



**CITY OF CAMAS  
COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
August 17, 2009  
4:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Smith presided.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Present:** Chaney, Dietzman, Gerde, Higgins, and Hogan (arrived at 4:40 p.m.).

**Excused:** Anderson and Mayor Dennis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Berquist, Brachmann, Carothers, Durgin, Farland, Gorsuch, Halverson, Hodges, Lackey, and Leon.

**PRESS:** None present.

**PUBLIC:**

P.D. Groeneveld, PO Box 604, Camas, WA:

Groeneveld stated that National Senior Citizens Day is August 21st and the seniors would appreciate it if this day would be recognized by the City.

Groeneveld asked if the City plans to have a motorcycle policeman. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said that staff would get back to her about her question.

**CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH on H1N1 TOPIC:**

Marni Storey, Director of Personal Health Services, Clark County Public Health:

Ms. Storey gave an update on H1N1, or Swine Flu. It was first detected in the United States last April and the World Health Organization has declared this flu a pandemic. Storey summarized the findings regarding Swine Flu and encouraged everyone to get their regular flu immunization as soon as possible. This way, when the vaccine for Swine Flu is available early in October, citizens will be able to begin their vaccines right away because they have taken care of their flu immunization already. Storey also relayed how the organization was working together with community partners and the Oregon Department of Health.

Storey responded to questions from Council members.

**POLICE:**

The Bryne Grant and Police Uniforms:

Mitch Lackey, Police Chief, relayed that there is a \$12,228 portion of the Bryne Grant that is available for the Camas Police Department to purchase new uniforms. The uniforms they have been purchasing for many years will no longer be available. Officer Debra Farland, a member of the Police Department's Uniform Search Committee, modeled the uniform and relayed the advantages of the uniform's design. Lackey said that it is likely they will be able

to purchase the needed uniforms in 2009 and replacements in 2010 with the available grant funds.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Presentation by Camas School District Regarding Water Development Charge Agreement:**

Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, reported that the Camas School District will be constructing a school at the top of Crown Road and they are requesting the ability to prepay the \$24,398 in System Development Charges (SDC's). Brachmann noted there will likely be an agreement on the September 8<sup>th</sup> Agenda to allow the district to prepay these fees. The agreement would ensure that the school district will not be obligated to spend additional funds to build a reservoir in 2012 or to add extensive water lines to meet the school needs. Brachmann added that this is allowable under the code for the City of Camas.

Mike Nerland, Superintendent of Camas School District, thanked Brachmann for the opportunity to pay this fee in advance. City Council members confirmed they supported the agreement.

Nerland responded to questions from Council.

**Lacamas Meadows Traffic Circle:**

James Carothers, Engineering Manager, explained that staff's stance on the request from neighbors in the area is to leave the traffic circle in concrete. Carothers gave a brief overview of the reasons why a concrete circle was placed rather than a circle of vegetation in the center of the street.

Carothers responded to questions from Council.

Gerde said that trees in this circle would not be workable.

**Craig Walker, 3041 NW Grass Valley Dr., Camas:**

Walker confirmed a letter was mailed to the neighborhood stating a traffic circle would be built and he noted that the neighborhood assumed there would be landscaping within the circle as previously planned. Walker explained how a tree would fit within the center and how the utility covers could avoid plantings. The neighborhood has expressed concern about losing a planted circle for a slab of concrete circle when large trucks are seldom seen in this neighborhood and would seldom pose a problem.

**Heidi Rosenberg, Camas School District, Capital Programs Manager:**

Rosenberg stated that she had worked with Camas staff on this intersection and relayed that the reason for the unplanted circle is the district did not want to plant anything that would inhibit the line of sight for the cross walk that is being placed just beyond the circle. Rosenberg added that the district tried to keep it as simple as possible.

Gerde said that once school begins and the crosswalks are in, it will be clear what might be planted in the circle without inhibiting the line of sight. Higgins said that he agreed and thanked the citizens for being involved, but he wants to wait to assess the situation until they have a clearer picture of how things are working. Gerde suggested that low shrubs or a flower garden were possibilities for the area.

Hogan, Carothers, and Rosenberg discussed the potential sidewalk sites.

Upcoming Bid Openings:

Brachmann reported that two bids will be opened on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They are the Washougal River Trail bid and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Center ADA compliant back steps and ramp. The bids will probably be brought before Council for consideration on September 8th.

Miscellaneous:

Brachmann said the maple tree on the east corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Birch Street will be removed soon. The arborist contracted by the City from Tree Works Northwest said that this tree is a hazard and recommends removing it. The maple tree will be replaced with another planting.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Shoreline Master Program Update:

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, updated Council about the interlocal agreement the City has entered into with Clark County and the cities within the County to pursue a grant with the Department of Ecology (DOE) for the purpose of creating a Shorelines Master Program Update. This update has been mandated by the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and Washington State Law to be completed by 2011. Bourquin added that the City has accepted a grant offer from the DOE which will cover the costs for this update. There will be a technical and citizen advisory committee for this update and Bourquin requested Council's recommendations for citizens who could serve on these committees.

Bourquin responded to questions from Council.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Ambulance Purchase:

Leo Leon, Fire Chief, asked Council to approve the bid for the new ambulance in the amount of \$190,167.95. Leon explained why this ambulance is needed and which accounts will fund the cost.

Leon responded to questions from Council.

Creation of a Fire Captain/Paramedic Position:

Leon explained the reasoning behind this new position. Leon stated that while a current firefighter/paramedic would become a fire captain, there would not be a need to hire additional personnel. Leon added that this change reduces the cost of acting officers pay, allows more flexibility in staffing in all the stations, reduces the Emergency Management Services (EMS) fund and the General Fund in 2009 and 2010, and provides for staff training accountability.

Leon responded to questions from Council.

The budget change will be presented at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for Council's consideration.

In response to questions, Leon said that the circle at Lacamas Meadows could have plantings as long as the plantings will not inhibit the fire truck's vision.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Local Option Hotel Tax "Revisited":**

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, referred to the information contained in the packets previously distributed to Council regarding the hotel/motel tax. Halverson explained that the local hotel tax refers to whether hotels and motels send 2% to the city or to the state, and this can be accomplished without raising the tax for the hotels, motels or the occupants. He added that the generated funds can only be used to fund our community and that the Camas Hotel and the Fairgate Inn will be affected.

Chaney inquired and Halverson responded that the 2% amount could be used to offset some of the promotion expense created by the Downtown Vision Coalition (DVC).

**Fire/Emergency Medical Services "Three Party Agreement" Draft:**

Halverson stated that Washougal, East County Fire and Rescue and the City of Camas will enter into a three party agreement and this new agreement will replace the two party agreements that are now in place. Halverson will bring this item back to Council at a later date for their review.

**Miscellaneous and Scheduling:**

In response to Groeneveld's inquiry at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Workshop, Halverson said that *Loaves and Fishes* has invited Council to participate in the Valentine's Day Event.

Halverson gave a brief summary of each of the infrastructure projects.

The Washington State Department of Commerce has a grant program that provides an opportunity for Camas to obtain funding for an extension of the bike lane on Lake Road. The grant application deadline is Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Halverson noted if the grant is successful; it can be added to the Growth Management Funds that are available for this project.

Carothers explained that the south side of Lake Road will be widened to include a new bike lane. This is the uphill side of Lake Road.

The Council is in favor of applying for the grant.

Halverson reported that the Waste Water Treatment Plant will likely be funded by the State of Washington Revolving Fund. This is a long term interest rate loan with an approximate 3% rate. An application should be submitted by December 1st.

Halverson responded to questions from Council.

Potential CDBG projects for this year that are likely to be funded are sidewalk and curb access at many sites throughout the City. Halverson added that this could apply for the areas that are most difficult for handicapped people, not just for low income areas. Another project is to purchase and upgrade the parking lot across the street from the community center.

Halverson said the need for the West Camas Slough Bridge to be four lanes will not go away and this subject should continue to be pursued.

Halverson noted that there will be an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) meeting in Woodland on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, and that Leisha Copey, Executive Assistant, is the contact if Council would like to attend.

Halverson said that the AWC Legislative Committee Meeting will occur on September 17<sup>th</sup>. He asked that the Council members communicate to him their ideas and suggestions.

**COUNCIL:**

Hogan reminded Council that First Friday is coming up.

Gerde said the last First Friday was interesting and she enjoyed watching the fencing demonstration and the dancing.

Dietzman attended a C-Tran meeting and reported that C-Tran will ask for public input regarding changing the frequency of some of their routes in Camas, Washougal and other areas. Dietzman will also be attending a Mosquito Control Meeting tomorrow where the agenda will include information on Swine Flu and the West Nile virus.

Chaney said that during the last Clark Regional Emergency Services Association (CRESA) Board Meeting, the Board directed CRESA to build a budget with a less than a 0 % budget increase.

**PUBLIC:**

Mike Nerland, Camas School District Superintendent:

Nerland invited Council to hold a work session at one of the two new elementary schools so they could take a tour. Nerland added he would be glad to make the arrangements.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk