



**CITY OF CAMAS  
COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
January 5, 2009  
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:** Brachmann, Carothers, Copsey, Durgin, Halverson, Lackey, and Leon.

**PRESS:** None present.

**PUBLIC:**

Kris Kralik, 631 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Loop, Camas, WA:

Kralik commended Council members Chaney and Dietzman for the concern and communication they expressed regarding the traffic issues that occurred during the past three weeks on NW 18<sup>th</sup> and NW Fargo.

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld expressed her concern regarding local businesses that are closing and asked if there are plans for local relief. Mayor responded to Groeneveld's inquiry.

Groeneveld voiced her disappointment that the City does not have a volunteer firefighter program and encouraged Council to look into starting a program.

**FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS):**

Review of EMS Budget:

Leo Leon, Fire Chief, commented that East County Fire & Rescue (ECF&R) Fire Chief Scott Koehler and President of the ECF&R Commission Gary Larson were present to answer any questions. Leon gave a brief update of the revised 2009 EMS Budget. Leon elaborated regarding his plans to hire new personnel and how it will impact the budget.

Leon responded to questions from Council.

Leon stated that this revised 2009 EMS Budget will be placed on the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration. Discussion ensued.

Gerde inquired why the EMS Budget does not share an allocation of costs for the facility items outlined in the Fire Department Budget. Leon responded that he will look into the matter and noted that this is a concern of both the Finance Director Joan Durgin and himself. Leon further elaborated on the way the revenues are shared and costs are allocated.

Leon gave an update regarding personnel, training, testing, projects and other activities involving the fire department.

Leon gave an explanation as to why the City of Camas does not have a volunteer firefighter program. Mayor inquired and Leon responded that the main reason is because the City is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider.

A proposal to promote two firefighters to captain positions will be forthcoming for Council's consideration. These positions will be necessary due to the opening of Station 1-5 in Washougal. There will be no cost to the Camas Fire Department Budget. This matter will be placed on the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda.

The tentative date for the next Fire Authority Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009, at Fire Station 42. The meeting will commence at 5:30 p.m.

A proposal for capital improvements at Fire Station 41 will be presented to Council for consideration in February or March.

Leon responded to questions from Council.

Three-Party and Two-Party Interlocal Agreements Update:

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, gave a progress report on the EMS interlocal agreements between Camas and Washougal, Camas and ECF&R, and the three-party agreement with Camas, Washougal and ECF&R. Halverson reported that the Camas agreement with ECF&R is in the works and hopes to have the agreement back to Council for consideration at the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting. Halverson asked Council to relay any specific revisions they have for the agreement to him.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Speed Limit Review – NW 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and Hood Street:

Mayor stipulated that after staff completes a presentation and responds to questions from Council the proponents will be afforded the opportunity to speak on this matter.

James Carothers, Engineering Manager, introduced a PowerPoint Presentation illustrating staff's findings regarding the speed limit review on NW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., and Hood Street. The conclusion by engineering standards is that the existing 35 mph speed limit is both reasonable and safe. Carothers noted that an advisory sign of 20 mph will be placed at the curve on Hood Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Discussion ensued.

John Karpinski, Attorney, 2612 E 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA:

Karpinski stated that he is representing Charles Lawrence. Karpinski proposed lowering the speed limit to 25 mph and stated his reasoning for this proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding the history of how the speed limit was set in this area and the percentile speed.

Charles Lawrence, 3010 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Camas, WA:

Lawrence distributed a packet to Council outlining his findings. Lawrence commented on the speed analysis that was performed by the City and voiced his concerns regarding the existing 35 mph speed limit.

Mayor asked and Carothers responded that a speed analysis could be performed at the 67<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Lawrence inquired if the speed analysis could be performed at the cross walk at 16<sup>th</sup> and Klickitat. Carothers responded that staff could do the analysis as requested.

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

Sage voiced his safety concerns regarding the speed limit in this area and encouraged Council to consider lowering the speed limit to 25 mph.

Mayor concluded that this matter will come back to Council for further review at the February 2, 2009, Council Meeting which will allow time for staff to perform the speed analysis as requested. Mayor also asked staff to provide the results of the analysis to Council, Karpinski, Sage and Kralik.

Set Public Hearing Date – Street Vacation – NW 15<sup>th</sup> and Couch:

Carothers reported that a resolution will be placed on the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda to set a public hearing date for a street vacation at NW 15<sup>th</sup> and Couch. Mayor asked and Carothers responded that pictures will be provided.

Carothers responded to questions from Council.

Clark County Solid Waste Plan – Resolution:

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, distributed information to Council containing the Clark County Solid Waste Plan. Brachmann noted that the goal of the plan is to reduce the amount of solid waste going to the transfer station. Clark County has asked the cities that are participating in this program to approve a resolution to adopt the plan. A resolution will be placed on the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.

Brachmann responded to questions from Council.

Brachmann noted that a representative from Clark County Solid Waste will be present at the meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions.

Brachmann gave a summary of the recent snow plowing activities, priority routes and the cost involved. Brachmann also reported that another snow plow has been budgeted in 2009. Brachman responded to questions from Council.

It was reported by Brachmann that due to inclement weather, garbage collection was delayed for approximately one week. The sanitation crew has picked up eleven days worth of garbage in four days.

Higgins commented that he received positive comments from citizens regarding how the inclement weather situation was handled by the City.

Mayor stated that he also received positive feedback.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

2009 Legislative Shortlist, Third Review:

Halverson gave a brief overview of the revised 2009 Legislative Shortlist. Halverson noted that the "Defer State Mandates" item was moved up to number three as suggested at the last Council Meeting.

Halverson distributed a reprint of one page from Governor Gregoire's proposed budget relating to the SR-14 project. Halverson reported with disappointment that this project will be pushed out to the next biennium. Discussion ensued.

Halverson asked Council for approval of the 2009 Legislative Shortlist. Council authorized consent.

Halverson suggested that Council circulate the information regarding the SR-14 project within the community.

Hogan inquired as to when the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) City Legislative Action Conference (CLAC) in Olympia will occur. Halverson responded that the CLAC will be held on February 18-19, 2009. Halverson encouraged Council to attend. Halverson further noted that the City is trying to set up a joint dinner with the legislators. The City of Washougal is proposing that the dinner be set up to include both cities.

Mayor stated that if Council has any concerns about including Washougal in the joint dinner with the legislators to let Halverson know.

Annual Planning Conference:

Halverson stated that the annual planning conference is on schedule for January 30-31, 2009. A joint dinner with the Camas School Board will be held Friday evening. Halverson asked Council to provide him topics that they would like to see discussed at the conference and the joint dinner with the school board, as well as any ideas in regards to the role of the facilitators. Mike Nerland, Camas School District Superintendent, and Tanis Knight, Assistant Superintendent, will be facilitating the conference.

Discussion ensued regarding potential topics.

Mayor suggested Council forward topics to Halverson by January 16, 2009.

Halverson distributed a follow-up list from the 2008 Planning Conference. Halverson elaborated briefly on the list.

Hogan inquired about the progress being made regarding the adult entertainment issue that developed several years ago, and whether this should be a topic for discussion at the planning conference. Hogan stated that he is willing to head up a committee if necessary. Discussion ensued.

Stimulus (“Economic Recovery Plan”) Local Update:

Halverson gave a progress report regarding several of the projects that were included in the City of Camas’ *Public Infrastructure Projects* list. Halverson noted that if the school district’s *Camas Field of Dreams Sports Complex* project moves forward an interlocal agreement with the Camas School District will need to be prepared.

Halverson commented that there is a possibility that some of the stimulus package money will flow through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Halverson asked Council to provide feedback to staff regarding projects in the eligible neighborhoods they feel would be valuable. The projects must be for infrastructure that is publicly owned. Discussion ensued regarding eligibility criteria. Halverson noted that maps defining the eligible areas will be given to Council.

Mayor inquired and Halverson responded that the only alternative for areas that are not eligible is to do a special survey. Mayor commented that the survey would take a lot of work, and the infrastructure project will also have to benefit that specific population. Halverson stated that if Council has a great idea for a smaller area that is worth doing a survey on to provide the information to staff.

Scheduling and Miscellaneous:

As a follow-up to Leon’s presentation, Halverson commented that authorization was needed from Council to hire two firefighters, and to promote two firefighters to captains..

After further discussion Council authorized consent.

**COUNCIL:**

Mayor reported that the remainder of the Council appointments will be completed this evening at the regular council meeting. The Mayor Pro-Tem for 2009 will also need to be appointed.

**PUBLIC:**

Kris Kralik, 631 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Loop, Camas, WA:

Kralik inquired and Mayor responded that the Fire Chief is in charge of EMS.

Ken Hadley, 4011 “F” Circle, Washougal, WA:

Hadley made inquires regarding the speed limit review and the solid waste plan. Staff responded to Hadley’s inquires.

Hadley voiced his opinion regarding how he believes the downtown parking issue should be addressed. Mayor clarified that Hadley would like Council to set policy for staff to follow.

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld suggested improvements for the recycling bins located in the Safeway parking lot.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk