

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:00pm, Wy'East Middle School PAC, 3000 Wy'East Rd, Hood River, OR

MINUTES

Any item or issue not on the agenda you have a question, comment or statement about please bring up under Items from the Public

Chair Oates called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Present: Commissioners, Joplin, McBride, Benton and Perkins as well as Counsel Davies, and Administrator Hecksel.

Chair read a statement before the hearings as a general overview outlining what the Commission has tried over the years to find alternative revenue sources.

CONFLICTS OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO/FROM THE AGENDA

No

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

John - lives in HR – re article written in HR News. Speaking of NORCOR and budget and immigrants being held at NORCOR. Pointing out that HRC budget helps pay for NORCOR and ice's contract. Costs of the immigrant's detention is not covered by ice contract. County pays up to \$548k/yr to pay for ice detainees. Stop funding for ice detainees to be incarcerated at NORCOR.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair read the rules of conduct for the hearing into the record and stated there will be a 3-minute time limit for testimony

Administration

Public Health and Safety, 5-Year, Local Option Levy Tax

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the public hearing and determine the best action for the County.

Chair opened the hearing at 6:13pm.

Kate McBride – Hood River resident – has lived here her whole life and gladly writes a tax check each year and feels it is important to the health of the county. Saddens her that we cannot provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage. Panorama point is closed because we don't have

enough money to take care of the parks. Applauds the commission to go through the process over the last 1.5 years and following the citizens to vote on the options.

Prepared Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the reading of the proposed Ordinance by title only

Commissioner McBride made a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. Commissioner Joplin seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Commissioner McBride read the title.

Commissioner Joplin made a motion to accept the reading of the Ordinance Title. Commissioner Benton seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Chair Oates opened the hearing to consider an Ordinance to approve a Hood River County Prepared Food and Beverage Tax and asked for public comments.

Mary Ellen Barilotti – Hood River Resident: speaking to both measures. Consider consolidating law enforcement with City of HR and contract with City of Hood River for the services. She has seen this happen in other areas she has lived. Knows we provide contracted law enforcement to the City of Cascade Locks.

Pies and cake on the Food & Beverage Ordinance – if you take a piece to go from bakery you are taxed and if you buy a whole pie you are not taxed and curious why.

Randy Orzak, Hood River resident – read from a written statement. (Try and get his statement he read it from his computer.)

Pointed out the BOC did not engage the business community or do a study on a food a beverage tax. When meal tax goes in people eat more at home and eat and independent restaurants. Less likely to eat at restaurants. County needs funding but doesn't feel this is fair, targeting a small group.

Did not get the speakers name, Hood River resident – minister of and member of gorge ecumenical ministries. Went to the sales tax hearing last year. Learned that the property tax in HRC is very low. Disturbed to learned that 12% of the budget in HRC goes to NORCOR. Has been working with detainees for 2 years at NORCOR. ICE is keeping their detainees at NORCOR for longer that was designed to house them – some have been there for 2 years. Feels the needs of HRC citizens is better met for safety – and move out the ICE costs go toward public safety and she supports a food and beverage and local option levy. Thanked Commission for their work.

Mark Reynolds, Hood River resident – thanked the commission for their clarity and found it very helpful – it reminded him of measure 5 and 50. Appreciates that the Commission is struggling with this issue. He is not sure we have choices. Looks at credit card bill and often it is more than his yearly property taxes in just one-month bill. Supports both proposals because our shared priorities are at stake and we have already lost so much. However, he is concerned about folks that are hanging on by fingertips. He does not support ICE funding. Wants to know if we are going to continue to support ICE through NORCOR.

Ron Rivers, Hood River resident – thanked the Commission and staff knows this process has not been easy. Thanked the citizens for allowing him to be the Chair of the BOC for 12 years. Ron answered Mary Ellen Barilotti statement about joining the city and county law enforcement – stated that has been looked at and was not overly beneficial. This has been a tough road for the Commission. Lots of things have been tried – he thinks this community is big enough to know what the county does for them and important that we step up. Look at the support we give the schools here. We need the safety to be fully staffed not just getting by. We have not had 24/7 coverage in the county for months at a time. He urges people to support these issues.

Chair Oates stated no one else is signed up to speak and closed both hearings and asked for the Commissioners deliberations.

It was determined a few other folks intended to speak but had not signed up when they arrived. Chair Oates re-opened the both the Food & Beverage and Local Option Levy hearings and called upon Matt Swierhart.

Matt Swierhart, owner of Double Mtn Brewery – thank you for the work over the and trying to find resources. He supports more revenue into the county and feels that the tax would be appropriate. But out of your control is state revenue reform. Unfortunate, that we have targeted his industry for the short fall and the result of this will be is he will survive fine. The increase in taxes will reduce his overall income, tips and less employees and some folks will be moving outside of Hood River County. Feels the tax is unfair to target one industry.

Hearing no other comments Chair Oates reclosed both hearings and again asked for the Commissioners deliberations.

Commissioner Benton – regarding the NORCOR comments: the revenue from the ICE contract helps subsidize the county contribution by \$3-400K per year. That is funding the County does not have to put in. Encouraged folks to come to the NORCOR budget committee meeting.

Commissioner McBride – appreciates everyone’s input through all of the meetings and we have received a lot of input and believes we have taken it to heart. These are difficult decision to make and believes we are moving forward with the community’s interest at heart as these decisions impact people, but we must make decisions. It is important to let the voters speak on these issues.

Local Option Levy –

Commissioner Joplin made a motion to approve the Resolution calling for the measure to be forward to the voters at the May 21, 2019 election. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea

Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Food & Beverage Tax Ordinance–

Commissioner McBride made a motion to adopt a Resolution which refers the Ordinance to the voters at May 21, 2019 election. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Community Development

Second Reading of a Road Naming Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the 2nd reading of the proposed Ordinance by title only. Conduct the Hearing and adopt a Road Naming Ordinance as presented, selecting “Upper Highline Drive” as the road name.

Commissioner Joplin made a motion to read the road naming ordinance by title only. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Commissioner Joplin read the Ordinance title options.

Commissioner Benton made a motion to accept the title reading. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Chair Oates opened the hearing and asked for a staff report.

Eric Walker, Interim Planning Director – the Gwen’s have made application to name an unnamed access road. Several choices were given with Upper Highline Drive being the preferred choice and supported by staff. No comments or concerns for the new road name were received. There is a request was to keep the existing house numbers. Eric stated that Hood River County requires addressing grid numbers to be followed and therefore to avoid confusion staff recommends against keep the house numbers the same.

Commissioner Perkins – look at the map and is not clear how the Ordinance reads for house numbers, stated it looks ambiguous of what direction you go when you determine the house numbers. Eric said there are examples out there where discretion must be used. Regardless of the shape of the road the grid set up will not match the exact numbers that are on their homes. Because of that we propose using the grid number system instead of retaining the current numbers. Perkins asked for an example of how the numbers will change. Walker is not able to answer that at this time as the house numbers have not been assigned yet.

Joplin says the grid requires numbers to grow North to South – do they currently do that? Eric said as a matter of practice north to south you start with smaller numbers. He is not sure of these exact numbers but assumes that same system was used

Joplin asked that by adopting the road name do we need to take separate action to change the house numbers. Eric said no, but if you want to keep the same house numbers you would need to take a separate action otherwise the road will be named and the grid practice to numbering applied.

Joplin asked if this is normal that the house numbers need to be changed. Eric said yes. That is the normal process.

Eric said if this new road name is approved his department will send all affected properties a letter showing their new house number and road name – they will have the information and can change their legal documents.

Benton asked what happens when an approved name is chosen off the list, is the grid system also applied and house numbers change along with the new road name? Eric affirmed that is correct.

Chair Oates asked for public comment and hearing none closed the hearing and asked for Commissioner deliberations.

Joplin understands the inconvenience of changing the house numbers but as Perkins pointed out the road name change is also inconvenient. She supports the staff recommendation.

Benton stated since this is how all road names and house number assignments are made in Hood River County, he supports staff recommendation.

Commissioner Perkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance selecting the road name: Upper Highline Drive. Commissioner Joplin seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

{Counsel Johnson arrived 6:55}

Public Works

Second Reading of an Ordinance and Hearing of Title 10 Chapter 24: Construction within a Public Right of Way

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the 2nd reading of the proposed Ordinance by title only and Conduct the Hearing and adopt the Ordinance as presented

Commission Benton made a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea

Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Commissioner Perkins read the title.

Commissioner Joplin made a motion to accept the title reading. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Commissioner Perkins -yea
Commissioner Joplin – yea
Commissioner Benton – yea
Commissioner McBride – yea
Chair Oates – yea

Motion carried.

Administration

Second reading of Title 10 – Chapter 24: Construction within a Public Right of Way
RECOMMENDATION: Conduct the second reading by title only and conduct the public hearing adopting the Ordinance as presented.

Chair Oates opened the hearing and asked for a staff report.

Johnson Dunn, legal counsel – this is the last ordinance in the codification process – this was moved from chap 13. This Ordinance was redrafted to allow for permits and inspections of construction in a public right-of-way to be done. The Ordinance streamlines the process and gives the Director more discretion. This Ordinance is currently known as Ord. 177.

Chair Oates called for public comments and hearing none closed the hearing and asked for the Commissioners deliberations.

Commissioner Perkins made a motion to approve the Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Benton seconded the motion.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Oates adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.