

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2009**

1. OPENING

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

A. Flag Salute

Mayor Pete Poulsen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

Councilmembers present were Adam Smee, Dominic Ciancibelli, Chuck Hutchinson, Don Purvis, and Bud Gish. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Bruce Hall. 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 - None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS - None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Cowlitz County Jail Contract

Police Chief Bruce Hall explained the contract had been updated to be for only a term of five years. The new daily rate would include the fees for offender services and the transportation of prisoners. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the revised agreement with Cowlitz County for the jail facilities. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded, and the motion carried.

B. CAP Bus Stop Location/Parking

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary noted that at the last meeting the Council had requested that the members take a look at the site and CAP be contacted for their input. CAP was contacted, and the Director of the program had indicated that they thought the site near the Post Office would work. A couple of alternate sites were suggested: one near the Burger Bar and one along Kingwood. The consensus was that the site near the Post Office would work best. The Council directed the staff to move forward with the process to

designate that location as the bus stop for Kalama.

C. Neiman Easement

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary informed the Council that he had negotiated with the Neiman's to purchase an easement along Green Mountain Road for the installation of the waterline needed as part of the Lower Cloverdale Reservoir improvements. This is a 12 to 16 hundred foot portion of property. This will keep the waterline out of the roadway. The cost is \$16,000 and it would be from budgeted funds held in water reserves. The easement has been reviewed by the attorney. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Neiman family, acquiring an easement for the installation of a City waterline. Cost of the easement is \$16,000. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded. It was noted that the City would be paying all closing costs in addition to the easement cost. The motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Old Reservoir Site - Confer Road - Offer to purchase

The City received a written offer from the Leonard's for a piece of property the City owns where the old Confer Road Reservoir was once located. The property is completely surrounded by the Leonard's property, and the City has no direct access. There was some discussion regarding whether the formula for determining the property price used in the street vacation process should be used. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City sell the old reservoir site for \$500 to the Leonards. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Appoint a Committee to Select Engineering Firm

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary informed the Council that there may be some Economic Stimulus funding available that would allow the City to continue the work on the Downtown Streetscape project. Since the City has the plans already in place, there would only need to be some additional engineering work for the project to be ready for construction. Mr. McCrary explained that under the new consultant roster the City adopted, he and the committee can select engineering firms from the list and request proposals for the project. He would also request proposals for general engineering services. Councilmembers Adam Smee and Dominic Ciancibelli agreed to be on the Committee.

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1235 2009 Budget Amendment - Interfund Loan for General Fund

Mayor Poulsen explained the ordinance is for an interfund loan to cover the cash shortage the City is experiencing. The City is struggling to cover the costs for the general fund which includes the streets, police, finance, parks and the library. He has met with the Library Board and explained the situation to them. At this time

the Library will be operating out of their reserves with the hopes that in April the City will be able to make the allocated transfers from the property tax revenues. The sales tax revenues for January were way down from previous months. If the economy doesn't see improvement soon the City will have to make some very hard decisions.

He will want the Council to be involved. The Street Fund was hit hard by the recent storms, and some recovery may be available from FEMA. Councilmember Ciancibelli asked about whether the issues with the Library should be discussed first with the Library Director before going to the Board. Mayor Poulsen stated that both were present at the meeting and they work closely together in operating the Library. Councilmember Adam Smee asked about the Street transfer included in the ordinance. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that the Streetscape funding has been held in the operating fund and could be spent inadvertently on regular expenditures, so this action would move the balance of approximate \$92,000 to the reserve fund to avoid this.

Ordinance No. 1235 was read by Title. An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending the 2009 Budget to include unanticipated revenues and expenditures increasing the total 2009 Budget in the amount of \$ 242,000.00. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council adopt Ordinance 1235 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried. Councilmember Don Purvis asked about holding a workshop. A workshop was set for 6:00 pm before the regular Council meeting on March 18, 2009.

**B Resolution No. 525 A Resolution of the City of Kalama
authorizing the
removal of trees or vegetation overhanging a city
sidewalk or street at 550 N. Fourth Place, Kalama, WA.**

Resolution No. 525 was read by Title. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council adopt Resolution No. 525 as read. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson seconded. Mr. Vince Meyer, a neighbor to the property in question addressed the Council at length regarding this issue. He has been dealing with the property owner since he purchased his home regarding the trees and water runoff. He does not feel that the owner has acted very responsibly and is hopeful that the City will take action. The trees are extremely dangerous, and one has already damaged his truck. There has also been a power pole issue due to the trees which was addressed by the PUD. His kids can't play in the area.

There are additional trees that need to be topped and cleared as well. Mr. Meyer noted that Mr. McCrary has been very helpful over the last few months. Mayor Poulsen explained that the Council has reviewed the situation and what they can legally do. They will take action tonight.

