



**CITY OF CAMAS
SPECIAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION
October 19, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Anderson, Chaney, Gerde, Higgins, and Smith (left at 5:25).

Excused: Dietzman and Hogan.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Present: Beel, Hein, Hooper, Hull, and Shepherd.

Excused: Damore and Monteith.

STAFF PRESENT:

Bourquin, Brachmann, Copsey, Durgin, Halverson, Lackey, Levison, Miller, and Nelson.

PRESS: Heather Acheson, Camas-Washougal Post Record.

PUBLIC:

There were no comments.

Mayor welcomed the Planning Commission to the joint meeting with City Council.

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, introduced Judy Hooper who was recently appointed to the Planning Commission. Hooper gave a brief introduction of herself.

JOINT WORKSHOP WITH CITY OF CAMAS PLANNING COMMISSION:

Update to the Shoreline Master Program:

Bourquin stated that the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a joint effort between Clark County, six cities and the town of Yacolt. The jurisdictions are working together through an interlocal agreement to update their perspective SMP. Bourquin noted a grant that was received from the Department of Ecology (DOE) for this update.

Bourquin reported that the purpose of this meeting was to give an overview of what the SMP project involves. Bourquin also informed Council about a community wide workshop scheduled at the Camas Public Library on October 28th in the evening that will be open to the public.

Bourquin welcomed two of the project management team members that were present; Gordy Euler, Clark County and Joanne Boys, City of Washougal.

Bourquin gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the SMP update. The presentation outlined the policy goals, purpose for the update and the SMP, roles of the state and local partnerships, process involved, timeframes, and public involvement.

Bourquin distributed handouts which outlined the timeframes and included additional information. The City of Vancouver is providing access to the project website which will have updates available. The website address is www.cityofvancouver.us/shoreline.

Mayor asked if there were any questions.

Bourquin responded to questions from Council and the Planning Commission.

Chaney suggested that a link be placed on the City's website to facilitate citizen's access to the updates.

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, commented that the City received notification from the DOE that the Shoreline Master Program Minor Amendment was approved, which is a major achievement. Halverson noted this will open the door for the construction of trails on both sides of the Washougal River which will touch the lives of the citizens in a very positive way. Halverson commended Bourquin and the team for a job well done.

New Development Code – “Flex Code” (Rescheduled to November 2, 2009):

Mayor thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING:

The joint meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

CAMAS CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEMS:

The Camas City Council Workshop meeting reconvened at 4:57 p.m.

POLICE/FIRE:

Review of Fireworks Code in Neighboring Jurisdictions:

Mitch Lackey, Police Chief, gave a brief recap on the history of this topic.

Randy Miller, Fire Marshal, distributed a handout and gave an overview of what neighboring jurisdictions are doing in regards to the sales and use of fireworks.

Lackey reported that a meeting was held with the fire and police chiefs of Washougal to discuss whether or not any problems have arisen due to any inconsistencies in the sales and use of fireworks within the jurisdictions. Lackey stated that this was the first year Washougal had more restrictive laws and that the inconsistencies did not pose any problems to date. Lackey added that Washougal made the decision to not emphasize the enforcement this year.

Council decided after further discussion that the sales and use of fireworks in Camas should be left as is.

Mayor asked Lackey and Miller to stay in contact with the other jurisdictions in the future in case any problems arise.

POLICE:

Request to Surplus Old Style Police Uniforms:

Shyla Nelson, Police Captain, reported that the police department currently has a surplus of previously worn uniforms and coats that they would like to surplus. This matter will be coming before Council for consideration in the future.

Nelson responded to questions from Council.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Well # 14 Bid Opening Update:

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, stated that the bid opening for Well #14 is scheduled for October 27th with a recommendation to award the contract at the November 2nd or 16th Council Meeting. Brachmann noted that on-site work will most likely not occur until after the first of the year.

Municipal Stormwater Grant Proposal:

Brachmann reported that the City has signed on to team up with Clark County and other National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II cities in the county to apply for a stormwater grant from the DOE. The grant request is for \$500,000 and there is no match requirement. The intent is to use the funds to put together stormwater education programs that will satisfy the public education requirements of the NPDES Phase II Permit.

Brachman stated that he will cover the miscellaneous topics and updates prior to the utility rate discussion.

Miscellaneous and Updates:

Brachmann reported that after installing traffic calming on NW 18th Loop the 80th percentile measured speed dropped from 37.5 mph to 33.6 mph.

Gerde asked and Brachmann responded that he would send her the total cost of the project.

Brachmann stated that the City has received notification from the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) staff that the City's "Urban Livability Grant Application" for \$240,000 has been approved. The grant and local funds will pay for the construction of the bike lane at the upper portion of the Lake Road.

Brachmann responded to questions from Council.

Utility Rate Discussion:

Brachmann distributed a handout and gave a summary of the flow based sewer rate consumption for the Cities of Vancouver and Battle Ground. Brachmann explained why there is a need for a fixed rate.

Brachmann also summarized the City of Vancouver's Low Income Senior Waiver Program. Brachmann commented that if Council decides to institute a Low Income Senior Waiver

Program they should use the same calculation that is used for other senior low income programs for consistency purposes.

Brachmann spoke briefly on the mechanics of offering a consumption based sewer rate and how it could potentially increase the work load in the finance department.

Joan Durgin, Finance Director, stated that the finance department has not had enough time to analyze the data and meet with the consultants. Durgin added that the finance department did download some data to determine what the effect would be if Council decided to implement the structure that Brachmann had previously discussed. The results were that about 72% of the residential customers would have a decrease in their monthly utility bill and 28% would see an increase. Some of the increases would be significant.

Durgin stated that she would like to do further analysis in order to bring detailed examples back to Council for review. Durgin added that she wants more testing performed on the software to make sure that it works correctly and she wants to look into whether or not the revenue, with a potential 72% of the residents receiving a monthly cost reduction, will cover the operating expenses for the utilities.

Durgin commented that the City could probably implement the program fairly quick if the Council is interested in a Low Income Senior Waiver Program. Discussion ensued.

Gerde stated that if Council decides to implement consumption based rates that the City should not also offer senior/low income discounts. Gerde added that residents should pay for what they use.

After further discussion the conclusion was to delay this matter until more analysis could be done. This matter will be brought back to Council for discussion at the November 16th Council Workshop.

Brachmann stated that he would like to ask the consultants to help justify what the fixed rate should be by taking into account the operating and fixed costs. Brachmann added that he agrees with the suggestion made by Gerde as he believes seniors and residents that do not use a lot of water should see a decrease in their bill if the City implements consumption based rates.

ADMINISTRATION:

Miscellaneous and Scheduling:

Halverson announced that the Association of Washington Cities will be holding a regional meeting in Woodland and that Council should register if they wish to attend. Halverson added that he and Anderson are registered thus far.

Halverson reported that engineering staff has prepared four pre-applications for the Community Development Block Grant for 2010 and 2011. Two of the projects will be for additional curb cut and handicap ramps within the community; one project is being proposed for 2010 and one for 2011. Additionally, one project will be for park improvements at Louis Block Park and the Washougal River Greenway being proposed for 2011 and one project for parking improvements to the Community Center being proposed for 2010.

COUNCIL:

Higgins reported that the Camas Advisory Youth Council held a candidate forum on Monday and that the event was successful. There were 175 people in attendance.

Anderson stated that he is continuing his role as the East County Fire & Rescue liaison, but has nothing notable to report at this time.

Chaney gave a brief report on the Stormwater Committee and stated that he is optimistic that the committee will develop a decent proposal to present to Council.

Mayor asked Council if they would like to take a position on initiative 1033 that will be on the election ballot this fall. After discussion, Council decided not to take a position on this initiative.

PUBLIC:

Ken Hadley, 4011 F Circle, Washougal, WA:

Hadley commented on Washougal’s fireworks restrictions and voiced his opinion regarding the enforcement effort.

Mike Nerland, 4031 NW Sierra Dr., Camas, WA:

Nerland thanked Council for coming to Grass Valley Elementary School to have the Council Workshop and to tour the facility. Nerland stated the school would not be possible without the great help of the City leaders and staff working together with the school district, which illustrates a shining example of the partnership. Nerland added that he looks forward to continuing the partnership in the future. Nerland invited Council to hold a meeting at the new Helen Baller Elementary School in the future.

Mayor thanked Nerland for making Grass Valley Elementary School available for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk