

**CITY OF KALAMA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2015**

**1. OPENING**

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Poulsen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers present were Dominic Ciancibelli, Mike Dennis Langham, Don Purvis, and Mary Putka. Councilmember Mike Truesdell was absent. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Randy Gibson. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Labor Contract Negotiations – Held later in meeting.**

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**4. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS - None**

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

**A. Horizon Park – Citizen Request**

Mayor Poulsen noted the large crowd here to discuss the Horizon Park issue and asked if there was a spokesperson. As there was not he would go down the list on the sign in sheet and each person would have 3 minutes to speak.

Tia Nelson of 140 Eli Avery stated she just learned this weekend that the park was being considered to be put up for sale. She met with Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster and found that it has been declared surplus and this was based on the belief that the park is not being used. She is upset as they do use the park and walk their dog daily. She sent out an email to the neighborhood which also generated great concerns. She believes that Horizon Park can actually get more use than other parks downtown. She feels frustrated and blindsided as to how the action was taken.

Steve Wright of 235 Horizon Drive stated he has lived in Water's Watch development since 2003 and was also a part of the Parks Board that developed the park and helped to establish it. He walked the property with the former Public Works Director and it is part of reason they bought their home. It is important to have the park in the neighborhood. He noted that they paid a fee when the home was built. He is upset that no one that lives in the area was asked about the park. This was the wrong process. He stated he uses it every day walking through with his dogs, sitting on the bench and enjoying the area. He noted the Mayor should have received an mail from Krauses' who also use the park. He finds it disturbing in how this came about.

George Harris of 530 Horizon Drive stated taking the park away will change the value of property and it will be done without due process. The Park is an asset to the neighborhood and he believes the Council could better spend their time looking to get more business into the community.

Art Hyland of 260 Eli Avery stated this is his first time here and is new to the community. He feels the Council may have jumped the gun on the issue. He shares the same sentiments already voiced.

Mayor Poulsen informed the body that this was all done with good intentions. It was his idea and he does go up to the area and never sees people using the park. He was looking at the fact that the City has a Parks committee which has no funding and there are recreational needs throughout the community and a need for parks including this neighborhood. He believed it was underutilized and it is a very valuable piece of property. It is prime real estate being view property and he thought the sale could benefit the whole community by providing more opportunities throughout the community. There have always been needs for things for kids to do in the community and that hasn't changed since he was a kid. There is a Seniors group looking at a senior center. So with the high valued property being underutilized he thought it might be better to spread the funds throughout the community. There are options for other type of parks and wanted to add value to community. The thought was to use the proceeds to make improvements to existing park and trails and possibly build new parks, and work with a senior center.

Vicki Sorotino of 102 Horizon Drive appreciated the explanation, but sees 3 issues. First many that bought homes in this area based upon the fact that the park was there. It does service the community and is available to the entire community if they want to go to it. Second, is the process of how the decision was made without notification to those living in the area. And third is a revenue issue. She asked why the Port split from the City when it could provide revenue to the City. Mayor Poulsen noted that this has always been that way. The Port is a separate entity from the City. Ms. Sorotino stated that if the City needs funding then why not bring them together. Mayor Poulsen explained that the City has been working with the Port through recent annexations to gain some economic development in the City. The Port has its parks in the City, but areas such as the proposed Methanol plant are outside the City limits and so all the large benefits go to the County, School and the City only gets some residual revenues. The Port's new sports park is in the City now and the new development will gain some economic ground for the City. .

Tami Laclerc of 5400 Meeker Drive stated she was present at the last meeting and didn't know about the park, that it was even there. She suggested the Council reconsider the action taken after hearing from all these people tonight. Reconsider or take another look at the idea and think about the options. Councilmember Mary Putka agreed.

Diane Roberts of 125 Eli Avery added that the Park has always there and home owners paid a fee when they built homes there for a park. She doesn't see how the City can just sell it. Don't see it as a democracy if the surrounding property owners are not even notified.

Mayor Poulsen stated that the property was a land swap with the developer and the City

designated it as the Park. Funding for developing the area as a park came from the park fees paid when the homes were built.

Tress Lutgen of 230 Eli Avery stated that she loves the Park and will fight for it for her kids. It was a selling point for the house when they bought it. They do picnics, watch ships and play in the park. It is very disappointing to have it taken away. There were 50 homes that paid fees so where did the funds go? Why didn't the decision go to a vote of the neighborhood? The process doesn't sound right and she hopes this isn't how the City operates all the time. The Park is a real gem in the community and she begs the Council to reconsider.

Mayor Poulsen asked the council if they want to reconsider the action taken. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the City Council reconsider and take the issue under consideration to reevaluate the property before declaring it surplus. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded.

Another area resident asked if the skate park or senior center are actually in the works or just "pie in the sky" ideas. She also asked if the residents would get the park fee money back if the park was sold? Or is this just a way to solve a problem with the budget? Mayor Poulsen assured all there that this is not to support the budget. He ask that they all look at what has been done in the community over the last 12 years and many projects were completed through grants. Ms. Nelson noted that many present appreciate what the community offers, but they don't want their section of the community to be overlooked.

Mayor Poulsen apologized that they weren't included and accepts that the issue could have been handled better. He was looking at what the value could be to the whole community. He also asked "Where are all of these people to address other issues and be involved in whole community."

The Mayor called for the vote on the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Several Councilmember indicated that they believed the Park wasn't used. This is in part because people don't attend and provide input from the community. Citizens need to get more involved. Mayor Poulsen voiced his appreciation of the input tonight and the issue has been reconsidered. He suggested that the public take a frequent look at the City webpage for what is happening. There was some public suggestions that the City consider a facebook page. It was noted that the minutes from previous meetings are attached to next agenda as a draft so they are available to review in that format prior to be permanently posted to the site in adopted form. Also, the City has been working towards a facebook page, but we are required to meet certain public record laws which make the process a little harder than the general public.

Jim Kerstein stated that he doesn't want a skate park to replace this park. If the City were to begin to demolish the park, the neighborhood residents will be out there. This would not enhance the property values of the area even if he thinks it is a "pretty lame" park. Deborah Kerstein of 501 Horizon Drive stated that she enjoys it every day. The City should recognize that green space is precious and if it goes away they won't get it back. She thanked them for the vote.

Priscilla Wright of 235 Horizon add that she just enjoys the green space and experiencing the wildlife, so she doesn't care if it is developed any more. She finds it a soothing space.

Councilmember Don Purvis thanked the public for being here adding that the Council needs more input as they are a small group doing what they can.

Ms. Lutgen asked if the Park is safe. Mayor Poulsen stated yes, the decision has been rescinded. He added that he would like to see more participation by public. While the Park is a concern to this group, the Council has concerns for the whole community. He knows that most present tonight will not come back after this. He and the Council would like to see more involvement, have residents participate more and come help to make decisions. It was suggested that social media the way to go for better exposure as it makes it easier. Mayor Poulsen noted that the public can send emails as all the Council addresses are posted on the website. It doesn't have to be negative either. Some members of the audience commented that the information on the utility bills is helpful as well.

Ms. Tia Nelson stated that she sees the City is working hard to access the public and they do support the Council. Many are appreciative, but don't have ability or desire to get more involved. Many in the audience voiced their thanks for the Council's action tonight to rescind the declaration of the park as surplus.

Mayor Poulsen told those present to not blame the Council as this was based on his information. The Council are great people and support him as Mayor, all because they love this community. He appreciates their support but that doesn't mean they give him a free pass either.

Maureen Paxton of 145 Shipwatch Circle thanked the Mayor for the response to her email earlier in the day. She didn't really expect to get an answer, but received a response that wasn't just a form letter, but a well thought out response to the issue.

Mayor Poulsen noted that with so many present he would take this opportunity to inform them of the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration which will include a 50's Grease themed Street Dance on Friday. On Saturday there will be historical events, Strawberry cake, and information as well as recognition for Kalama Telephone Company and some of the founding families of Kalama. The Tall Ships will be here for all three days. On Sunday a community picnic will be held which will include, old fashioned games, a barbeque, as well as other activities. This is on July 10-12 and it is all free. They will be accepting donations for the Community Building at all events.

Councilmember Don Purvis noted that there are openings on the parks and recreation committee so there is an opportunity to get involved in community. It was also noted the Housing Authority Board also has an opening.

At this time the Mayor called a 5 minute recess.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Sale of Old Police Station – 385 N. First Street**

City Administrator Adam Smee stated that the old Police Station at 385 N. First Street was declared surplus and the City has received an offer from Fire District #5 for \$138,500. 00. He believes this to be a good offer and requests the Council accept it and authorize Mayor Poulsen or himself to finalize the transaction. He noted the funds will be used for capital expenditures. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli made motion the City Council accept the offer from Fire for amount \$138,500 and authorize the Mayor or City Admin to finalize the transaction. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

## **9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. Ordinance 1359 – Update Parks & Recreation Committee Appointments**

Ordinance No. 1359 was read by title: An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending Kalama Municipal Code Chapter 2.56.020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee – Membership-Terms to revise residency requirements to allow for filling of committee positions. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the City Council accept Ordinance No. 1359 as read. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded, and the motion carried.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE - None**

## **11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**

**A.** Mayor Pete Poulsen had no report.

**B.** Councilmember Mike Truesdell was absent.

**C.** Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

**D.** Councilmember Mike Langham reported there was no quorum at the recent COG meeting so no action was taken.

**E.** Councilmember Donald Purvis reported he had discussed with Police Chief Gibson the increase in use of vapor cigarettes in the youth of the community.

**F.** Councilmember Mary Putka reported the Library should hear back from the designer with plans next week. Also the preschool storytime being hosted by Library volunteer Sabrina, has had 249 parents and kids attend.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. George Harris of 530 Horizon Drive addressed the Council noting that the City needs to be more active in trying to get business into town. Mayor Poulsen noted that he has

been working on that process as long as he has been Mayor. It was thought that the downtown improvements would incentivize other downtown property owners to get involved, but it hasn't gotten them to make improvements to their properties. Mayor Poulsen noted he has brought in potential business developers into town but the buildings available are not in condition to house business and improvements are not being made by building owners, many of whom are absentee owners. He and the City staff are working to get the issues addressed but it is very frustrating. Mr. Harris stated that other communities have overcome issues so we should explore how they did it. He encourage the Council to think out of box and look for ways to make the improvements as there are natural places for business here. Suggestions were for Starbucks, McDonalds or Trader Joes and others that could be pursued. Mr Harris also noted that some of the current businesses don't have great customer service here which is disappointing. Jim Kerstein of 501 Horizon Drive stated that businesses need more personalized service and the City needs destination businesses. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli noted that several years ago the City did develop a handbook for keeping architectural flavor of city and through that process found that many didn't want large franchises like McDonalds, but prefer home grown businesses. Change in a community can be a hurdle that is difficult to overcome. Mayor Poulsen noted that the City has worked in partnership with the Port through the annexation to create a business zone north of town, noting that the Port has paid for all of the process costs. We may not have tax base for all the port areas, but we will get this east side of the freeway. The Marine Park is being annexed so that the jurisdiction lines are clear instead of being split between two. The City Administrator has worked diligently to get issues like the building next to City Hall improved but it takes a lot of time and of course money as it has to go through a legal process. Residential nuisances are also being addressed

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A.** City Administrator Adam Smee stated the bank demolition has been being done and the permit has been submitted. The City is using forced labor of Adam and crew while working with the engineer as he tears out walls to see what is under the several different phases of remodeling over the years. It has been an interesting process. There is still some to do before construction starts. Kalama Telephone has put fibre optics to the building so we can network with the Library and Police facilities. Adam also noted that he is getting close with bargaining negotiations.

**B.** Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented a written report, noting the crew has been actively swapping out old high pressure lights in Stone Forest and River Watch as they burn out to the luminen lights which will be more efficient. There is a new flag light at Maruhn Park which is better and doesn't bother the neighbors. The crew has addressed repair issues at pump stations. These are old stations, which will require more upgrades in future. The 550 truck broke down and is being serviced. Kelly explained he hasn't purchased the new truck yet as Bud Clary sold out of the Colorados but he will be looking at the new Dodge rig coming or he may have to wait until the fall for order. The City is now doing some odor control at Stone Forest pump station for the first time. The development has been growing in recent years. Councilmember Don Purvis asked about the replacement of the light standard at Oak Street. Chief Gibson noted that this is a WSDOT light and they have not responded to requests.

C. Police Chief Randy Gibson presented his statistical report of 145 calls with 13 cases under investigation including a stolen John Deere tractor which the owner left the keys in. It was last seen going up Kalama River Road. Flyers have been put out. Kress lake Safety days went very well with the largest crowd of 298 in its history. It was a good PR event for Department where they handed out lots of information and heard lots of compliments for the city and the department.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported that LDS Church has requested to rent the Community Building again for their early morning education class. This was last done in 2007- 2008 for \$10 per hour. We are currently figuring \$15 as an hourly cost for community classes. There has been a request to hold a computer class for youth in the Chambers as there is need for internet access which isn't available at the Community Building. This would be in association with the Library and the Parks & Rec classes. Coni also reported that Senior Center group has completed and received their 501c status

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel had no report.

Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli asked if the Council should consider setting a workshop to look at the Horizon Park issue and what proportion is used and the associated cost. It was suggested this be put on hold for now or have the Parks committee look at how the park could be used more by the rest of community.

### 13. CONSENT AGENDA -

*Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including:*

1. *Claims and Payroll warrants 34736 through 34794 and electronic transactions for a total of \$145,093.04;*
2. Minutes of the May 20, 2015 City Council Meeting
3. Set a Public Hearing for June 17, 2015 – Six Year Transportation Plan

*Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.*

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – At 9:08 pm Mayor Poulsen called a 5 minute break and then an executive session to discuss labor negotiations for 30 minutes. He noted the Council may come back and take action. The meeting resumed at 9:40 pm. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the Council accept the negotiated contract between the Teamster Bargaining Unit and the City for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Councilmember Mary Putka seconded, and the motion carried.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

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**Pete Poulsen - Mayor**

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**Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer**