



**CITY OF CAMAS
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
December 21, 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: Berquist, Brachmann, Carothers, Durgin, Englund, Halverson, and Lackey.

PRESS: Heather Acheson, Camas-Washougal Post Record.

PUBLIC:

Amanda Martinez, representing the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society, stated that even though the City of Washougal is tasked with the service agreement for the Society, Ms. Martinez asked for Camas City Council's continued support of the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society.

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

Groeneveld suggested that the Camas Senior Center's name be changed to the Camas Adult Enrichment Center and gave the reason why she requested the name change.

Groeneveld asked and Lackey confirmed that a position for a traffic officer was currently in the 2010 Budget, but he is unable to promise that the position would be filled in 2010.

Groeneveld requested that Safeway be recognized by City staff for allowing the recycling box to be placed in their parking lot. It has often been a challenge for Safeway to maintain a tidy look around the recycling station and Groeneveld commended their recycling efforts.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Pavement Cut Fee:

James Carothers, Engineering Manager, distributed a written copy of a Power Point Presentation prepared for Council titled, *Utility/Trench Cut Fee Proposal*. He reviewed the main elements of the Power Point presentation with Council. Carothers stated the reason for establishing a fee would be to recover a portion of the cost associated with the loss of pavement life as a result of trench cuts in a street. Staff recommended imposing a fee of \$4.23/sq. ft. for all entities that would be trenching in city streets, including the City of Camas. Carothers explained how this amount was calculated by staff. Staff recommends omitting fees under the following circumstances: streets were failed streets; the repairs were

performed by the Camas Street Department; the testing holes were small; the street to be trenched was scheduled for repair in the near future. Carothers added that a moratorium for trenching new streets could be put in place for a certain number of years after the street had been upgraded or built, unless emergency repairs needed to be performed.

Carothers and Monte Brachmann, Public Works Director, responded to questions from Council.

After further discussion, Council asked that the City Attorney research whether or not fees can be charged to only non-City government entities and if this would be a fair practice. Council asked whether or not a higher standard than is currently in place for street repair after a trench cut could be required and could a one year guarantee be required. If these standards were in place, it would place the responsibility on the contractor to bring the street back to pre-construction condition.

Comments from Council included Chaney's, who does not support a fee. He does support an alternative method to make sure streets are repaired adequately.

Dietzman requested more information about whether or not a fee for non-city entities could be charged without charging the City the same fee.

Fees and standards for trench cuts will be discussed further at the January 19th Workshop or the first workshop in February, 2010.

Recycling Cart Roll Out:

Brachmann said the co-mingle recycling carts were distributed to Camas residents. Brachmann noted that if customers want the City to pick up two of their old bins, they can leave their address information with the Finance Department and the sanitation crew will pick up and recycle the bins that are not being used. He added that if citizens want to keep the old bins, they are welcome to keep them.

Washougal River Trail Change Order:

Brachmann said that more excavation was required than was anticipated for the approach ramp to the bridge for the trail. A change order for Council's consideration will be presented to Council on January 4, 2010.

Miscellaneous and Updates:

Brachmann pulled Item C on the December 21st Regular Council Meeting Consent Agenda, which is a professional services contract with Gray and Osborne for phase two of the Waste Water Treatment Plant project, WS-656.

Brachmann informed Council that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will no longer consider Segments 27, 31, 42, and 44 of the I-5 Corridor Project because additional funds to acquire the easements for these segments would be required.

Brachmann recommended that the contractors performing work requiring a trench cut should be responsible to pave to the center line of the road they have cut as this would maintain the stability of the street, noting that this is what Clark County requires.

Council requested that the County model be brought back to Council to a workshop in January or February.

ADMINISTRATION:

Camas Post Office:

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, summarized the contents of a preliminary draft letter written by City staff regarding the closing notice posted at the Post Office in Downtown Camas. The notice stated that the services of the Camas Post Office (P.O.) will be moved to the annex location. The contents of the draft letter included a preliminary estimate of City fees in the range of \$450,000.00 that will be required if the P.O. relocates and a list of permitting requirements the P.O. should consider in their decision making process. The letter also mentions the SR-14 widening project since it will include street closures and other potential negative impacts of a relocation.

Halverson noted that many comments regarding this issue have been received by City Staff and Council, including the inclusion of the Post Office building on the National Register of Historic Places and a letter drafted by Mr. Madden, a concerned citizen, about the importance of maintaining the downtown location.

Council responded enthusiastically to the contents of the draft letter and Anderson added that the drop off box service structure will also need to be enhanced if the location is changed.

Halverson stated that Council's review and participation of the matter will be included in the content of the letter.

Attorney Contract Amendment:

Halverson referred to a memorandum by Roger Knapp, City Attorney, explaining the purpose of the professional services agreement contract amendment. The item and memorandum will be included on the January 4th, 2010, Workshop Agenda and listed on the January 4th Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

2010 Legislative Agenda:

Halverson referred to the second version of the proposed **2010 Legislative Short List** for the City. He noted item 6, "Methamphetamine Ingredients" has been added, and the second bullet under **2. Transportation**, "Support the Clark County Transportation Alliance Position." can be eliminated. After review, Council agreed with the second draft of the **2010 Legislative Short List** as Camas's Legislative Agenda for 2010.

Planning Conference Topics:

The City of Camas Planning Conference will take place upstairs at the Camas Library, 625 NE 4th Ave., beginning Friday, January 22nd at 2 p.m. and recommencing on Saturday, January 23rd at 9 a.m. Sustainability, sandwich board signs, storm water ponds, scheduling Council workshops, water-sewer system development charges, general fund overview and the implications of the East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) decision are listed as discussion

topics. There will be one more call for topics at the City Council Workshop on January 4th with the cut-off date set for January 15th to submit topics.

Mike Nerland, Camas School District Superintendent, will be the facilitator for the conference and there will tentatively be a session with the Camas School Board included in the conference.

Miscellaneous, Updates and Scheduling:

A memo is forthcoming from Halverson about past 2009 and potential future infrastructure projects and funding.

Halverson summarized the history of the lodging tax ordinance that is on the consent agenda for the regular meeting. The total tax that will likely be collected is estimated at \$3,000.00 a year. Dietzman commented that Camas is not implementing a new tax, but rather, through the ordinance, the tax designation will change.

Halverson referred to the letter, formally requesting a Leave of Absence beginning on January 4th, 2010. The purpose of the leave is to assist Washougal and is contingent on Washougal's formal action. Halverson invited questions and comments from Council.

Mayor said that the request for 45 days does not put a major burden on the City of Camas and that Brachmann will assume Camas's administrative responsibilities.

After discussion, Anderson was not in favor of the leave of absence based on the concern expressed by some Washougal Staff and an elected official that Halverson's assistance would add another layer of disruption and change to their situation.

The consensus of the Camas City Council is that if the members of the Washougal Council voted to hire Halverson for this time period and for this public service, considering Halverson's skill set, they were in favor of the leave.

Council

Hogan said that the Camas Downtown Association's (CDA) new non-profit is close to obtaining a 501 (c) 3 classification. The Downtown Vision Coalition (DVC) is collecting signatures for a petition which supports maintaining the current location of the Camas Post Office. A copy of the letter authored by City of Camas staff will be supplied to the DVC. Hogan welcomed the new Journey Church to the downtown area and said that it was open. Hogan encouraged support for the downtown businesses in this holiday season.

Higgins attended the Identity Clark County Breakfast and said that both Democrats and Republicans commented about the lack of funding.

Anderson and Chaney attended the East County Advisory Board (ECAB) meeting pertaining to Emergency Management Services (EMS). As a result of this meeting, ECAB agreed that EMS will provide needed coverage for patient care by using the nearest appropriately staffed unit. Chaney said that Leo Leon, Fire Chief did a great job in representing the issue of patient care to ECAB.

Mayor said that committee appointments will be made at the regular Council meeting. Mayor attended Mel Cardon's retirement function. Mayor was approached by the Camas Superintendent of Schools and asked if Camas City Council would be willing to take a position on the upcoming school levy in February. Council agreed that Nerland was invited to attend the workshop on January 4th to relay the levy information.

Mayor met with Port Executive Director Dave Ripp and Mayor Elect Shawn Guard regarding a joint effort to encourage economic development in East Clark County. Bart Phillips, Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC), has been invited to speak to representatives from the City of Camas, the City of Washougal, and the Port of Camas-Washougal about the future of economic development in East Clark County. This meeting will extend an opportunity to discuss what each entity would like to develop in East Clark County. A joint meeting during the Camas January 19th Workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held upstairs in the Camas Library.

Mayor met with Bart Phillips concerning progressive economic development efforts for 2010. One action item is the possible creation of an economic development investment fund. Mayor will continue to update Council on this topic.

PUBLIC:

Chris Kralik, 631 NW 18th Loop, Camas, WA:

Mayor responded to Kralik's question by stating that if Lloyd Halverson were asked to stay longer than 45 days as a public servant to Washougal, the decision of an extension of time would need to be made by Camas City Council. After 90 days, the ordinance requires that Council consider the matter and adopt a resolution stating why it is in the City's best interest to extend the time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk