

JOINT (CITY/PORT) WORK GROUP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Meeting Notice and Agenda
Thursday, February 25, 2016
7:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome and Self-Introductions
3. Adoption of meeting minutes of November 5, 2015.
4. Citizen Input
5. City/Port Issues:
 - a. City Economic Development Activities
 - b. Port Economic Development Activities
 - c. Fish Habitat Report
6. Reports from Other Agencies.
 - a. MHCC – Dr. Derr
7. Other Matters
8. Next Meeting: March 31, 2016
9. Adjournment

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for person with disabilities, should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting the City of Cascade Locks office at 541-374-8484.

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance. Port President Jessie Groves called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also present were City Councilors Bruce Fitzpatrick, Richard Randall, Mayor Cramblett, Port Commissioner Dave Lipps, Citizen Members Bernard Seeger and Gary Munkhoff, City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman, Interim Port General Manager Paul Koch, City Recorder Kathy Woosley, Dave Palais, Ray Cless, MHCC Representative Aaron Sorenson, and MCEDD Representative Mark Heystek.
2. Welcome and Self-Introductions.
3. Adoption of meeting minutes of September 24, 2015. CM Fitzpatrick moved, seconded by PC Lipps, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Citizen Input. None.

PP Groves announced that Aurora delVal had resigned from the JWGED.

5. Other Matters:
 - A. Update on Port economic development efforts. IPGM Koch reported that the Port is continuing negotiations with Thunder Island Brewery for a location on WaNaPa Street. He said the Heuker Brothers contract has been signed. He reported that the additional cash is going to help the Port be able to continue with the Business Park Project. He reported that the curbs are in on both sides of Columbia Gorge Way.

PP Groves said that the Port Commissioners have been lobbying hard for funding for bridges. He said the Commission completed a 10 year study for needs of the Bridge of the Gods estimated at 10 million dollars. PP Groves said US Representative Greg Walden, Congresswoman Herrera Butler, Congressman Peter Defazio, and Earl Bleumenaur signed a bill to make funding available for work on bridges. He said the Port had another engineering study for earthquake stability of the Bridge of the Gods and that estimate came in at \$500,000 just for a determination, not the work.

B. Update on City economic development efforts. CA Zimmerman said the engineering for the Water Project is nearing completion. He said the project should start in January with completion in June. He reported that an RFP will go out soon for inspection to sewer lines. He said the Pyramid Substation is almost complete. He gave a history of the used transformer that is being used at Pyramid Substation. CA Zimmerman said the City is going to be ready for growth in the industrial park.

6. Status and decision regarding pro and con listing related to the Nestlé opportunity. IPGM Koch reviewed the staff report. CA Zimmerman explained the list was initially intended to be a list of arguments (for and against) for people to read and not an attempt to justify any argument.

Gary Munkhoff suggested scheduling three debates with each one taking at least three off the “cons” list. He said the JWGED could be one side and the anti-Nestlé could debate their side. He said the debate could be a part of each agenda. CA Zimmerman explained the difficulties since there is now a ballot initiative. He said the City and Port cannot expend any resources on either side of the initiative. CA Zimmerman said they have received legal counsel and have decided to be “hands off.” PP Groves said we can’t talk about the initiative or what is on it but we can talk about anything else. CA Zimmerman said there is fine line and could be easily interpreted if arguing for Nestlé that we would be arguing against the ballot initiative. PP Groves said this body can continue to work toward a Nestlé project. He said this body needs a well-defined order as to what we are allowed to do. He said he wants to know what we can ask of staff.

Mayor Cramblett said he is not comfortable with posting inaccurate information on the walls at City Hall. He agreed with Bernard Seeger’s statement that this would give credibility and confuse citizens and he is not for that. He said he wants accurate information for “pros” and “cons”.

PC Lipps asked if the City or Port would get into trouble if the list is posted due to the ballot initiative. CA Zimmerman said this list was created before the ballot initiative was approved. He said the list could be posted if the JWGED directs that. PC Lipps asked about the mediator. CA Zimmerman said the effort was to reach a consensus or at least neutral ground on the issue and that issue is directly addressed in the ballot initiative. He said the City and Port cannot expend any resources for the mediation process.

Mayor Cramblett said he didn’t have any problem as elected officials discussing the pros and cons. He said he wants the proof for all statements.

Bernard Seeger suggested going through the list and validating the pros and cons. He said this would be a worthy project for this group. He explained that some items listed are value judgments.

CA Zimmerman went through the list of “cons”. Gary Munkhoff said there are different interpretations for the privatization of water. Mayor Cramblett said every business uses water and profits are being made. PP Groves said the ones making the statements can validate them as well. Consensus of the group was to validate the items on the list.

CM Fitzpatrick moved, seconded by Mayor Cramblett, to direct staff to attempt to validate the arguments (pros and cons) and have legal counsel review. The motion passed unanimously. IPGM Koch said the list would come back to this group when finished.

7. Next Meeting: The group will meet again in January unless a special meeting is called.

Bernard asked for an update on the water right transfer. CA Zimmerman said we are waiting on OWRD to issue the proposed final order.

Mark said he will be working on the Region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He said there will be a meeting on transportation issues in December.

Aaron said the Port has offered space for MHCC to offer services to citizens and he would be the point of contact. He said he would be in Cascade Locks later this month to start connections with the local business community.

8. Adjournment. PC Lipps moved, seconded by CM Randall, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by
Kathy Woosley, City Recorder

APPROVED:

Jessie Groves, Port President