

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

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 Adam Smee, Dominic Ciancibelli, Chuck Hutchinson, and Bud Gish. Councilmember Don Purvis was absent. City staff present were 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

A. Swear In Officer Ernest Moore

Police Chief Bruce Hall introduced the new temporary officer, Ernie Moore. Officer Moore has vast experience having retired from the Kelso Police Department after 34 years. He has already handled several cases successfully. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster administered the oath of office. The Council welcomed Officer Moore.

B. Fred Johnson, Prosecutor

Police Chief Bruce Hall introduced the City's new prosecutor, Mr. Fred Johnson. Mr. Johnson is currently prosecutor for both Woodland and Kelso, after 20 years as the Wahkiakum County prosecutor. Mr. Johnson thanked the City for the appointment. He likes working with smaller communities. He finds the best way to do his job is to have good communication with the City officials and the police department. He also keeps in mind protecting the public as well as seeing that the taxpayers get their money's worth. Mr. Johnson has worked with the courts to ensure that the City is collecting fines that will cover the costs for court filings and public defenders. For sentences for community service, he will also try to have the community service performed in Kalama. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked about reviewing some of the old cases that were not prosecuted but might still be under the statute of limitations. Mr. Johnson responded that he could do this, but the types of cases that are usually in municipal court are not such that this would be work in the best interest of the City. There was discussion about what kind of information the Council would like to have. It was decided that a semi annual report would be helpful to provide the Council with what kinds of cases are being handled and the outcomes. Mr. Johnson thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve Kalama. Mayor Poulsen thanked him and noted that he has already improved the work in the courts.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mayor Poulsen acknowledged the receipt of the letter from the owners of the Good Day Market building next to City Hall. The Council would be considering the information.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Acting Agent for WSDOT projects - Carl McCrary

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to appoint Director of Public Works Carl McCrary as the agent to act on the City's behalf in the applications of grants through WSDOT. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded. Mayor Poulsen noted that the City has received confirmation of approval of the Downtown Streetscape project for funding of \$416,000, which should let the City complete the project. The motion carried. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli informed the Council that he, Carl and Councilmember Adam Smee had put together a list of engineers and the proposals had gone out. They are waiting for the responses back and will conduct the interviews.

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1236 - An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending Kalama Municipal Code Chapter 6.04 Animal Control Regulations to remove the references to the Humane Society of Cowlitz County

Mayor Poulsen noted that this ordinance has come before the Council at the request of the Humane Society. Chief Hall explained that during recent contact with the Humane Society he has discussed several issues with their director and this was an issue since the code referred to the Humane Society as the agency to contact. Chief Hall added that he is working with the Humane Society on a possible interlocal agreement for some services to help cut costs at the department. The ordinance was read by title. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the Council adopt Ordinance No 1236 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Resolution No. 527 - A Resolution of the City of Kalama, Washington declaring a 1999 JEEP surplus and authorizing disposal in the City of Kalama's best interest.

The resolution was read by title. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No. 527 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried.

The Jeep would be taken to state surplus.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen explained to the Council that he felt that there was not enough information ready at this time to hold a productive workshop, so he canceled the one scheduled for tonight. There will be more information in April when more sales taxes have been received and the property tax revenues are received. He and the staff will have the priorities drawn up, accurate numbers to make projections from, and possible solutions. The period from June to October will be a challenge.

Mayor Poulsen invited the Council to attend a meeting he has scheduled to discuss the Community Building usage and costs. He has invited representatives from all the organizations and groups that use the Community Building to attend. Mayor Poulsen is also planning on a holding a meeting with all the City committee members. A date for this has not yet been set.

Mayor Poulsen added that he still wants to hold a Council retreat to look at the debts of the City and if refinancing might be possible. He informed the Council that he and Councilmember Adam Smee had met with a consultant, John Spencer, and he would be facilitating this meeting. Councilmember Smee added that he feels Mr. Spencer will help the Council to get a full overview of the budget and condition of the City more like a balance sheet or profit and loss. This would allow the City to better structure itself and better understand where the City stands. Mayor Poulsen noted that it is important the City maintain the level of services it has established.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report but noted the downtown project will be a positive for the community.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson reported the recent Chamber after-hours event at the hardware store had gone well. He also noted that as a business person and both a contract holder and payor he has found that warning the creditors of lean times helps to keep things on track. He suggested combining both the financial meeting and the budget workshop.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis was absent.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary was absent, but left photos of the trees that were removed on Fourth Street.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall had no report.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the Annual Report is complete and available should anyone want to take a look at it. The Auditors will be here on Monday.

Ms. McMaster added that she, Bobbi Gray and members of the City crew spent several hours at the Community Building cleaning out, but there is still more to do. She will attend a FEMA meeting on Friday for the December Snow storms.

Ms. McMaster informed the Council that she will be presenting a budget amendment to cover streets and some other issues at the next meeting. . The Street fund has had to draw from reserves to cover the operating costs. The reserve balances are low as well. There will be more information available in April. She noted that should the Council have any questions regarding the budget she is always available.

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers totaling \$ 88,611.09 for March, 2009 and the City Council minutes of March 4, 2009. Councilmember Adam Smeed seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:50 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