



**CITY OF CAMAS  
COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
September 15, 2008  
4:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Present:** Chaney, Dietzman, Gerde, Higgins and Hogan.

**Excused:** Anderson and Smith.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Brachmann, Carothers, Copsey, Durgin, Gorsuch, Halverson, Hodges, Lackey and Leon.

**PRESS:** Heather Acheson – Camas Washougal Post Record.  
Howard Buck – The Columbian.

**PUBLIC:**

Bob Berg, 3945 NE Franklin St., Camas, WA:

Berg voiced his concern regarding the noise and dust resulting from the development of the Lacamas Pointe Subdivision.

Mayor asked Brachmann to respond to Berg's concern.

After further discussion it was concluded that this topic will be discussed at the October 20<sup>th</sup> workshop when City Attorney Shawn MacPherson and Community Development Director Phil Bourquin will be present.

Mayor invited Berg to attend the October 20<sup>th</sup> workshop discussion and noted that this topic would be one of the first items on the agenda.

Further questions were asked and clarifications were made.

Bert Brumbaugh, 4015 NE Franklin St., Camas, WA:

Brumbaugh echoed Berg's concern.

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator announced that a follow-up on the S.W.A.T. Inter-local Agreement will be added to the agenda after the "take home" vehicles discussion.

**POLICE/FIRE:**

**Emergency Services “Take Home” Vehicles Follow-up:**

Halverson gave a brief preface on the “Take Home” vehicle topic. Mitch Lackey, Police Chief reported that he and Leo Leon, Fire Chief have researched this matter and explained his findings. Lackey displayed maps showing the drive time from City Hall and the distance from the City limits.

Leon explained his findings and noted that a combination of time and miles should be used to determine the policy. It will depend on the time of day as to how long it will take to get to a certain location. Leon also explained the variation of needs between the fire and police departments.

Lackey stated, after conferring with Mayor and Halverson, that a draft proposal was developed. Mayor clarified that the proposal would be a maximum of a 30 minute response time from home and 15 miles.

Mayor, Lackey and Leon responded to questions from Council.

After further discussion it was concluded that a draft proposal will come back to Council for consideration with clarifying language in regards to response time versus miles.

**S.W.A.T. Inter-local Agreement:**

Lackey introduced Lieutenant Amy Foster and Commander Marla Schuman from the Vancouver Police Department. Foster and Schuman help manage the S.W.A.T. Team. Lackey distributed a handout outlining the financial impacts of the S.W.A.T. Inter-local Agreement for the City of Camas. Lackey elaborated on the cost and commented that he is comfortable with the cost and agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not directly tied to the cost.

Foster and Lackey fielded questions from Council.

This matter will be on the October 6<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for Council’s consideration.

**FIRE/EMS:**

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Update:**

Leon gave an update on the City of Washougal’s request to withdraw from the EMS Levy. Leon reported that the Clark County EMS and Trauma Care Council recommended denial of Washougal’s request to the EMS Administrative Board, which is the next step in the process. The EMS Administrative Board will be meeting on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at noon. Leon stated that he will be attending the meeting along with several other staff and Council members.

Mayor commented on the letter received from the Clark County EMS and Trauma Care Council and noted that one of the recommendations, prior to proceeding any further, is to form a working group. Mayor stated that a response was sent to the trauma council advising them that the City of Camas is open to discussion and participating in a work group, and shares many of the same concerns. Mayor confirmed with Halverson that Nabil Shawa,

Washougal City Administrator had called to indicate that Washougal's plan was to stay the course.

Leon stated that he has drafted a letter to reduce mutual aid services to Washougal, which will become effective on October 1, 2008, upon Council's approval. Leon explained that the request is due to budgetary constraints. Leon elaborated on the proposed changes to the mutual aid services.

Mayor and Leon responded to questions from Council. Discussion followed.

Chaney inquired whether the police department will be doing a similar proposal. Halverson responded that the main focus thus far has been on fire/EMS services. Halverson commented that he will discuss this matter with Lackey and Mayor and will report back to Council at the October 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.

Leon distributed the draft letter to Council for review. Mayor suggested that Council review the draft and provide feedback to Leon by October 1<sup>st</sup>. If Council has grave concerns, this matter will be discussed at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Moratorium Extension – Set Date of October 6, 2008 for a Hearing:**

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director stated that he is filling in for Community Development Director Phil Bourquin. Brachmann gave some history on the moratorium and explained the purpose for the extension request. A hearing will be set for October 6, 2008.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Scheduling of Hearing to Reconsider Resolution No. 1003 – Hood Street Alignment:**

Brachmann distributed a copy of Resolution No. 1003 and explained the history on the Hood Street alignment. Brachmann reported that this matter will be scheduled for a hearing on October 6<sup>th</sup> upon Council's approval. The Sage property borders the western side of the roadway, and they have requested through their attorney that City Council hold a hearing to reconsider this resolution.

Gerde inquired and Brachmann responded that the existing data could be used.

Brachmann asked Council for approval to schedule the hearing as requested. Council consented.

Brachmann noted that the Sages were present and may want to speak.

In response to a question from Mr. Sage, Mayor stated that Council does understand the purpose for the request and listed the documents that Council has received pertaining to this subject. Mayor explained the public hearing process.

**Larry Sage, 3932 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Camas, WA:**

Sage expressed his concern and explained the purpose for the request. Discussion followed.

Moose Lodge Wiring Update:

Brachmann reported that all of the items on the Labor and Industry inspector's list have been corrected except for some small items in one of the offices and the installation of two electrical panels.

House Demolition Update – SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

Brachmann stated that the asbestos removal contractor will be on site September 23<sup>rd</sup> and anticipates being done by the 26<sup>th</sup>. The demolition contractor will be on site September 29<sup>th</sup> and expects to be done by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Gerde inquired as to the outcome of whether the garage will be removed as well. Brachmann responded that the City Attorney determined that since the garage was not specifically addressed in the court documents that the garage can not be taken down.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Brachmann announced that a Washington State Department of Transportation meeting has been scheduled for September 17, 2008 at the Port of Camas/Washougal meeting room. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be to discuss the noise reduction pilot project that will be part of the SR-14 project.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Budget Update:

Halverson reported that there are more signs of relative stability in the numbers and a narrowing of the uncertainties within the budget. Halverson gave some specific examples.

Halverson stated that during the last budget review on September 2<sup>nd</sup> Council had asked staff to reduce another one-half of one percent out of the General Fund. Halverson reported that the City will more than meet this goal. At the direction of Mayor, the fire, police, and street departments were exempted from this additional cut. Halverson noted that a list of priority restorations will also be compiled.

Mayor commented that the staffing implications should also be added to the list of priority restoration projects.

Halverson commented that the proposed budget will be produced on October 1<sup>st</sup> for Council's review. The budget discussion will take place at the workshop on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Halverson responded to questions from Chaney regarding the replacement of three vacant positions. Discussion followed.

Hogan commented that he wanted to state up front that he is taking the position to not increase the property taxes by one percent in 2009. Hogan explained why he is taking this position.

Mayor asked where the money would come from to balance the budget if the City decides not to increase the property taxes. Hogan responded that the funds should be taken from the General Fund reserves.

Chaney also expressed his concern on the property tax increase and stated that he agrees with Hogan that this matter should be discussed in more detail.

Hogan asked Joan Durgin, Finance Director to explain the process for calculating the property tax levy and the compounding long term effects. Durgin explained the process. Discussion followed.

Gerde commented that if Council decides not to increase the property taxes then the General Fund reserves would drop below the minimum guideline that was previously set. This would also be in contrast to what was decided at the last meeting; trying to save the reserves. Gerde explained some history on the development of the Financial Policy which set the minimum reserve amount necessary to have a sound City government.

Halverson elaborated on the Lewis and Tracy Dunlap Study that looked at the City's finances and how the dependency on property tax affects the structural imbalance.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor stated that if Council decides not to use the one percent property tax allowable then the funds should be taken out of the reserves.

Mayor suggested that the Financial Policy be discussed at the October 6<sup>th</sup> workshop and that it may be helpful to go over how the minimum reserve balance percentage was derived and why the policy is in place.

Chaney asked if a statement should be made to the public illustrating the City's austerity in the spending practices. Mayor responded that this type of statement should be structured into the budget message. Discussion followed.

**Staffing:**

Halverson reported that the plans examiner in the building department has turned in his resignation. The position was reviewed and it was determined that in lieu of refilling the position that funds would be put into the budget for plans examination by contract if needed and the other duties would be absorbed by other staff members. This resulted in considerable savings. Halverson commended the workgroup in the building department and Bourquin for his leadership.

**Miscellaneous and Scheduling:**

Halverson announced that another meeting with the Moose Lodge has been scheduled and he expects to get a proposal from them at this time. A brief report will be provided to Council at the October 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.

Gerde commented that the plans examiner position as well as other positions that are not being replaced at this time should be added to the priority restoration list.

**COUNCIL:**

Higgins reported that there will be a representative from the Camas Youth Council present at the regular meeting and they will give an update on what they have been working on.

Mayor stated that he attended a fund-raiser for the Farmers Market. The event was well attended.

**PUBLIC:**

There were no comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk