

Woodland City Council Minutes  
Council Chambers  
300 First Street  
Woodland, California

July 12, 2004

**CITY COUNCIL/PARKS RECREATION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING**

**July 12, 2004**

**6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rexroad called the joint special meeting of the City Council and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rexroad invited all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: David Flory, Jeff Monroe, Art Pimentel (arrived at 6:05), Matt Rexroad

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Neal Peart

PARKS, RECREATION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Don Permenter, Nate Peterson, John Murphy,  
Jack Slaven, Wim Van Muyden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Tanya McKay, Debra Roman-Whitehouse

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kirkwood, Phil Marler, Sue Vannucci, Joan Drayton, Dan Gentry, Ron Scott, Dan Rice



## REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

### FISCAL YEAR 2004-05 PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET DISTRIBUTION AND CLOSURE OF HIDDLESOON POOL

City Manager Kirkwood indicated Council had called this special meeting to reconsider the budget aspects of the closure of Hiddleson Pool due to lack of funds. With further reductions from the State at hand, the closure of the Pool was the decision of Council to support their goal of increasing the safety employee staffing in the City. Should Council now determine that is not their goal and the Pool would remain open, Council would need to rescind the associated layoff notice for staff.

Finance Director Drayton indicated the City does have a balanced budget at this time based upon direction given by Council at their budget work session and associated reductions as approved. She summarized the income sources and expenditures of the City.

City Manager Kirkwood said beginning in the early 1990's the City instituted staff and services reductions to all City Departments as a result of the State budget take-away from the City. Each year continued reductions and cost saving measures have been institute to meet those continued reductions in funds from the State. He outlined the specific direction approved by Council regarding the improvements to Public Safety. With the failure of the Fire Assessment District, the requested improvements to the Fire Department must be funded from other sources. The decreases to the budgets in the Parks and Library Services areas were achieved to address those goals set by Council to increase the safety budgets. The cost to maintain the Hiddleson Pool lies at \$67,000 for the summer months. Council had also directed the need to recapture Adult Sports fees at 100% recovery. Thus the fee for the boxing program was raised from \$12 per month to \$55, which is still not a full recovery, but closer to that goal. Council has received a request to reduce that fee by increasing the age for the adult charge to 21 years rather than 18. One of the other areas of extreme concern for the successful operation of the City is that of the Information Systems Department. Significant technological and operational improvements are critical and at a projected increased cost of \$62,000. Other Departments throughout the City are in need of dramatic increases to their operational budget, but were set aside to address specific direction by the Council at this time.

Vice Mayor Flory said there was a memo presented to the Council requesting maintaining the Hiddleson Pool through the Summer and he would like to facilitate that request by forestalling the hiring of Police and Fire staff. Council Member Monroe agreed and would also like the age for the boxing fees



increased to 21. Council Member Pimentel said we need to increase public safety but would like to take the staff recommendation to leave the pool open for the summer, re-employ the Aquatics Coordinator and increase the age limit for the boxing fees. He would also like to promote funding from outside sources. Vice Mayor Flory does not want to take funds from the Contingency.

Commissioner Murphy said the Woodland Recreation Foundation would be the place to receive donations to keep the pool open. People expect minimal services and there are not adequate funds to go around. The Police and Fire are not up to the standard the community expects. There is a much bigger issue of funds. The City needs to staff and pay for what is expected in services or accept the cuts. It is time for people to come up with a long term source of funds. Commissioner Van Muyden agreed with Commissioner Murphy. Commissioner Peterson wants the pool open during the summer. The City is just buying time and the community will need to come forward with other solutions. Commissioner Permenter agreed the City should look at the long term solution. Commissioner Slaven said the turn out shows where the priorities are. The parks are just as much a priority as safety. He supports all departments of the City. All Departments should be cut equally in all areas.

Mayor Rexroad said if there is no long term plan he will not support leaving the pool open.

Mark Stephens, President of the Woodland Swim Team and Hiddleson Aquatic Care Team, urged Council to keep the pool open. If open until September, they will do fund raising for grants through corporations etc. They would like the Council match funds they receive. They are working with the School District on the co-generation plant at the Brooks Swim Center and need Hiddleson until March of 2005. After the co-generation plant is open they will be able to swim year around. They have received funds in the amount of \$2,100 thus far and there is a corporate sponsor who has indicated they will provide \$10,000. The long term solution is for the community to rally behind Proposition 65 and the sales tax continuance. If passed, they would like one-half of the sales tax to be allotted specifically for park and pool use. The group did a tally and received a total of \$3,760 plus a \$10,000 donation from Nugget Markets.

Greg Stille of Nugget Markets indicated there is a wishing well at the store and they will match anything donated in the well up to \$20,000.

Dan Flores said his family came to Woodland because of the bike lanes and the pools. He would like the City to be more like Portland, Oregon.



Beth Wettergreen is part of the Woodland Aquatic Ladies. Public safety is very important but the City needs to have quality of life services. She feels the rates should be raised for the aquatics programs. They are willing to pay much more. The State budget will change and be for the better. The City will receive more property tax coming in the future.

William Patterson wants the pool kept open.

Mary Aulman said public safety is more than the Police and Fire. The pool is more important to many people. Parks make people feel a part of the community.

Barbara Bassett has never been to the pool but does offer physical therapy sessions. Children need to have exposure to swimming. She gave \$500 from the Bassett Family Trust in the name of her husband and son and encouraged others to donate.

Pat Hinkle said the most desirable things in the City are the parks programs. She is a Special Education Teacher and her students look forward to this pool use. Her own children utilized the Hiddleston Pool. The City needs more Police and Fire because of the increased traffic at the Brooks pool since the closure of Hiddleston.

Jim Campos said Charles Brooks was his boss at one time and he will pledge \$500 from the Charles Brooks Memorial Fund.

Curtis Sapp said his family goes to the pool all the time. He has a safety issue at the other pool. There are many canals and ditches that are very attractive to children. The City should not be considering new facilities proposed when closing existing facilities.

Mari Romero of the YMCA said addressing children's needs at this level will keep them out of trouble.

Leonard Smith said he has children in the program and water program participation. These programs keep children out of trouble. The City has a very modest fee these people can afford to pay.

On a motion by Council Member Monroe, seconded by Council Member Pimentel, and carried, Council approved keeping the Hiddleston Pool open through September 12, 2004 and delaying of public safety improvements. Mayor Rexroad voted to the negative and Council Member Peart was absent.



Mayor Rexroad said every time someone goes to the Pool it costs the City \$20.00 and feels this is not a good fiscal decision for the City. Council Member Pimentel asked if there are any other programs that could need money. Vice Mayor Flory feels it is not possible to designate Measure H funds to specific areas without voter approval.

On a motion by Council Member Monroe and seconded by Council Member Pimentel, it was moved to increase the age to 21 for the additional fees for boxing. Mayor Rexroad and Vice Mayor Flory voted to the negative. Motion lost.

The original motion was amended to include rescinding action to layoff staff in the classification of Aquatics Coordinator for the period the Hiddleson Pool will remain open during the Summer.

City Manager Kirkwood asked for clarification regarding the request to match funds raised up to \$60,000. Council was not agreeable to that request.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Rexroad adjourned the joint meeting of the Council and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Sue Vannucci, CMC, City Clerk