Mr. Meyer then addressed an additional issue regarding water run off from the adjacent property onto his property. It is causing damage to his house. He asked what the City can do. It would have to be researched to determine what codes would be applicable. Kalama has many springs, and of course water runs

down hill so this is an issue many residents face. Mr. Meyer also noted that it appeared that some improvements had been made to the house recently. There was further discussion that Mr. Meyer could do something on his property to divert the water. Mayor Poulsen explained that he understands the frustration as he has dealt with the issue at his own home. Mr. Meyer asked if all the trees would be taken down and it was explained that only those trees leaning over the City street and creating a hazard to the public right-of-way were included in the resolution. He also asked if the alleyway could be considered for vacation. The alley is used for access and therefore would not be a candidate for vacation. The motion carried. Mr. McCrary indicated the trees would be down in the next two weeks.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A. AWC Elected Officials Training - September 22, 2009 - Kalama

It was noted that since this is being held in Kalama, the Councilmembers should plan to attend especially those that have never attended the training before.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen had no report.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson reported that the hardware store was participating in the Embrace Kalama flyer. He added that he had toured the new Police building, and it is looking good. The City crew has done a good job with planning the space.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis reported Envision Kalama would be meeting on Thursday night.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary reported he will be attending a meeting with FEMA tomorrow on the disaster declaration and possible funding. He was glad to have the trees coming down as he thought they might come down during a recent wind storm. He added that a letter should be sent to the Amalak thanking them for the addition of the new dishwasher to the Community Building. Councilmember Ciancibelli noted that the Council should probably also send a letter of appreciation to FOLK for all they do for the Library.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall reported the building is coming along well. The

Department is prioritizing calls to focus its attention on. They aren't responding immediately to every gas drive-off or dog complaint. The Department is conserving gas as much as possible. Chief Hall added that he received information on a Stimulus program under COPS that is to help put officers back to work that have been laid off or to fill vacant positions. They have several trials coming up in March.

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked about the dog being kept in the City kennel. Chief Hall explained that they are considering this dog for another drug dog and are using confiscated drug funds to cover the costs. The dog is signed up for some free training in October. The seized funds are to be used toward additional enforcement and cannot just be added to the regular budget. Councilmember Don Purvis stated that this really bothered him, as it appears the keeping of the dog was being kept under the radar and not brought directly to the Council as information. He would hope that the Department Heads would be more up front and let the Council know before implementing such items. Chief Hall responded that not everything has happened yet to make the decision. He believes that this gives one of the officers something to work up to since there is little chance of advancement in a small department. No training money has been expended yet. There was some concern with the dog held continually in the kennel. Mayor Poulsen noted that this had not been as openly discussed as it should have been, and he has had his concerns also. The dog is exercised regularly and taken care of. Chief Hall stated they will have to wait and see if the dog will make the program. While it may seem excessive, the dogs are good for the community. He had discussed this some with the Mayor.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the auditors had called, and Kalama can have their audit done early in March this year. She will be completing the annual report very soon. She asked if due to the budget issues the City wanted to be a part of the Embrace Kalama flyer at this time. If tourism funds could be used, then perhaps the City could cover the costs, but the general fund cannot do it at this time.

Ms. McMaster noted that she has been working on an analysis of the costs of operating the Community Building. The LCC classes for aerobics are doing well. She is thinking of asking if the City could charge a facilities fee to cover the maintenance costs. This would be maybe \$2 per participant, and the classes are currently only \$20 for the 10 weeks. The Riverview Church is using the building, and the costs for their usages are being reviewed as well. Ms. McMaster then noted that FOLK has requested that the fee for the Community Building for their September tea and also if possible to go back for the Sweetheart dance, be waived as they contribute to the Library with the funds raised. Councilmember Ciancibelli noted that he feels that any time an event is designed to benefit the building or the community in some large way, the fees should be waived. Mayor Poulsen stated that he will be meeting Bobbi Grey, Coni and Carl to look at the costs for the building and will get back to the Council with some additional information. It is his intention that while the building should be as self-supporting as possible, the City will always maintain it to the best they can. A tax to cover the cost of the building was discussed, and this had been attempted in the past. It requires a vote of the people to approve. The prior request failed, but due to the use and community wide appeal of the building it might see a different outcome now.

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent.

13. CONSENT AGENDA -

Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers Totaling \$167,102.13 for February 1 through February 17,2009, the corrected Payroll Vouchers total of \$ 119,690.60 for January 2009 and the City Council minutes of February 4, 2009. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried. It was noted the payments include the final pay estimate to Integrity for the downtown project.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the tape can be made available for listening.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer