

CITY OF BISHOP
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 26, 2007

CALL TO ORDER	Mayor Crom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
INVOCATION	The invocation was given by David Fairley of Youth With a Mission followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Dishion.
COUNCIL PRESENT	Griffiths, Cullen, Dishion, Connolly, Crom
COUNCIL ABSENT	None
OTHERS PRESENT	Richard Pucci, City Administrator Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk Peter Tracy, City Attorney Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director Ray Seguine, Fire Chief Joe Pecs, Police Chief David Grah, Public Works Director Gary Schley, Public Services Officer
PUBLIC COMMENT	The Mayor announced the public comment period. No public comment was given.
CONSENT CALENDAR (1)	A motion was made by Councilmember Cullen to approve the Consent Calendar as presented:
Motion/Cullen	FOR APPROVAL AND FILING (a) Council Minutes – 11/13/07 (b) Personnel Status Change Report (c) Investment Portfolio – 10/07 FOR INFORMATION AND FILING (d) Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda – 11/28/07 (e) Planning Commission Agenda – 11/27/07 (f) Water and Sewer Commission – 11/14/07 (j) Fire Department Activity Log - Motion passed on a unanimous vote.
CORRESPONDENCE From L.A.D.W.P. Relating to City Park Appraisal (2)	The Council reviewed correspondence relating to the appraisal of the City Park. The City Administrator will be meeting with DWP when the appraisal has been completed to discuss options for moving forward with the purchase of the park lease.
PUBLIC HEARING	
Test Well for Bishop Well 3 (3)	The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive public comment on the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed

drilling of a test well at the site of Bishop Well 3 on Sunland Avenue; constructing a 15-foot wide gravel access road to the well; and zoning of the un-zoned property (P) Public with the next update on the Zoning Map for the City of Bishop.

Motion/Griffiths

No public comment was given. Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Test Well for Bishop Well 3
Consideration of Negative
Declaration
(4)

The Public Works Director reported that the City is proposing to drill a test well on a 2-acre city-owned parcel to determine the suitability of the site for a municipal well and to obtain design data. He reviewed the comments received from the Department of Water and Power and how those issues would be addressed and does not feel that they will change the negative declaration.

In response to a question on the zoning, Mr. Grah stated that the environmental document included a zoning designation for the location but the zoning map is not ready for adoption. If the location is suitable it will take considerable time to build up cash reserves and obtain outside funding.

Motion/Griffiths

Councilmember Griffiths made a motion to adopt the Negative Declaration for the test well for Bishop Well 3. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Griffiths, Cullen, Dishion, Connolly, Crom.

REPORT ON DRAFT EIS –
Mammoth Airport
(5)

Rob Clark, Town Manager for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, reported on the Draft EIS public comment schedule. Two workshops and a public hearing are scheduled for December and early January. The proposed plan includes air service from Los Angeles to Mammoth provided by Horizon beginning December 2008. The airport facility will remain the same. Flights will only be provided in the winter time with summer flights anticipated in 5-6 years. There are no plans in the proposal to use the Bishop airport during inclement weather. Mr. Clark stated the project has very broad support and there is no known opposition at this time.

DETERMINATION OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
and/or NECESSITY FOR
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL LICENSE –
Vons Fuel Center
1190 D North Main Street
(6)
Motion/Dishion

Councilmember Dishion made a motion for determination of Public Convenience and/or Necessity for the ABC license for the Vons Fuel Center to be located at 1190 D North Main Street and authorized the City Administrator to execute any appropriate documents. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Dishion, Griffiths, Cullen, Connolly, Crom

RESOLUTION NO. 07-17 –
PERS INDUSTRIAL

Councilmember Cullen made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 07-17 by title only, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY

DISABILITY
RETIREMENT – Joseph
Pecsi, Police Chief
(7)
Motion/Cullen

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISHOP, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DETERMINING THAT DUE TO SPECIFIED DISABLING PHYSICAL CONDITIONS, JOSEPH PECSI IS INCAPACITATED WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT LAW FOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES IN THE POSITION OF POLICE CHIEF.” The motion carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Cullen, Dishion, Griffiths, Connolly, Crom

REQUEST TO EXTEND
COMMENT PERIOD ON
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ROAD INVENTORY
(8)

Councilmember Dishion stated that he requested this item be placed on the agenda as many citizens have been surprised by recent information that the Forest Service plans to close 3,000 roads in the Inyo National Forest. He realizes that the Forest Service is working under time constraints but requested the Council consider writing a letter asking for a time extension for responses to their proposed road closures.

Jim Upchurch, the new Inyo National Forest Supervisor, stated that the staff has 3,500 miles of road to manage within the two million acres of forest. He stated that no roads will be closed without a really good reason which would include those designated by law for closure. He indicated that extending the response time would put a crunch on the Forest Service with the deadline for decisions being December of 2008 but comments can be accepted through the process even after the end of the comment period. The Draft EIS process will provide another time for people to comment. Supervisor Upchurch stated that he is always willing to listen to what the people have to say and will be responsive but the process needs to be started.

Upchurch stated that comments need to individually identify the roads people have concerns about rather than making a general statement.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that it appears the major controversy relates to the roads in the “roadless areas”. Further discussion was held on the definition of the roadless designation.

The Mayor asked how can people who visit this area be engaged in the process. He stated that the extension for responses would enable information to be provided to the area's Chambers of Commerce and handed out at special events. Councilmember Dishion asked how the City would go on record asking the Forest Service to continue to accept letters for 30-60 more days while the process continues instead of dealing with the current firm deadline. Upchurch stated this is the first phase and there is no legal reason people cannot continue to write letters at any point while the analysis is being done.

The City Attorney questioned if letters received after the deadline would still be considered as part of the public record and be

considered in the same manner as those received before the deadline. An affirmative response was given by Mr. Upchurch.

Nancy Upham from the Inyo National Forest stated that this is the fourth step of a five step process and this has been out in the public for a few years now with many public meetings held in Bishop. With some public misconceptions she suggested another one or two drop-in dates could be scheduled before the December 15th deadline.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that people thought it would only be a handful of routes that would be of contention, then the roadless issue came up and that information was only released recently which has caused the major problem.

Councilmember Dishion made a motion for the City to send a letter asking the Forest Service for an extension for responses.

Inyo County Supervisor Cash reported that in response to an informal request in order to allow visitors to respond, the Forest Service extended the comment period by 45 days.

The Mayor requested written communication be made with state legislators asking them to work with the U.S. Forest Service to extend the time line for comments relating to road closures until 2010 after the first of the year.

The motion by Councilmember Dishion to send a letter to the Forest Service to extend the deadline for responses on road closures passed on the following roll call vote: Ayes: Dishion, Griffiths, Cullen, Connolly, Crom.

COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

FRANK CROM, MAYOR

Attest: Richard F. Pucci, City Clerk

By: _____
Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL 12/10/07