MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday, July 12, 2010
Keizer Civic Center
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Christopher called the work session to order at 5:50 p.m. The following were present:

Councilors:
Lore Christopher, Mayor
Jim Taylor, Council President
Cathy Clark, Councilor
David McKane, Councilor
Mark Caillier, Councilor
Brandon Smith, Councilor

Absent:
Richard Walsh, Councilor

Chamber:
Christine Dieker
Rich Duncan
Bruce Anderson
Joe Egli

Staff
Nate Brown, Community Development
Rob Kissler, Public Works Director
Shannon Johnson, City Attorney
Kevin Watson, Assistant to the City Manager
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

DISCUSSION

a. Keizer Sign Code

Community Development Director Nate Brown reviewed issues and concerns raised at the Economic Development and Government Affairs meeting and then directed attention to the recommendations which include allowing A-Frame signs as temporary signs with certain restrictions; allowing "feather signs" as a temporary sign type; reducing the allowed size of real estate signs and increasing the time allowed for temporary signs.

Councilors voiced concern over being inundated with signage on River Road with Mr. Brown explaining that the number allowed would depend on frontage. Councilors also indicated the desire to make the change a "pilot" with the idea that it would be revisited after a year. Mr. Brown urged Councilors to an incremental approach to the Sign Code changes noting that staff workload is substantial because of the Keizer Station Master Plan process and the Periodic Review. Mr. Kissler urged caution, noting that placement of the signage might create vision clearance and pedestrian safety issues. Additional discussion took place with support being voiced for allowing A-Frame signs to be used indefinitely but being displayed only during business hours and possibly limiting their use to businesses that don't already have exposure. Following lengthy discussion Council indicated that they wished to initiate the text amendment process to change the sign code.

b. Future Tourism and Visitor Activities

Mayor Christopher reported that the City had received a letter of intent from the Transit District indicating that the District intended to purchase the City-owned land for the appraised price which is one more step toward finalizing the deal that will allow for both entities to build a dual purpose building that could be expanded to meet future needs.

Joe Egli then distributed and reviewed the Chamber business plan including the vision, attracting sports, a master calendar, staffing, marketing and personal interaction with visitors. He reported that 90 baseball teams would be in Keizer this weekend, several hundred motorcyclists would arrive the following weekend, and packets containing coupons and information about Keizer would be distributed to them all. Discussion took place at length regarding upcoming events and the need for sports arenas and fields. Mr. Egli noted that the Chamber hopes to locate in the I-5 area within a year and keep the office at the Heritage Center as well. Additional discussion ensued regarding Community Center and Amphitheater scheduling/reservations and including that information in a central calendar which would be generated by the Chamber and hosted on their website with a link on the City of Keizer website.

Chamber Executive Director Christine Dieker acknowledged the importance of a calendar adding that there is a need for added staff and revenue; an additional revenue source is needed. She explained that currently the Iris Festival is the only source of revenue, but the Chamber is hoping to develop others. Councilor McKane summarized that the Chamber has a desire to be at Keizer Station, to share a building with the City and Transit District and that additional funding sources are being explored.

Public Testimony

Kim Lewis, Keizer, (arrived at 6:45 pm) urged that changes be made to the Sign Code to accommodate small businesses in Keizer. Mayor Christopher summarized the discussion that had taken place earlier in the meeting and explained the process that would be initiated at the next Council meeting.

Good Vibrations

Councilor McKane reviewed planned activities for this event and urged everyone to participate.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

MAYOR:

Debbie Lockhart

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

Lore Christopher

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor #1 – David McKane

Councilor #4 – Cathy Clark

~ Absent ~

Councilor #2 – Brandon Smith

Councilor #5 – Richard Walsh

Councilor #3 – Mark Caillier

Councilor #6 – James Taylor

Minutes approved:

August 2. 2010