



**Regular Council Meeting -7:00 p.m.
March 16, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Smith presided.

FLAG SALUTE:

COUNCIL:

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

Excused: Mayor Dennis and Dietzman.

STAFF MEMBERS: Bourquin, Brachmann, Copsey, Durgin, Knapp, Lackey, Levison, and O'Brien..

PRESS: Heather Acheson, Camas-Washougal Post Record.
Howard Buck, The Columbian.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Smith pulled item "g" - Authorize Mayor to sign a Fire and Emergency Medical Protection Staffing Agreement between the City of Camas and the East County Fire & Rescue District - per staff's request from the consent agenda. Under Community Development, item "b" - Resolution No. 1145 adopting findings in the matter of Hancock Springs Subdivision (File #SUB05-03) - is being pulled per legal counsel's request.

It was moved by Council member Gerde, seconded by Council member Anderson to approve the Consent Agenda of March 16, 2009, as modified. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. Approve minutes of the meeting of the March 2, 2009, Camas City Council Meeting and the work session minutes of March 2, 2009.
- b. Approve claim checks numbered 101497-101659 in the amount of four hundred seventy-one thousand, nine hundred ten dollars and eighty-three cents (\$471,910.83) as approved by the Finance Committee.
- c. Authorize write-off ambulance billings that are uncollectable for thirty-five thousand, two hundred forty-six dollars and ninety-seven cents (\$35,246.97).
- d. Authorize the Camas-Washougal Rotary, a non-profit organization, to conduct a raffle within the City of Camas.

- e. Authorize Pay Estimate #12 Final for Project WS-671, 2008 STEP/STEF Tank Pumping to AAA Septic Services, LLC., in the amount of nine hundred forty-nine dollars and three cents (\$949.03) and accept project as complete.
- f. Authorize Award of Project SS-525, 2009 Wetland Plantings for Parker Street and Lake Road to the low bidder, Jones Landscaping, Inc., in the amount of twenty-two thousand, seventy dollars and ten cents (\$22,070.10).
- h. Authorize Change Order #1 for Project P-818, 2009 Benton Park CDBG Improvements to Rain Country Excavating & Underground, Inc., at no additional cost.
- i. Authorize Change Order #2 for Project P-800B, Prune Hill Sports Park Phase 3 for Bernhardt Golf in the amount of four hundred thirteen dollars and thirty-two cents (\$413.32). This includes sales tax.
- j. Authorize Pay Estimate #5 for Project P-800B, Prune Hill Sports Park Phase 3 to Bernhardt Golf in the amount of sixty-five thousand, one hundred fifty-eight dollars and eighty-six cents (\$65,158.86).

NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Public: There were no comments.

Staff: There were no comments.

Council: There were no comments.

MAYOR:

Announcements: There were no announcements.

PUBLIC WORKS/FINANCE:

Public Hearing – Utility Rates, Ordinance Nos. 2539, 2540, 2541: Roger Knapp, City Attorney, stated the ground rules for the public hearing.

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, explained the background regarding the proposed revisions to the utility rate ordinances.

Brachmann distributed a copy of the documents that were included in the Council packet to the audience.

Brachmann elaborated on each of the documents.

Brachmann noted that if the City receives stimulus funding for any of the projects that have been submitted, the proposed rate increases will be adjusted accordingly. The present proposal only includes stimulus funding for the Well #14 Project.

Brachmann pointed out that projects for the North Urban Growth Area (NGUA) are not funded by the proposed rate increases except

for part of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Brachmann gave further explanation regarding the funding for the WWTP.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked and there were no questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

The following members of the public gave testimony on the proposed utility rate increases:

- David Sanks, 716 NE 5th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Linda Ball, 960 NW 4th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Richard Graham, 1310 NW Whitman Ct. Camas, WA.
- Charles Hoyt, 416 NE 38th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Mary Kufeldt-Antle, 5209 NW 14th Circle Camas, WA.
- Cliff Duncan, 1508 NE 5th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Brent Erickson, 2739 NE Everett St. Camas, WA.
- Beverly Hedin, 829 NW 4th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Dale Scarbrough, 201 NW 21st Ave. Camas, WA.
- Delores Hoyt, 416 NE 38th Ave. Camas, WA.
- Storey Harston, 1116 NW Whitman Camas, WA.

Staff responded to questions asked during public testimony.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith closed the public hearing at 8:39 p.m. as there was no further public testimony.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked Council if they had any questions for staff.

Higgins asked and Brachmann responded that if the City receives stimulus funding the benefits would most likely be reflected in the sewer rates for 2010 and 2011 due to the current debt obligation.

Chaney asked what the consequences would be if Council chose not to increase the rates. Brachmann responded that the City would face staff layoffs which would reduce the preventative maintenance that is currently performed. This could cause the City to perform more costly breakdown maintenance and will cause utility service losses due to failures. Joan Durgin, Finance Director, stated that if rates are not increased the City would need to reduce costs by one million dollars. If the City is unable to meet the bond payment obligations, the City's bond rating could be dramatically reduced.

Chaney commented that it would be worthwhile for the City to research the impacts and value of creating a ratio fee program for sewer as suggested by Scarbrough.

Hogan suggested that Council consider only 2009 rate increases at this time. This would allow the opportunity to promote further public education regarding the cause and effect of the proposed utility rate increases and address the concerns voiced during the public testimony.

Gerde inquired as to what the repercussions would be for long term financing if Council adopted only rate increases for 2009. Durgin responded that if Council wants to consider rate increases for 2010 the process would need to begin in October and that the loan agreements for financing the projects would likely stipulate that the rates support the requirements of the system.

Discussion ensued.

Chaney suggested this topic be addressed at Town Hall Meetings to help promote further public education on this matter.

Higgins inquired and Durgin responded that it would cost the citizens roughly \$50,000 if the adoption of the ordinances were delayed by a month.

Durgin commented that the State Auditors will be arriving in April to audit the 2008 finances and will definitely be reviewing the Water and Sewer Fund. The Auditors may issue a finding regarding the ability of the City to pay the debt obligations if a rate increase is not adopted.

Ordinance No. 2539:

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Anderson that Ordinance No. 2539 be read by title only. A roll call vote was taken. Anderson, Gerde and Chaney voted yes and Hogan, Higgins and Smith voted no.

Knapp stated the ordinance should be read by title only as it takes an affirmative vote to adopt it.

Ordinance No. 2539 was read by title only.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Anderson that Ordinance No. 2539 amending Sections 13.36.010 and 13.36.040 by revising the monthly service charges and rates for water service be adopted and published according to law. A roll call vote was taken. Anderson and Gerde voted yes and Chaney, Hogan, Higgins and Smith voted no.

It was moved by Higgins, seconded by Hogan to modify Ordinance No. 2539 to adopt year one of the proposed rate increases. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2540: It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Hogan that Ordinance No. 2540 be read by title only with the condition that the rates be adopted for 2009 only. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Hogan that Ordinance No. 2540 amending Section 13.64.010 of the Camas Municipal Code by revising monthly sewer rates for 2009 only be adopted and published according to law. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2541: It was moved by Hogan, seconded by Chaney that Ordinance No. 2541 be read by title only with the condition that the rates be adopted for 2009 only. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Hogan, seconded by Chaney that Ordinance No. 2541 amending Section 13.89.040 of the Camas Municipal Code by revising the unit rate for storm water utility service charges for 2009 only be adopted and published according to law. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

A break began at 9:05 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Ordinance No. 2542: Joan Durgin, Finance Director, explained the purpose of Ordinance No. 2542.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked and there were no questions.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Higgins that Ordinance No. 2542 be read by title only. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Higgins that Ordinance No. 2542 amending Subsection 13.36.070(B) of the Camas Municipal Code by increasing the rate for rental of fire hydrants located outside of the City limits be adopted and published according to law. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2543: Brachmann explained the purpose of Ordinance No. 2543.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked and there were no questions.

It was moved by Hogan, seconded by Higgins that Ordinance No. 2543 be read by title only. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Hogan, seconded by Higgins that Ordinance No. 2543 repealing Sections 13.88.080 through Section 13.88.120 of the Camas Municipal Code, which Sections established the Fisher Basin Stormwater System Development Charges be adopted and published according to law. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Public Hearing - Limited Shoreline Amendments: Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, explained the purpose for the public hearing and the background regarding the shoreline amendment process. Bourquin elaborated on the purpose for the limited shoreline amendments to the Washougal River and bowling alley site.

Bourquin noted that one of the amendments is to allow for trails in the natural designations, however, this limited amendment does not dictate development level review.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith opened the public hearing at 9:21 p.m.

Tony Meyer, 2041 NE Birch St. Camas, WA:

Meyer stated that he is the Executive Director of the Lower Columbia River Fish Enhancement Group. Meyer gave a brief overview of the efforts this group has made towards salmon recovery in the lower Washougal River. Meyer stated his support for the trail but voiced his concern regarding the appropriate design and placement of the trail and how it may affect future salmon recovery efforts.

Meyer stated the group is willing to work with the City on the planning of the trail and would also like to make a presentation to Council regarding the work they have completed thus far and to provide alternatives for the next phase.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith closed the public hearing at 9:25 p.m. as there was no further public testimony.

Bourquin responded to questions from Council.

Gerde commented that she would like to see Meyer included in the planning process.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Higgins to approve the proposed limited amendments to the 1998 City of Camas Shoreline Master Program and direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for adoption. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE:

Resolution No. 1145: Durgin explained the purpose of Resolution No. 1145.

Durgin responded to questions from Council.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Anderson that Resolution No. 1145 be read by title only. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Gerde, seconded by Hogan that Resolution No. 1145 authorizing the Water Sewer Fund to borrow up to \$750,000 from the Firemen's Pension Fund, and providing for the repayment of said loan by December 31, 2009, with interest on the declining balance of 1% per annum be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk