

**CITY OF ABERDEEN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2006**

Mayor Morgan Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. City Clerk Marva Jean Mueller was present to record the following minutes.

Council members present were: Hap Fettis, Mary Leisy, Lisa Pankau, Brian Schneider, Darrin Simpson and Craig Wampler.

Planning and Zoning Board members present were: Mike Petersen, Pam Muirbrook and Norman Jones.

Others present were: Chad Struhs, Joseph Struhs, Shawn Foster, Paul Muirbrook, Kevin Klassen, Frank Wallace, Richard Carlile, Vicki Gamble, Richard Mayer, Ray Dalling, Brian Griffin and Dan Acevedo.

HEARING

Mayor Morgan Anderson stated that a hearing was being held because of a request for a special use permit for Direct Communications to move the satellite dishes from 176 North Main Street. to across the street to 217 North Main Street. Morgan Anderson turned the time over to Brian Griffin from Direct Communications to address those attending the hearing.

Brian Griffin stated that Direct Communications had purchased the cable system from Cable One in November of 2005. He stated that to improve the cable service to Aberdeen and to offer internet service, they would need to do some upgrading. They are renting land from Corbridge Ag & Craft and they now have the opportunity to purchase a piece of property across the street and would like to move everything to there. He stated that they want to tear down the old church and build a small building to house their equipment and then they would do landscaping to make the property look nice.

Howard Kendell had written a letter to be presented at the meeting and Mr. Griffin went over the list of questions and answered them as follows:

1. Question: Will the property be landscaped to be attractive to anyone passing through the community?
Answer: Yes
2. Question: Will the property be maintained free from weeds and trash?
Answer: Yes, we have always tried to make our property an improvement to a city. If you look at our property in Rockland, you will see that we landscaped the property and it looks good.
3. Question: Will the cable system interfere with any other cable systems or communications?
Answer: No.
4. Question: Will the building or office be an attractive size, so in the future, if Direct Communications were to relocate to another area, would said area or building be attractive to someone else for

another business venture:

Answer: The building will be a small building toward the back of the property as well as the dishes, the rest of the land will be landscaped to look attractive.

5. Question: Will the property be attractively fenced?

Answer: They are willing to put a fence up between the properties next to them if that is what the city would like for them to do.

Mr. Richard Carlile stated that he owns the lot next to this property and he would like to see a fence be put up that would block the view as much as possible from his back yard. Mr. Griffin stated that he thought they would be willing to do that.

6. Question: Would the church be torn down.

Answer: yes

7. Question: Would the building be at the back of the property or the front?

Answer: Back.

8. Question: Will the satellites be close to the streets or sidewalks?

Answer: No

9. Question: What is expected from the city other than power, or water hook-up.

Answer: Nothing

Mayor Anderson asked Marva Jean to read the letter from Howard Kendell so it could go into the minutes. Marva Jean read the letter from Howard Kendell . (A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes.)

Mayor Anderson asked about the historical value of the church, if they would have a problem tearing down the church. Dan Acevedo asked if anyone had been contacted about this issue. Marva Jean stated that Cheryl Sorensen had called to ask her about when the Tiger Hut had been built because the Historical Society had contacted Ireland Bank about it, but no one has called about the church. Mayor Anderson asked Norman Jones, who had been a member of the church when it was originally built, if he thought there would be a problem. Mr. Jones stated he didn't know of anyone that would care if it was torn down.

MOTION

Councilman Simpson made the motion to issue a conditional use permit to Direct Communications with the following conditions; that the demolition of the current structure is done within 16 months after taking possession of the property, that the property be landscaped, there is to be 6 foot sight obstruction fence and that the dishes be put to the back of the property. Councilwoman Leisy seconded the motion.

Roll call: Fettis, yes; Leisy, yes; Pankau, yes; Schneider, yes; Simpson, yes and Wampler, yes. Voting was unanimous, the motion carried.

Richard Carlile asked that he be notified when the plot plan is turned in so he could take a look at it and make comments if necessary. Mayor Anderson advised him that Marva Jean would contact him.

Councilman Schneider stated that Direct Communications would be required to get a building permit also.

Dan Acevedo stated that he would draft a finding of facts of what took place at the hearing with all of the conditions in it and present it to the council for final approval at the next meeting. He stated that Direct Communications can go ahead and proceed.

Councilman Simpson asked Mr. Griffin when the cable internet would be made available. Mr. Griffin stated that it should be within a couple of months.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing and opened the regular council meeting.

Mayor Anderson stated that Frank Wallace had come to the council meeting to ask for a variance. Frank Wallace stated that his building permit was turned down because he could not meet the 20 foot set back from the street. He stated that he wants to attach an aluminum awning to an existing building, with three legs coming down to the ground to hold it up. He stated that he would not pour a concrete slab but he would concrete the posts into the ground. The awning would not meet the setbacks required by the city. He stated that the awning would not go any further out to the street than the existing building it would be attached to.

Mike Petersen asked why this had not been to the Planning and Zoning Board first. Councilwoman Leisy stated that the Planning and Zoning Board did not hold a meeting because they were holding a joint hearing with the council. Marva Jean stated that they thought that possibly he could come to the council meeting because the P&Z Board would be here and not make him wait until next month.

They decided that a variance was not required because it is not going out any closer to the street than the building it is attached to.

Councilman Wampler made the motion to approve the request made by Frank Wallace to put up the awing which will not be a permanent structure and will not have a foundation, Councilman Schneider seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Paul Muirbrook introduced himself stated that he is the weed superintendent in Bingham County. He stated that he was here to talk about GIS, which is basically data sites which is placed somewhere around the world. He stated that five years ago they started a program with students in Bingham County. He stated that he found that with working with the students they found out that the possibilities are endless what they can do for communities, counties and natural resource people. He stated that they do a lot of different types of mapping. He talked about the youth program and how it will be beneficial in the future.

Joseph Struhs stated that Trent Foster and he were the first students in Aberdeen to be in the program started by Bingham County. He stated that they did the mapping of the city streets for Dena Blaker, who was the

councilperson over streets. He stated that they map the conditions of the road and street signs. He stated that the latest project he worked on was with Pam Muirbrook developing a Planning and Zoning map of Aberdeen.

Shawn Foster, the youngest of the group, stated that he has learned a lot working with the others and helping them on their projects. He stated that they learned how the different weeds affect our area. He said that they have mapped the different weeds and put them on cards and other things, which will help people know what the different types of weeds are. He gave the council some cards that they had made showing the different kinds of weeds with information on each weed.

Paul Muirbrook stated that they are always looking for new projects and money to help support the different projects.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

Councilwoman Leisy made the motion to approve the minutes as type. Councilman Fettis seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

DEPARTMENTS

Councilman Simpson stated that Craig and he are still working on the personnel policy. He said they have received job descriptions from the Chief, Richard, Marva Jean and people in their department.

Councilman Simpson stated that he wants to get with Richard in the next month and talk about some goals and objectives for the streets.

Councilman Simpson advised the council that he believes the city needs to establish a youth council in the near future. He stated that he has had some students ask him about having one.

Councilman Simpson said that Chief and he had a meeting about the traffic around the school. He said that when they come up with a plan he will put it in everyone's box to take a look at.

Councilman Schneider stated that Richard gave him a water usage report that was very interesting. He said that the total usage for water in 2005 was 346,114,400 gallons, which was down from 2004 which was 390,000,000 and really down from the peak year in 2000 of 485,000,000. He said that the city is down almost 150,000,000 gallons of water usage per year. He stated that the lower usage can be contributed to the water project.

Councilman Schneider advised the council that Schiess & Assoc. had sent him a work-sheet showing water and sewer rates for different cities of different sizes. He stated that Aberdeen is pretty comparable to other cities our size on water rates, but lower on sewer rates than most.

Councilman Schneider stated that he hopes by spring the crew can start working on the meters so by summer they can start reading them, and then

hopefully by fall he would have enough information be able to decide on a base rate.

Councilman Schneider stated that he had talked with Don Nebeker about the golf course fees and he said he would like raise his prices to stay the same price as American Falls, which would be around a dollar increase.

Councilman Schneider made the motion to accept Don Nebeker's recommendation to increase the golf fees. Councilman Wampler seconded the motion.

Roll call: Fettis, yes; Leisy, yes; Pankau, yes; Schneider, yes; and Wampler, yes. Voting was unanimous, the motion carried.

Councilman Schneider stated Mayor Anderson had asked Craig and him to get with Marva Jean and help her set up a payroll program on her computer so she can track the vacation and compensation time easier. He stated that he had shown Marva Jean a program that he felt would work fine. He said he would get with Marva Jean and get it set up.

Councilman Schneider stated that he had noticed that we are missing a lot of street signs and some that are in need of repair. He stated that is one of those smaller things that would make a community look better. He said that he would like to see the city get on a system to replace as many as we can each year.

Councilman Wampler stated that the city crew has cleaned 9.28 miles of sewer lines. He stated that Jerry Giesbrecht has been working with the city on different projects. He stated Jerry and Scott have worked on the effluent meter.

Councilman Wampler stated the Mayor, Richard and he had met with Three River RC&D and DEQ and went over some of the problems at the plant and talked about the wetland project. He stated they talked about some possible solutions for the warehouses and the city.

Councilman Fettis stated that Brad from Intermountain Express is willing to pick up and deliver our samples and take them to Pocatello for \$15.00 a trip. Councilman Fettis stated that Brad would be willing to come to a council meeting if the council would like to talk with him.

Councilman Fettis stated that there seems to be a problem with a lot of junk cars around town again. Mayor Anderson stated that they have been working on getting rid of the junk cars, but there is still a lot around town. Councilman Fettis stated that Aberdeen could look a whole lot better. Councilwoman Pankau stated that her father, after he retired worked for Blackfoot as a volunteer. He would drive around and look at the community and make recommendations to the council of different areas that needed cleaned up and then a letter would be drafted up and sent to the resident.

Councilwoman Leisy stated that the letters and leases for the airport have been set out to the hangar owners.

Councilwoman Leisy stated that the Gem Community is having their meeting tomorrow and that they are working on the plans for a walking path around the wetlands. She stated that Aberdeen and American Falls is trying to start up an Economic Development Group and she has been going to those meetings.

Mayor Anderson stated that Councilman Simpson and he went to Boise and attended the legislative meeting. He stated that they sat through four hours of listening to them talk about the personal property tax roll over, but they have not made any decision on it yet.

Mayor Anderson stated that by the next council meeting he hopes to have it in the new council room. But the grand opening would not be until we get the front finished. He stated that everything else is going really well and should be completed by the next meeting.

Mayor Anderson stated that he would like to see the restrooms over at the park fixed up so the city does not have to keep using the portable toilets.

Councilman Schneider said that he would like to see the city put vandal resistant materials in the bathroom like you see in the restrooms at rest stops along the highways.

Dan Acevedo stated that he is still working with Simplot on the lease agreement for the water shares. He stated that they wanted to check with a few of the different agencies to make sure it is ok with all of them.

Richard Mayer gave his monthly report.

Richard Mayer stated that they have been cleaning out the sewer lines but are having a few problems getting to some of the man holes.

Richard Mayer advised Councilman Wampler that if he needed help building the sheds for the treatment plant the crew could help him. Councilman Wampler advised him that he would contact him later and talk with him.

Marva Jean stated that Frontier Telephone Company would be here tomorrow to start putting in the new lines for the telephones at the new city hall.

MOTION

Councilman Schneider made the motion to pay the bills present for payment. Councilwoman Pankau seconded the motion.

Roll call: Fettis, yes; Leisy, yes; Pankau, yes; Schneider, yes and Wampler, yes. Voting was unanimous, the motion carried.

Checks or Warrants #15897-15951 for a total of \$95,785.39 was presented for payment. \$87,462.55 was from General Fund, \$3,267.34 was from the Water Fund and \$5,055.50 was from the Waste Water Fund.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Councilwoman Pankau made the motion to adjourn until March 14, 2006. Councilman Wampler seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.