



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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Anderson, Chaney, Gerde, and Higgins.

Excused: Dietzman, Hogan, and Smith.

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

PRESS: Heather Acheson – Camas Washougal Post Record.

Leo Leon, Fire Chief, introduced three new firefighter paramedics: Andrew Nichols, Callie Scott, and Stephen Carter. They began working for the City on December 2nd.

PUBLIC:

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld wished Council a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2009.

Groeneveld made inquiries regarding the fire department.

Council and Leon responded to Groeneveld's inquiries.

FINANCE:

Springbrook Contract:

Joan Durgin, Finance Director, reported that a License Agreement with Springbrook will be placed on the January 5th Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. The license will allow residents to pay their utility payments on-line through a web based system. Durgin gave further explanation about the License Agreement and noted that it will be purchased using budgeted utility funds.

Professional Service Agreement with Theresa Johnson:

Durgin stated that Theresa Johnson, CPA, will be assisting the finance department again this year. Johnson will be working on the financial report, year-end, updating accounting standards and will also perform some training. Durgin gave a brief overview of the agreement and noted that this matter will be placed on the January 5th Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS):

Review of EMS Budget:

Leon reported that he will be asking Council for authorization to hire two new firefighter IV technicians at the January 5th Council Meeting. The new hires will start in February and will be funded through East County Fire & Rescue (ECF&R).

Chaney asked and Leon explained why the new hires are Camas employees rather than ECF&R. Leon also explained how the new hires fit into the EMS Interlocal Agreement with ECF&R and the plans for a possible fire authority.

Leon commented on the 2009 EMS Supplemental Budget. Five positions will be funded through ECF&R as well as the purchase of a new ambulance. There are also three positions which may be funded through Washougal's EMS fund and will be addressed once the agreement with Washougal is signed. Leon gave a summary on his plans for these three positions.

Leon stated that the City of Camas has an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating of "4" which is very good and explained how the rating is determined.

Mayor reiterated that the hiring of the new personnel will help the City operationally for long term growth.

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, distributed a draft of the EMS Interlocal Agreement with ECF&R and the draft three-party agreement with Camas, ECF&R and Washougal. These agreements are still under review and will be brought forward for Council's consideration on January 5th if the agreements are ready. Halverson noted that he believed it would be prudent to have the agreements in place along with the 2009 EMS Supplemental Budget by the end of January.

Mayor asked and Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, responded that the speed limit review topic has been tabled at the request of Mr. Karpinski and his client, Mr. Lawrence. This topic will be addressed at the January 5, 2008, Council Workshop.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Camas Hotel Parking:

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, reported that the Camas Hotel was purchased by Thomas and Karen Hall. The Hall's have been working closely with staff on their plan to renovate the hotel. The building permit application was submitted December 15, 2008, and Bourquin commented that the owners will be presenting an overview of their building plans and challenges associated with parking. Bourquin introduced Greg Pitcher, the architect on the project.

Greg Pitcher, 2100 39th Street, Washougal, WA:

Pitcher introduced a PowerPoint Presentation displaying the plans for future remodeling of the hotel and a proposed parking plan. The parking plan will accommodate guests checking in and out of the hotel and allow for longer term parking in some areas. Pitcher commented that he will be working with staff to formalize the request and he plans to make a presentation to the Downtown Vision Coalition. Pitcher thanked Bourquin and Interim

Building Official Bob Cunningham for their assistance on this matter and their professionalism.

Mayor inquired whether the other tenants in the building had been contacted regarding the proposed parking changes. Hall responded that contact has been made.

Bourquin noted the path forward is for the plans to go through the appropriate channels for review and then on to Council.

Chaney commented that there should be sensitivity shown regarding the parking issue since it is a public right-of-way. He voiced reluctance at giving superior sanction to one business.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Upcoming Project Bids:

Brachmann reported that the bio-solids dryer is out to bid and should be coming before Council for consideration in February 2009. Brachmann commented that staff wants to move along the design phase of this project so that it will be ready to go if the City receives any funding from the federal stimulus package.

