



**CITY OF CAMAS
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
January 20, 2009
4:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Excused: Chaney.

STAFF PRESENT: Bourquin, Brachmann, Copsey, Durgin, Halverson, Lackey, Leon, MacPherson, and Schultz.

PRESS: None present.

PUBLIC:

Burt Duncan, 1508 NE 5th Avenue, Camas, WA:

Duncan inquired as to how the downturn of economy will affect levy funding, expansion of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and plans to hire new fire personnel.

Mayor responded that this topic may be addressed at the next Fire Authority Meeting or at the Annual Planning Conference.

Leo Leon, Fire Chief, stated that the next Fire Authority Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009, at Fire Station 42. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld commended the Operations Center staff for doing a great job of installing tire bumpers at the Community Center.

FINANCE:

Budget Amendment (City-wide) for Cost of Living Increases:

Joan Durgin, Finance Director, briefly explained the budget amendments. The amendments total \$479,000.

Durgin responded to questions from Council.

Durgin stated that an ordinance will be placed on the February 2, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Cash Needs – Resolution:

Durgin reported that a resolution will be necessary to provide a short-term loan to the EMS fund. Durgin explained the need for the annual short-term loan and what the terms of the loan will be. A resolution will be placed on the February 2, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.

Update – Financing of Fire Engine:

Durgin stated that the City's application to finance a fire engine has been approved by the State Treasurer's Office. Durgin noted that an ordinance to authorize the financing of the fire engine and the financing contract will be presented to Council for consideration in February.

Update – Miscellaneous Fees:

Durgin explained the need to update the miscellaneous fees and gave several examples of the proposed changes. Durgin elaborated on the police department proposal to increase the overtime parking fee.

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

Smith suggested that the City look into the possibility of instating a monthly utility billing. Discussion ensued regarding the utility billing process and penalty fees.

Mayor asked if Council would like to discuss the utility billing process in the future. Council concurred.

Gerde stated that it would be helpful if data could be provided to Council showing how delinquency rates are affected by communities that have gone from bi-monthly to monthly billing.

POLICE:

Lackey stated the DUI Cost Recovery topic would be discussed first.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Cost Recovery:

Lackey introduced David Schultz, City Prosecutor. Lackey explained the background regarding DUI cost recovery and the analysis that has been performed on fees associated with DUI's. Lackey reported that Camas will start using the same DUI cost recovery fee structure as the City of Vancouver beginning February 1, 2009. Lackey noted that Camas will begin collecting data February 1, 2009. Each year the data will be analyzed to determine if the fee will need to be adjusted in the future.

Schultz explained how the statute is set up and how the fees are distributed. Schultz stated that the new DUI cost recovery fee will be increased to \$300 upon conviction.

Lackey and Schultz responded to questions from Council.

Council concurred with the fee increase proposal.

Mayor suggested that labor cost be considered when looking at the fee structure in the future.

Radio System Update:

Lackey reported that the Camas-Washougal emergency radio system is now operational. Lackey gave a brief overview of how the system works and the type of information that may be broadcasted. The station is WQDG AM 1670.

Lackey responded to questions from Council.

The McInstoh Road vacation matter was moved up on the agenda.

Legal – McIntosh Road Vacation Matter:

Shawn MacPherson, Assistant City Attorney, gave a brief overview regarding the McIntosh Road vacation issue. MacPherson commented that this matter will be brought before Council at a workshop in March.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Camas Noise Ordinances:

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, distributed a handout to Council highlighting the proposed amendments to City Ordinances with regard to noise associated with new home construction. The proposed amendments were discussed.

Bourquin suggested setting a public hearing before the Planning Commission to get citizen input. The matter would then move forward to Council. Council concurred with the suggested path forward.

Anderson suggested that public comment should be sought regarding specific allowed time limits referring to excessive noise.

Bourquin noted that he has a couple of items to add to the agenda.

Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) Agreement:

Bourquin reported that each year the City has an agreement with CREDC to provide professional services related to economic development. Bourquin distributed the 2009 agreement which he briefly explained. Bourquin suggested adding this item to the regular agenda for Council's consideration.

Mayor asked and Council agreed to add this item to the regular agenda.

Regional Transportation Council (RTC):

Bourquin stated the RTC has requested an interlocal agreement with the City to provide matching funds for a regional household travel survey. Bourquin noted that this study is not budgeted for 2009. The study will provide data that the City will use to determine the Transportation Impact Fee (TIF). Bourquin commented that the agreement with Camas will be for \$1,500 which may be funded through the Public Works Budget.

Bourquin responded to questions from Council.

Mayor suggested that the City be provided with the full study results upon completion.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for reviewing the TIF.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ostenson Canyon Waterline Change Order:

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, explained the purpose for the change order regarding the Ostenson Canyon Waterline Project. This matter will be placed on the February 2, 2009, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Brachmann reported that staff is requesting that item "c" – Pay Estimate for Ostenson Canyon Waterline Project - be pulled from the consent agenda and gave a brief explanation for the request. This matter will be on the February 2, 2009, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

A change order for the Library sign will be on the February 2, 2009, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. Brachmann gave further details regarding the change order.

Brachmann reported that the Downtown Vision Coalition (DVC) has made a request to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to have motorist information signs at the Camas exits to indicate the services available at the given exit. In order for WSDOT to install such signs, the business loop signs need to be removed. This will require a letter from Camas and Washougal to have WSDOT remove the business loop signs. Brachmann noted that Washougal's Mayor is producing a letter to WSDOT and the DVC is requesting the same from Camas.

Brachmann asked Council for consensus to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to WSDOT to eliminate the "business loop" signs. Discussion ensued.

Mayor asked and Brachmann responded that he will provide correspondence from DVC outlining the details discussed.

Smith clarified that business owners would be responsible to pay the fee to have their logo placed on the motorist information signs.

Brachmann stated he received an invitation to the Opening Ceremony of the transfer station in Washougal. The ceremony will be held Friday, January 30, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Brachmann commented that he will set up a special tour of the facility since the opening ceremony will take place during the Annual Planning Conference. The details of the tour will be forwarded to Council.

Brachmann noted that stickers displaying the City's emergency broadcast station, AM 1670, will be placed on the street sweeper and the sanitation and dump trucks to help inform citizens of this new station.

Smith suggested and Brachmann replied that he would look into placing signs with the emergency broadcast information on them at the entrances to the City.

Gerde suggested adding information regarding the Emergency Broadcast System to the City Vision Newsletter. Mayor agreed with Gerde and noted that this should be done as soon as the system is enabled. Discussion ensued.

Gerde inquired and Brachmann responded that the street department is responsible for cleaning the City signs. Gerde mentioned that the "Entering City Limits" sign needs to be cleaned. Brachmann responded that he will inform the street department.

Anderson asked whether or not it would be prudent to update the City standards to include LED street lights in an effort to reduce the City's utility costs. Brachmann responded that he will contact Clark Public Utilities regarding this matter.

ADMINISTRATION:

Scheduling and Miscellaneous:

Lloyd Halverson, Administrator, reminded Council that the planning conference will be held January 30th and 31st. The joint dinner on Friday with the Camas School Board has been confirmed.

A special meeting regarding the SEPA appeal will begin Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Halverson noted that this meeting conflicts with the Association of Washington Cities legislative events. The dinner meeting with the legislators is also scheduled for February 17th. Halverson stated that he will represent the City at the legislative events as he realizes the Council's presence is necessary at the special meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the setting for the special meeting.

Halverson commended Lackey and Schultz for their work regarding DUI cost recovery.

Halverson reported the part-time employee at the police department has given notice to the City to terminate their employment. Staff is recommending that this position be filled.

COUNCIL:

Higgins mentioned that the State of the Clark County Address will be held at the Camas High School Thursday, February 12, 2009. Higgins noted that he is pleased with the selection of the venue and hopes Council will be able to attend.

PUBLIC:

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld inquired whether or not the recycling station located in the Safeway parking lot will remain in business with the opening of the new transfer station. Brachmann responded that he was not aware of any plans to close the station.

Groeneveld expressed her concern regarding the litter that accumulates around the recycling station.

Brachmann stated that he will contact the Lions Club and the Safeway Manager regarding Groeneveld's concern.

Higgins stated that the Lions Club runs the recycling station in the Safeway parking lot and uses the proceeds to give back to the community.

Mayor responded to Groeneveld's inquiry regarding DUI costs.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk