



**CITY OF CAMAS
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
April 5, 2010
4:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Dennis presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Anderson, Chaney, Dietzman, Higgins, and Smith.

Excused: Gerde and Hogan.

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

PRESS: Heather Acheson, Camas-Washougal Post Record.

PUBLIC:

Ed Fischer – Camas Bike and Sport, 240 NE 3rd Ave., Camas, WA:

Fischer voiced his frustration regarding tickets that his customers have received for backing vehicles into parking spaces in front of his business. Fischer explained the unique parking situation surrounding his business due to its location and asked Council to consider allowing a variance to permit customers to back their vehicles into the parking spaces.

Mitch Lackey, Police Chief, stated that he had spoken to Fischer earlier in the day regarding this situation and that staff is willing to look into this matter and work with Fischer to develop possible solutions. Discussion ensued.

Mayor asked Lackey to report the findings back to Council.

PUBLIC WORKS:

System Development Charges (SDC), Angie Sanchez Virnoche, FCSG:

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, briefly gave background regarding SDC and introduced Angie Sanchez Virnoche of FCSG.

Virnoche gave a PowerPoint Presentation regarding water, sewer and storm utility system development charges. The presentation included a brief overview, the methodology used to calculate the fees, the proposed SDC's and staff's recommendations.

Virnoche explained the proposed charges and gave examples of what the charges would look like if adopted. Virnoche added that the proposed water SDC for all customers, except industrial, are based on the meter size. The presentation also included options for Council to consider in regards to water SDC for the industrial class. Virnoche explained the options and gave examples of the fees if they are adopted.

Questions were asked and clarifications were made. Discussion ensued regarding the variance in cost between the North Urban Growth Area (NUGA) and the non-NUGA, and how the industrial water SDC may effect future economic development.

Virnoche summarized staff's recommendations and noted that some of the numbers used in the analysis were based on the 2008 draft plan. She added that the proposal that will be presented to Council for consideration will need to be updated to be consistent with the final comprehensive plan.

Chaney stated that it would be helpful to see how the City's proposed charges compare to regional charges. Discussion ensued.

Dietzman stated that she would like to see a comparison of charges for local jurisdictions which includes industrial customers.

Halverson suggested bringing this matter back to Council for discussion at the May 3rd Workshop. He noted that this will allow time for Council to review the requested information and to reflect on what type of industrial development the City wants to promote, while determining which option should be used for industrial SDC.

Professional Services Scope Amendment – FCSG:

Eric Levison, Public Works Operations Manager, reported that the contract with FCSG has expired. The contract will need to be amended to allow FCSG to assist with the work necessary to complete the SDC project. The amendment will be placed on the April 19, 2010, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

Anderson inquired and Levison responded that the amended scope of work will not include the storm SDC that is being deferred. Discussion ensued.

LED Lighting Pilot Project Interlocal Agreement:

Levison reported the LED Lighting Pilot Project with Washougal is moving forward. An interlocal agreement between the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, Washougal and Clark Public Utilities will need to be in place by June. Levison added that after the agreement is reviewed by legal counsel it will come back to Council for consideration.

Clark County Decant Agreement:

Levison stated that a decant agreement with Clark County will be on the April 19, 2010, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. Levison explained the purpose of the agreement.

Joan Durgin, Finance Director, stated that the first utility billings with the new rates were mailed to residents recently. Durgin summarized the calls received by the finance department regarding these bills. Some of the calls were related to billing increases due to water leaks. Durgin explained how the finance department will handle adjustments to sewer bill increases and winter averages caused by water leaks, since the bills are now based on water consumption.

Durgin responded to questions from Council.

Fisher Developer Agreement – Waterline Upsize:

James Carothers, Acting Public Works Director, stated that a developer agreement to upsize the watermain across the Fisher Creek Campus will be on the April 19, 2010, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. Carothers stated that the City has requested the upsize for the purpose of providing better service and circulation to this area. The City's payment for the upsize is a budgeted item in 2010.

Lake Road Bike Lane Improvement Bid Opening and Award:

Carothers reported a bid award for the Lake Road Bike Lane Improvement Project will be on the April 19, 2010, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

Carothers responded to questions from Council.

Lacamas Heights Elementary School Speed Zone Resolution:

Carothers stated that the Camas School District has been working on plans to install a cross walk on NE 43rd Avenue for Lacamas Heights Elementary School. In order to do this, a school speed zone for this area will need to be implemented. Carothers reported that the school district will be funding this project. A resolution to implement a school speed zone to 20 mph will be coming before Council for consideration on April 19, 2010.

Carothers responded to questions from Council.

Miscellaneous and Updates:

There were no miscellaneous items.

Mayor started that the Northshore Development Agreement Update, under community development, will be discussed next.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Northshore Development Agreement Update:

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, gave background regarding the Northshore Development Agreement and stated that this item was scheduled on the workshop at the request of James Howsley.

James Howsley, 500 E Broadway, Ste. 400, Vancouver, WA:

Howsley gave a brief update and stated that he will be working with Bourquin and Assistant City Attorney Shawn MacPherson to work through some of the technical issues of the agreement. Howsley noted that he is present to answer any questions Council may have.

Anderson stated that he would prefer to discuss his concerns when legal counsel is present.

Mayor suggested bringing this matter back to the April 19, 2010, Council Workshop for discussion when MacPherson can be present.

Shilo Heights Tree Plan Update:

Bourquin reported that Stu Albright with Ash Creek Associates has reviewed the Shilo Heights Tree Plan as requested by Council. The response to the review was submitted to the City and has been forwarded to the Shilo Heights HOA for their review. Bourquin noted that

after Shilo Heights has reviewed the response and decides how they want to proceed, a full packet including the report from Ash Creek Associates will be distributed to Council prior to placing this matter on the Council agenda.

Mayor asked and Bourquin responded that this matter will come back before Council for discussion at the May 3, 2010, Workshop.

Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Interlocal Agreement:

Bourquin gave a brief explanation of the CTR Interlocal Agreement between the cities of Vancouver, Washougal and Camas. The agreement extends from July 2009 through July 2011. Bourquin added that staff has reviewed the new agreement for consistency with prior agreements. Bourquin explained that the City just received the agreement and that this matter will be placed on the April 19, 2010, Consent Agenda for Council's consideration. The agreement will be distributed to Council for review.

Mayor suggested that, in addition, this item be placed on the April 19, 2010, Council Workshop in case Council has questions.

POLICE:

Municipal Court Update:

Lackey distributed a handout about the municipal court. He also explained why it is illegal to back vehicles into parking spaces.

Lackey reported that through negotiations between the Cities of Washougal and Camas and Clark County, a conceptual plan has been formed to move forward. The plan is consistent with accomplishing the goals of keeping the court local and operating within the allocated budgets. Lackey explained the conceptual plan and noted that he believes the proposal will have little impact to the public.

Lackey explained how the current court billing system works and stated that the County would like to re-negotiate the interlocal agreement to reflect the actual cost associated for the employees rather than base the costs on tickets that are written, arrests that are made and cases that are filed.

Lackey stated that the court expenses will be split between Camas and Washougal based on case filings. Lackey added that in order to split the costs more evenly the proposal includes removing the parking tickets issued by Camas from the daily work of the municipal court. In order to accomplish this, Camas will need to form a limited Violations Bureau to handle the parking tickets. Lackey explained how a Violations Bureau would function and noted that a resolution will be brought forward for Council's consideration if they are open to the proposal.

Lackey responded to questions from Council.

After further discussion, Lackey asked and Council confirmed that they were comfortable with the proposed path forward. Lackey responded that Washougal Police Chief Ron Mitchell is presenting this same proposal to the Washougal City Council. If the Washougal City Council is comfortable with the proposal, interlocal agreements will be drafted for both

Councils' to consider. There will be one interlocal agreement to change the methodology for billing for the remainder of the year and a second interlocal agreement will be created for 2011 and beyond.

Chaney offered suggestions for language to be incorporated into the agreements.

Council and Halverson commended Lackey and the team for their hard work.

ADMINISTRATION:

WWRP Openspace Grant Application:

Halverson reported that Washington Wildlife Recreation and Parks (WWRP) will be opening the grant application process soon. Halverson commented that he believes that the most successful route for the City to take to obtain funding to acquire additional openspace will be to apply for grant money through the County Conservations Futures Program. If successful, the funds can be used to purchase the Fallen Leaf Lake property parcel(s) in the Lacamas Corridor, and perhaps a fragment of openspace along the Washougal River behind the bowling alley. The applications will be prepared by Parks & Recreation Manager Jerry Acheson and Consultant Bill Dygert.

Public Works Director Recruitment Update:

Halverson stated that the public works director recruitment is well underway. There were 73 applications which are currently being screened. Halverson gave an update on the interview process and noted that there will be an open house in the evening on April 20th to meet the final candidates. Interviews will be held on April 21st, then followed by an interview with the Mayor on April 22nd. The goal is to have the new public works director on board in early June.

Halverson responded to questions from Council. Discussion followed regarding the interview panel and process.

Miscellaneous and Scheduling:

Halverson stated that the current AFSCME Contract reimburses employees for a meal after they work unscheduled overtime in excess of four hours. The reimbursement is done under the City's Travel Policy. Halverson commented that it has become problematic to determine what the reimbursement should be depending on the time of day that the work occurred and when the employee obtained the meal. To simplify the process, the AFSCME joint labor committee recommends establishing a fixed rate of \$15.00 per meal for overtime reimbursement.

After further discussion, it was concluded that staff will compare the proposed rate with other jurisdictions and check internally to see if this provision is included in other labor agreements. The findings will be brought back to Council for further discussion.

Halverson commented that the finance department has requested to add one hour per day to the part-time position that currently works four hours per day to assist with the increased tasks due to the utility billings. Halverson stated that he supports this request. The increase in hours will be funded through the water-sewer fund.

Halverson stated that if the City forms a limited Violations Bureau that the finance department will experience a workload increase. The finance department has requested that the same part-time position be increased by an additional one hour per day to handle the additional workload. Halverson added that the funds are within the budget authority and will be structured into the 2011 Budget. Discussion ensued.

Council did not have any objections to the requests.

Halverson announced that there is a part-time clerical position at the police department. The employee that previously held this position gave notice and her last day was March 31st. Staff recommends refilling this position.

Halverson reported that Officer Ralph Meuler has submitted his retirement notice. His last day will be June 30th. Halverson added that the police department is currently interviewing applicants to fill an existing vacancy and would like to also consider applicants from this pool for this upcoming vacancy. Council consented.

Halverson reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is willing to move the motorist information sign that is currently located by the “Welcome to Camas” sign on SR-14. They can move the sign 400 feet east or west of the current location and there will not be a cost to the City to move the sign.

After discussion, it was concluded that Halverson will check with the merchants that are listed on the sign to get their input on whether the sign should be move east or west of the current location.

COUNCIL:

There were no comments.

Mayor mentioned that he received a letter several months ago from the City of Vancouver and Clark County asking if the City would be interested in establishing a joint parks system. He added that he will be meeting with a county commissioner and the mayor of Vancouver tomorrow and would like to know prior to the meeting what Council thinks about this proposal. Mayor stated this topic will be brought up at the regular meeting for discussion.

PUBLIC:

Randy Printz, 805 Broadway Street, Ste. 1000, Vancouver, WA:

Printz gave his perspective and ideas about SDC's to Council. He asked that Council consider his comments when making their determination of what the SDC's will include.

Lou Kobet, 2223 NW Douglas Loop, Camas, WA:

Kobet explained that he is working with the Sea Scouts on a local community project to add eight channel marker buoys to Lacamas Lake to keep boaters from running aground. Kobet explained the proposal to Council and asked if the City would support the project.

Kobet left information regarding the project and asked that it be forwarded to the proper department within the City. He added that he be contacted to let him know whether or not the City will be interested in assisting with this project.

Mayor asked Kobet to give the information to Halverson.

Council thanked Kobet for his interest in this project.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk