote on something, ask the citizens to comment and it's already done. This way the constituents and our citizens have a better opportunity for their voice to be heard.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to change public comments at the city council meetings to move up first on the agenda after the approval of minutes and make it an item of its own. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Council Member Joe Turner said thank you to Guyton for doing this. The number of years he has been on council one of the biggest complaints he heard over the years is the public doesn't have an input in what we do. We do business and comments are at the end. He said, many years ago there was a Mayor that allowed people to speak when they wanted to and it took a tremendous amount of time. If we are going to do this we need to set an amount of time and council not get in a back and forth argument.

Council Member Guyton said, the School Board has set an amount of time. He prefers not to do that unless it becomes a problem. Mayor Dennis Thayer said they still need to sign up.

Council Member David Duncan said from his point of view, when he was a spectator, the public does not know what is going to be discussed and they may not sign up. They should be given a chance during the discussion to stand up and voice their opinion also. Mayor Thayer asked, so we should have an official time period where citizens can discuss each line item and Duncan said yes. Council Member Duncan explained that he would sign up in case council discussed something he wanted to bring up later. He would put a question mark and if he didn't have anything to say, he would say he didn't have anything to say. Mayor Thayer stated we have a motion to move to the front. If you want a second motion you can do that. Council Member Guyton stated, the way we have suggested to do this, majority of the items are discussed during the work sessions first and citizens can comment then or at the council meeting and they can sign up beforehand. Occasionally they will not know. Council Member Joe Turner said this will encourage people to come to the work sessions so they will know what will be voted on. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to allow the citizens to speak up during the meetings, if they have something they would like to speak on, raise their hand and speak whenever they want. Council Member Joe Turner said, he would second it to give him a chance for the motion. He said he discussed what happened years ago, so the Mayor would have to control it. During the discussion, Mayor Thayer said this is a nightmare waiting to happen. He does not think this is the way it should be done or will it be effective or efficient on the council's part. City Manager James Stephens clarified that they would still sign up forehand. Council Member Duncan said he signed up every week. Council Member Ronald Nesbitt stated his intention was to discuss the agenda during the work session. He has some concerns about randomly standing up speaking up. But what he wanted to bring up and deal with is more advertising for citizens to be more aware. Council Member Turner asked Council Member Duncan if he wanted to wait. Council Member Nesbitt said, it is not about how citizens interact with council. He wants to discuss more on the lines of what Council Member Guyton is talking about doing.

2 were in favor and 3 opposed. The motion did not carry on a 2-3 vote.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.