The 2009 STEP tank pumping will also be going out to bid. This is the annual project of the pumping of the solids from septic tanks in the scheduled areas of the City on the “seven year rotation cycle”. This matter should be coming to Council for consideration at the January 20, 2009, Council Meeting.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Brachmann reported that he received the Moose Lodge Lease Agreement. This matter will be on the January 5th Council Meeting Agenda for Council’s consideration.

There will be a Change Order for the Heritage Trail extension for Council’s consideration on the January 5th Council Meeting Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION:

2009 Legislative Shortlist, 2nd Review:

Halverson distributed the 2nd draft of the 2009 Legislative Shortlist. Halverson noted that a proposed item of deferring state mandates which the state will not or cannot finance was added to the list as item number six. Halverson gave examples of projects that would fall under this category. Halverson elaborated on an e-mail exchange between Dave Williams of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Bourquin which supports this theme.

A copy of the 2009 Shared Business Priorities handout was distributed. This list of priorities includes transportation, economic development and education. This is a common agenda shared by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Identity Clark County and the Columbia River Economic Development Council. Halverson noted that the 2009 Shared Business Priorities handout contained further detail.

Higgins stated that he agrees with the addition to the legislative shortlist as noted by Halverson and suggested moving this item up on the shortlist agenda. Discussion ensued.

Halverson commented that this matter will be brought back to Council for a third review on January 5th.

Openspace and Trail Acquisition:

Halverson reported that Stephen and Shirley Hagensen have made a generous donation to the City, an approximately one-acre parcel that is located east of Grass Valley Park. Halverson displayed a map of the parcel and summarized potential uses of the site. This matter will be on the agenda this evening for Council to consider authorizing the Mayor to accept this gift deed. Halverson expressed appreciation to the Hagensens for this generous gift.

Halverson stated that the Camas School District has also proposed a gift to the City of an approximately one-acre parcel. This parcel is a paved lane which lies to the east of Grass Valley Park. Halverson commented that he believes this lane will make a perfect way for pedestrians to access the trail systems, the park and the school. Halverson noted that owners of tax lot number 11 and 19 may be disappointed by this donation as they believe the parcel would provide access to their parcels. Halverson elaborated on this matter. The intention is to bring this topic back to Council for consideration and potential action on January 5th.

Discussion ensued.

Gerde suggested and Mayor agreed that the paved lane should be blocked off at the end of the school district's property.

Labor Agreements Schedule:

Halverson reported that Labor Agreements with the American Federation of State, City and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) will be on the agenda this evening for Council's consideration. Agreements have been reached by Local 11 and the Camas Professional Employees Association (CPEA) and will be placed on the January 5, 2009, Council Meeting Agenda. The annual salary resolutions will also be forthcoming on January 5th.

Scheduling and Miscellaneous:

Halverson commented that an extension of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Benton Park Improvements Project will be added to the agenda this evening for Council's consideration. Halverson explained the need for the extension and distributed a copy of the agreement.

The second Council meeting in January will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, due to the holiday.

The Annual Planning Conference will be held at the library on Friday, January 30, 2009, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The conference will continue to Saturday, January 31, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Halverson encouraged Council to review the State of the Cities Report from AWC.

Halverson gave background on the Lake Hills Planned Residential Development appeal. The resolution of the matter calls for a hearing by City Council. Per the advice of legal counsel the hearing should be held on February 17, 2009, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The proponents have requested three hours for the hearing. The first two hours of the hearing will run from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., leaving approximately a half-hour for a compressed version of the Council Worksession Agenda. If necessary, the continuation of the hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Meeting Agenda.

COUNCIL:

There were no comments.

PUBLIC:

Ken Hadley, 4011 "F" Circle, Washougal, WA:

Hadley stated his concern regarding the Camas Hotel's parking plan proposal. Hadley encouraged Council to review the overall downtown parking at the Annual Planning Conference.

Nellie Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld inquired whether the City loses money by accepting credit card payments. Council responded that a transaction fee is paid and that there has been some adjustments figured into the rate study to compensate for this fee.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk