

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 20, 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, 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 - Contract Negotiations

Mayor Pete Poulsen announced the Council would hold an executive session to discuss upcoming contract negotiations for 15 minutes. The City Attorney would be contacted by phone. The regular meeting resumed at 7:20 p.m.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

4. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS - None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS - None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. Gray & Osborne Request for General Engineering Project
Amendment -
NEPA for Lower Green Mountain Reservoir and Booster Station.**

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary explained that the City has applied for USDA Rural Development funding for this project. This funding will require that a NEPA application be completed in order to qualify for the funding. The City will need to have this completed. The funding would be a grant/loan combination of an estimated \$300,000 grant and \$600,000 loan. The City has not yet received the offer, but it will be worth considering. Once the recession ends, inflation will kick in, and the cost of constructing the new reservoir will increase. Mr. McCrary stated that the current funds in reserves could be used to cover a portion of the payments. Spending the funds now to get the NEPA in place would be good planning.

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment #2 of the Gray & Osborne engineering services contract, authorizing them to prepare the NEPA environmental study for the Lower Green Mountain Reservoir and Booster Station for an amount not to exceed \$10,375.00. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nelson Electric - Repair at Meeker Drive Sewer Pump Station

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary explained that due to frequent problems out at the Meeker Drive Pump Station, he has been looking at ways to make the access better. There are two old electrical panels that were thought to be abandoned, but do still have some power going through them. He requested an estimate for cost of removing the panels, and it was discovered that they had also been under water at some time in the past. This work needs to be done in order to help fix access issues and to avoid the possibility of sewer spills in the future.

Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council authorize the expenditure to repair the Meeker Drive Sewer Pump Station not to exceed \$15,000.00 including engineering. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded. Councilmember Adam Smee asked if due to the budget shortages the City is facing does the project need to be done immediately. Mr. McCrary noted that this would not use general fund monies and sewer reserve funds could be used. There is some urgency to get this fixed. Councilmember Hutchinson asked if the project would be put out to bid. It would have to follow the bidding guidelines and be put out to bid. Mr. McCrary noted that he will probably have to pay for the estimate he received as it will be used to draw up specifications for bidding the project. The motion carried with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 against (Councilmember Purvis).

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 530 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Kalama amending the adopted usage policies addressing the use of the Kalama Community Building.

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster read Resolution No. 530 by title. These policies were adopted by the Council last fall and there is only one section being changed. It reads: "The rental fee for an event that directly benefits the building or a city entity sponsored by a Kalama Community non-profit may be waived. (Example: FOLK events that raise funds for the Library or Amalak or Lions Club events that raise funds for Community Building improvements)." It was clarified that it this was to mean a direct benefit to the City.

Councilmember Adam Smee made a motion the City adopt Resolution No. 530 as read. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen had no report but commented jokingly that rumor has it that he had poisoned the palm trees at First and Kingwood, but he wanted to assure all that was

not the case. This led to a discussion of the replanting of the palm trees without the owner having obtained the necessary permits once again. This was felt to be a slap in face to the City. While the City would like to enforce the code, it is a very difficult process that would take a long time and at most it would be a misdemeanor fine. Since the street improvement project to be completed later in the year will simply remove the trees, the City has decided to pick its battles, and this is not one of them. It is too bad that the local paper has to report on this kind of issue instead of things like all the volunteers turning out for the Spring Clean Up Day earlier this month, and all they did for the City.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee reported the Building and Planning Summit committee meeting had been canceled. There will be a Summit meeting on May 26th at 6pm in Longview. He invited everyone to attend.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson reported he had observed the new officer in action and felt he was doing well. Citizen Jim Dickey added that he thought so too, after being stopped and given a warning by Officer Traub himself. Councilmember Hutchison noted the new station is nearing completion. He also told the Council about the fire safe the Department received from Clark County and how it had to be opened since there was no combination. There was some money found inside; a whole twenty-three cents. Councilmember added that he had not been able to attend the Chamber meetings.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis reported he would be attending the Envision Kalama meeting on Thursday evening.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary provided the Council with issues of the Consumer Confidence Report recently mailed to all of Kalama's water customers. It was noted that two children pictured on the report are Carl's grandchildren. Councilmember Don Purvis asked about the copper and lead testing that had been done a couple of years ago and when it would be updated. Mr. McCrary explained new test would be done next month. It was noted that this information is very good for the public. It has resulted in the replacement of several pressure regulators for customers.

Mr. McCrary noted that he is looking at some possible summer help funded by the Stimulus package but with a small department it may be hard to provide the necessary supervision. He also reported that he has been contacted by the purchaser, and the Gwynne Road Reservoir will finally be coming down.

Mr. McCrary informed the Council that the City will be receiving a grant for \$108,000 from Rural Development (RD) for replacing of the filter socks used up during the flood event and for replacing a waterline on Sauer Road. The City has also been reimbursed by FEMA for the filter socks, so we will not receive the full \$8000 for that from RD.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall reported Officer Traub will begin his first solo shift on June 1st. He has been able to complete his training on a fast track since he has worked as cadet, the community services officer and had some training prior to the academy. He is doing well. He added that the City's cost for 911 dispatch services has been reduced and will save the City about \$5100 for 2009.

Chief Hall informed the Council that the new station is coming along, but since he hasn't had the correction workers for about three weeks so there has been a delay. He is getting bids to get the carpet laid. The floor tile has been installed in the back at no charge, plus he was able to purchase the tile and have it laid for free for the front entrance. The trim is still left to be put up and he will pour the final sidewalk tomorrow. The project passed the electrical inspection today.

Chief Hall noted that the Department has not been able to utilize the \$9000 Safe School grant funding at this time. It appears he will be able to roll the funds over. The work to qualify for the funding would have to be on overtime to provide additional services and cannot supplant funds for the providing of currently provided services.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the commercial zoning code update next week. It will come before the Council in June. She added she has been working on the budget issues.

Ms. McMaster noted that the election filing period is open for those members up for reelection. They can file by mail from now until June 5th and in person from June 1 through June 5th. She asked how the emailed Council packet had worked. The Council voiced no major problems. She also relayed the request from FOLK for consideration of a refund on the Sweetheart Dance rental fee based upon the passage of Resolution No. 530. The Council felt they could not make the new policy retroactive.

Ms. McMaster informed the Council that the utility bills will soon be outsourced for mailing and will be full page billings. This came about now due to the City needing to order new forms. The current forms will not work with the new software the City will be receiving, and in trying to find a way to avoid waste and address the public's requests for full page bills it was found that it would be less expensive to outsource the process than to do it in house. While it is not cheaper than continuing to use postcards, the costs will be recouped in part for being able to include mailings such as the consumer confidence reports with bills and not having to pay additional postage in the future. It will also provide the citizens with additional public service with the full page billings.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers Totaling \$39,131.52 and the City Council minutes of May 6, 2009. Councilmember Adam Smeed seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 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