

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 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 Mike Truesdell, Dominic Ciancibelli, Mike Dennis Langham, Don Purvis, and Mary Putka. 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 - None

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

4. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

A National Adoption Day Proclamation

Mayor Poulsen read the proclamation making November 17th National Adoption Day 2015. Judge Marilyn Hahn, of Cowlitz County Superior Court explained that this is a collective effort to bring attention to the kids in foster care that are eligible for adoption. On November 17, 2015 at 2pm there will be an event at the County administration building where they will celebrate by finalizing seven adoptions. Judge Hahn noted that not all of her duties are pleasant but it is a pleasure to place kids in forever homes. Longview Attorney Darrel Ammons who has done many adoptions over the last 20 years, noted that National Adoption Day started in 2005 and this is the 10th year. There are more than 100,000 children nationally waiting for adoption and a large number of older children that will age out of system. That is the sad part since these children have no foundation and often struggle throughout their adult lives. He thanked Kalama for signing the proclamation. CASA representative Corie Dow noted that the foster children need support and it is especially nice to see older children get adopted.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2016 Revenue Hearing – Ad Valorem Taxes – Water/Sewer Rates – City Fees

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster made a presentation which covered the funding sources of the City. Property taxes are projected to increase the full 1% allowed by law and will \$1.97 per 1000 of assessed valuation. Population based revenues include fuel taxes (use for streets), liquor taxes and some criminal justice funds (supports Police Department). Other tax revenues include sales, utility, leasehold on public properties, hotel/motel, real estate excise, gambling and timber taxes. There are fees charged for business and dog licenses, building permits, planning applications and other city provided services. The City 2015-11-4 minutes

receives revenues from the Courts for fines and penalties. The Community Building is funded by rental fees. The City will also receive some grant funding that will cover some street improvements and support the police department. Of the 63% of tax revenues received, the City allocates about 11% to fund Streets and Library functions. Streets funding includes the fuel taxes and funds from grants for improvement projects. Garbage fees will be increasing slightly due to an increase by Waste Control. Water and Sewer rates are projected to increase as recommended by the comprehensive rate study just completed by the City. Water will go up 4% and Sewer 9.5% in 2016. The City will be setting rates for the next 4 years after as well with water increasing 2% per year and sewer increasing 9.5 in 2017 and 2018, 8.5 in 2019, and 2% in 2020. These increases are necessary to meet the needs of the system. Residents will see an annual increase of an average of \$93 in 2016. Looking at utility rates in this region of the state, Kalama is average for Cowlitz County, and about \$7 above the entire regional average. The City will hold hearings on the expenditure side of the 2016 budget on November 18 and December 2, 2015.

Mr. Ron Madderra, a resident of Columbia Terrace Estates Manufactured Home Park (CTE) asked for a copy of the presentation and whom to contact with questions regarding the utility billings. Ms. McMaster explained that City Hall may be able to answer some questions, but the City bills CTE as one unit and does not bill the individual residents. The park then bills the residents of the park. Mr. Steve Martin, also a resident of CTE voiced concerns with the bills as the park bills them as many feel they are being double billed. The City doesn't own the facilities within the park, doesn't read the meters inside the park nor send the residents bills, so there should be a reduced rate. They are not receiving the same services from the city but are being billed for all services like the rest of the City residents. Mike Fess of 135 Hahn Drive, asked about a study from five years ago and how they were coming up with the rates. He had tried to get copies from the Library but none were available. Mayor Poulsen and City Administrator Adam Smee explained the City has completed a rate study and there have been two presentations. Ms. McMaster noted that she will get a copy of the final rate study over to the Library and get it posted on the website so it is available. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli informed the public that the study is comprehensive so be prepared for some reading. Mr. Martin asked how much the cost. Mr. Smee replied it was \$35,000, noting that the City needed the report to validate the needs for the future. This is the first comprehensive study the City has completed professionally. Mr Martin stated that in the early 90's the City raised the sewer rates by about 400% and where did that money go. Since that time the City replaced sewer lines on the south end of town and built the new sewer plant but since the rates had been so low, the City could only match funds for small grants and low interest loans with the available funds. The City engineers recommended regular substantial rate increases when the sewer plant was built in order for the City to cover the debt it incurred to make the improvements. The Council, being considerate of economic concerns for the residents, chose not to follow those recommendations but need to make the payments and that has led us to the recommended increases seen in the rate study. Mr. Martin noted that on a fixed income with everything going up at the park it is very difficult. City Administrator Adam Smee asked how does the park charge. It was explained that the park fees include costs to cover the infrastructure in the park and meter reading and still charge the City's base rate as well on the park utility bills. The residents can't just move the homes out as that is expensive and the valuations on manufactured homes are down. Since the City doesn't read all the meters or send out bills the residents feel they should get a discount. Mayor Poulsen stated that staff would review the code and how it is done. The

public hearing closed at 7:58 pm.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS - None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A Ordinance No. 1365 – Adopt Marine Park/Ahles Point Annexation

Ordinance No. 1365 was read by Title: An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington, providing for the annexation of certain properties known as the Marine Park/Ahles Point Annexation to the City of Kalama, classifying and zoning said properties and fixing the effective date of the annexation as December 1, 2015. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted the City has received the approval letter from the Boundary Review Board. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli made a motion the Council accept Ordinance No. 1365 as read. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen reported the Salmon bake fundraiser for the Community Building was well attended and made about \$1200.

B. Councilmember Mike Truesdell had no report. He did note that Kalama's football team qualified for the State tournament and the game will be in Kalama which should bring a lot of people to town.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Mike Langham had no report.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis had no report.

F. Councilmember Mary Putka reported she heard there were about 1500 kids for the Halloween downtown event. She added that FOLK is purchasing some surplus books from Watcom County. She also noted some concerns with the process of weeding the books in the Library.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. City Administrator Adam Smee reported he is still looking at the October numbers, but everything looks good. He has been working on bank building, including the vault where the new filing system will be installed. The old safety deposit boxes which weigh

about 300 pounds have been moved out and are available if someone wants them. The larger ones had to be demolished, as they were too heavy to move. Plumbing and electrical work has been started so progress is being made on the building.

B. Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented a written report noting that much of the crew has been off hunting a lot, but still making progress on projects. The new guardrail and jersey barrier at the corner on Taylor Road has finally been installed. It was difficult to find someone to do the job as it was too small of a project. WSDOT finally did it under an interlocal agreement. They have been finding leaks for residents. He noted that crewman Daniel Woolford kept the storm ditches clear during this last weekend's heavy rain. Kelly added that he attended a GEM meeting (joint County agencies) predicting the region should get normal rain for the winter and a few good storms including heavy snow in the mountains. There is an area on Hendrickson Drive where water is going over the road and the crew has installed signs. BNSF has been contacted and will be addressing the problem to make corrections.

Police Chief Randy Gibson presented his statistical report noting eleven reportable cases. There were several dog at large cases, so they are writing many tickets for unlicensed dogs which is over \$200 compared to the 15-30 license fee. The incident with the check fraud is with a company in Illinois so will be difficult to pursue. The Halloween event went well with only one minor incident.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported there are two openings on the Planning Commission as one position expires at the end of the year and we received one resignation.

E. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. *Claim & Payroll Warrants 35395 – 35452 plus all electronic/ACH payments for a total of \$143,721.33*
2. *Minutes of the October 21, 2015 City Council Meeting*

Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer