

**West Richland City Council
And
Benton Rural Electric Board of Trustees
Joint Meeting
November 20, 2008**

Trustee Virgil Boyle called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Attendees:

West Richland City Council: Mayor Dale Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem Rich Buel, Council Members Merle Johnson, Tony Benegas, Gail Brown, and Mark Hanneman.

West Richland Staff Members: Dave Weiser, Roscoe Slade, Ruth Swain, Bob Leedy

Benton Rural Electric Board of Trustees: Virgil Boyle, Jim Moon, Buddy Treadway, Fred Guyer, Jon Landen, Kyle Shinn, Mike Freepons, Catherine Russell and Mark Platt.

Benton Rural Electric Staff Members: Chuck Dawsey, Kaye Henderson, Bruce Etzel, John Porter, Jeff Bastow, Larry Nicholson, Terry Barnes, Mike Bradshaw, Troy Berglund

Chuck Dawsey welcomed everyone and described how the joint meeting is a good way strategically plan on ways to work together on projects of joint interest. He mentioned that the staffs work together well and meet regularly to coordinate on projects.

Mayor Jackson thanked Benton REA for hosting the meeting and said the meeting is a good way to work together.

Street Lights: Roscoe Slade discussed the City's desire to improve efficiency and make cost reductions in the street lights. He said he will be working with Benton REA staff to investigate options such changing standards to LED's or solar.

Larry Nicholson said staff had discussed using a timed sensor to shut off some of the lights during the night, but found the sensors to be problematic and not worth the cost.

Councilmember Johnson expressed his desire to potentially turn some street lights off during the late night-early morning hours.

Councilmember Benegas mentioned that a cost benefit analysis may be appropriate to see if there is any potential for meaningful cost improvements. Staff will continue to investigate cost saving opportunities with street lights.

City Well Operations: Roscoe Slade discussed the desire to work with Benton REA (BREA) staff to identify efficiency improvements in the operations of the city wells and treatment plant.

Mayor Jackson mentioned a desire to work with BREA to conduct energy audits on city buildings. BREA agreed that staff will continue to work together on these issues.

Red Mountain Interchange: Chuck Dawsey discussed BREA's commitment to support the city and the county in efforts to get the interchange approved and funded.

Mayor Jackson discussed how the interchange would expedite the planned community that could increase the city population by 65,000. He also mentioned that Senator Murray's position on the transportation committee is key for future funding and approval. The group discussed the potential opportunity to get funding as part of the economic stimulus package since the interchange is an economic development project. Both groups agreed to continue jointly working on this project.

UGA Expansion Application: Mayor Jackson said the county commissioners will make a final decision on January 26th.

Community Development Director Leedy thanked BREA for its testimony in favor of the UGA expansion at the November commissioner meeting.

Red Mountain Center Waste Treatment Facility: Economic Development Specialist Swain thanked Benton REA for its support as the city looks to study potential treatment facilities to pre-treat the waste from wineries prior to putting it into the city's primary waste treatment facility. The group expressed concerns about the smell generated by typical treatment facilities. The city stated that the purpose of the study is to try and identify other alternatives that will not be detrimental to the area.

Wine Country Signage: Economic Development Director Swain said the city is applying for funds to build a monument type "Welcome to Wine Country" sign near the Red Mountain Center and also purchasing like themed banners for other high traffic areas in the city.

Van Giesen Corridor Improvement Study: Economic Development Director Swain said the city's recent economic development study identified a high priority to improve the appearance of the Van Giesen corridor. The City plans to conduct a study regarding improving the corridor.

Buddy Treadway asked if previous studies regarding the issues have been reviewed recently to see if there is a need for a new study.

Economic Development Specialist Swain said that findings from the previous studies would be reviewed in the process.

Facilitate Commercial/Industrial Development: Bruce Etzel discussed the Sites Across America web site and offered the city the ability to post available property with photos on the site.

Economic Development Specialist Swain talked about the city's desire to expand its website to increase user ability to search for information. BREa staff will work with the city on this issue.

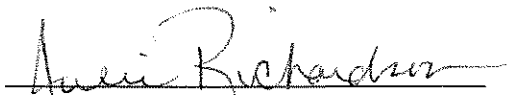
ICSC: Mayor Jackson described the conference and the potential long term benefits. He thanked BREa for past support and encouraged continued support.

BREA Rates: Chuck Dawsey said the board puts together a five year budget that includes a long term rate strategy, and the goal is to maintain rates through 2011.

Community Solar: Bruce Etzel discussed the potential for a community solar project where members can purchase a solar panel and see the electric production of that solar panel on their bill. He said a visible and cost effective location is needed for such a project.

Other: Councilmember Johnson complimented BREa for its annual meeting, the Marathon water heaters, and said the staff works hard in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Julie Richardson, City Clerk



Dale E. Jackson, Mayor