



**CITY OF CAMAS
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
November 17, 2008
4:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Anderson, Chaney, Dietzman, Gerde, Higgins, Hogan and Smith.

Excused:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourquin, Brachmann, Carothers, Copsey, Durgin, Fox, Gorsuch, Halverson, Lackey, and Leon.

PRESS: Heather Acheson – Camas Washougal Post Record.

PUBLIC:

There were no comments.

HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT (HCT) SYSTEM STUDY PRESENTATION:

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, introduced Dale Robins and Dean Lookingbill of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

Robins gave a brief overview of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and the process involved in performing the HCT System Study. Robins did a PowerPoint Presentation which included the findings of the HCT System Study, analysis of the four corridors included in the study and the HCT policies.

Robins responded to questions from Council.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Water Conservation Grant:

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, reported the City is applying for a grant from the Department of Ecology to conserve water. If implemented, the program that is proposed to be funded by the grant could save the Camas School District and the Parks Department money.

Sodium Hydroxide Purchase Contract:

Brachmann stated that the Sodium Hydroxide Purchase Contract will be on the December 1st Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. Staff recommends doing a one-

year extension to the contract and to lock in at the offered price of \$.0115 per pound for 2009.

Capital Facilities Plan Update:

Brachmann reported that a hearing will be scheduled on December 1st for the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) Update. Brachmann gave examples of infrastructure that have been added to the plan.

Mayor asked if the CFP was ready for distribution. Brachmann responded that it was and would distribute it to Council at the regular meeting.

Professional Services Contract Extension:

There will be an amendment to the Professional Services Contract with MacKay and Sposito on the December 1st Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. Brachmann noted that the amendment is a time extension for the design work that they are doing on Leadbetter Drive.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Brachmann reported that the Moose Lodge Lease Agreement is still under review and expects to have it placed on the consent agenda for Council's consideration either on December 1st or 15th.

FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS)/ADMINISTRATION:

EMS Update:

Halverson stated that he is optimistic that EMS service with Washougal will be extended. An amendment to the existing interlocal agreement is underway and should be on the December 1st agenda for Council's consideration.

Halverson reported that cooperation with East County Fire & Rescue (ECF&R) is moving rapidly. Halverson thanked Fire Chief Leo Leon for his constructive role with this matter. An interlocal agreement with ECF&R to fund five positions will be forthcoming. Halverson explained that the positions will be staffed by Camas and reimbursed by ECF&R. Halverson gave further details on how this would impact the budget.

Staff is working on a 2009 Supplemental EMS Budget to reflect the expenditure and revenue sides of the EMS development with Washougal and the agreement with ECF&R. Halverson noted that a draft is expected for Council's review in December.

Leon briefly elaborated on the EMS matter and responded to questions from Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Fire Authority and whether or not these agreements will impact it.

Halverson commented that the Paul Lewis Financial Study will be distributed to Council.

Mayor noted that questions should be directed to Leon.

Staffing – Code Compliance Officer:

Halverson stated that an alternative plan for the Code Compliance Officer had been developed and asked Brachmann to elaborate. Brachmann explained the temporary plan. Discussion ensued.

Halverson asked Council for consent to move forward with the proposed plan. Council authorized consent.

“Take Home Vehicle” and Related Element of the Fire Chief’s Letter of Employment:

Halverson relayed to Council that even though Leon’s residence is not within the time AND mileage test, which Council adopted in October as the standard for “take home emergency service vehicles”, the provision in Leon’s letter of employment regarding this matter predates the recent policy. Therefore, the letter of employment provision continues to apply.

Phone/Communications System:

The phone system replacement is budgeted for this year and will be financed with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) proceeds. Halverson asked Jennifer Gorsuch, Human Resources Director, to summarize and answer any further questions Council may have regarding this project.

Gorsuch stated that she had sent out responses to questions that were previously asked and inquired whether Council had further questions.

Mayor clarified that since the phone system will be paid for using REET funds, the General Fund will not be affected by this purchase. Halverson noted that this matter is on the consent agenda for Council’s consideration.

In response to an inquiry from Council, Gorsuch stated that a purchase order will be prepared once Council approves the consent item.

City’s 2009 Legislative Agenda:

Halverson stated that it is time to begin assembling the City’s 2009 Legislative Agenda. Halverson suggested bringing some items forward from the prior year’s short list. Examples were given. Halverson noted that there is likely going to be an emphasis on infrastructure funding from the State and Federal Government which will be seen as an economic stimulus. A draft list of the agenda will be provided to Council on December 1st. Halverson asked Council to provide him with items of special interest.

Hogan commented on the SR-14 project. Halverson responded that in this arena the City links with the other jurisdictions in Southwest Washington, including the Southwest Washington Transportation Alliance. The transportation alliance has done effective work and their agenda will be forthcoming.

Funding Potentials for Planned City Capital Projects:

Halverson stated that he believes it is likely that there will be a national economic stimulus package with emphasis on projects that are ready to proceed and that will create real employment in the 2009 construction season. Additionally, it is Halverson’s perception that

this money will not flow through earmark systems. Halverson noted that this may help the City achieve some of the capital needs and gave examples of projects that might qualify. Discussion ensued.

Scheduling – Annual Planning Conference:

Halverson suggested scheduling the Annual Planning Conference on Friday, January 30th beginning at 1:00 p.m. and then having a joint dinner meeting, as suggested by the Camas School District, with the Camas School Board. The conference would be continued the next day on January 31st beginning at 9:00 a.m. Halverson noted that Camas School District Superintendent Mike Nerland, with the assistance of Assistant Superintendent Tanis Knight offered to facilitate the meeting again.

Hogan asked and Halverson responded that the conference would be held at the library.

Council agreed with the schedule.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Halverson reported that City Attorney Roger Knapp has received a letter from Attorney Todd Pascoe in regards to the “indigent defense contract with Camas”. Halverson gave an overview of the existing contract and noted that Pascoe has requested an increase in rates. Pascoe cites a major increase in caseload as the key reason. Halverson explained how the increase would work and how it was tied to the caseload. Knapp and his office recommended approval and are satisfied with Pascoe’s work.

Mitch Lackey, Police Chief, and Halverson responded to questions from Council.

Halverson responded that this matter will come back before Council for consideration after the paperwork is prepared by Knapp.

COUNCIL:

Chaney inquired about incorporating a value system for hiring veterans that apply for positions at the City of Camas. Chaney suggested checking with other jurisdictions to see what they are doing with respect to hiring veterans. This would exclude civil service positions.

Halverson responded that this matter could be looked into. Discussion ensued.

Chaney thanked staff for including information on the agenda items about how they will affect the budget.

Dietzman reported that she attended a Mosquito Control Board Meeting. The mosquito season for the West Nile Virus is now over. In the past, Washington State has not reported any human cases of the West Nile Virus. Unfortunately, in 2008, there were two human cases reported in the Yakima area. Dietzman stated that the virus should continue to be monitored as it is coming closer to our area. Dietzman commended the Clark County Mosquito Control Board for doing an excellent job.

PUBLIC:

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk