

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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 (7:03 p.m.), Dominic Ciancibelli, Chuck Hutchinson, Don Purvis, and Bud Gish. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary and Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster. City Planner Matt Hermen was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

A request for support of the County-wide Transportation Planning Grant application was added under presentations.

4. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

A. Judge Michael Evans - Mental Health Court

Cowlitz County District Court Judge Michael Evans presented the Council with a brief overview of the project for a Mental Health Court or SHARC - Stability, Hope and Recovery Court. Having both prosecuted and defended persons with mental health problems he understands the complexities of dealing with these persons in court and out in communities. The goal of the court is to decrease the negative behaviors by monitoring their treatment, medications and activities which will help to decrease police, court, and jail costs to all entities. The County did apply for a Grant, but did not receive it.

They do have funding in place so there are not direct costs to the cities. The program has received good support from police agencies and mental health professionals. Indirect costs for public defense, jail and prosecution could be incurred by the cities. To qualify for the program a person has to be charged with a non-violent misdemeanor crime for which they enter a guilty plea and be diagnosed with a mental illness. It is a 12-month program, and will be monitored through the probation department. They are hoping to begin the program in January which will be set up for up to 10 participants on a rolling basis. The participants will be required to pay some small fines and reimbursement costs for the program, which are determined on a sliding scale. Depending on how the program works, it may be expanded in the future. It was noted that local entities are having to deal with the issue of mentally ill individuals more, as States are no longer taking care of these people as they had in the past. Plus there is more public awareness of the problems. Mayor Poulsen and the Council recognized the need for and are supportive of the program. They thanked Judge Evans for keeping them informed. Judge Evans stated

he will continue to provide information as they get closer to implementing the program.

B. Countywide Transportation Planning Grant - Matt Hermen

City Planner Matt Hermen explained that the Cowlitz Wahkiakum Council of Governments is preparing an Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning grant application for all the cities and the county. This would be to provide a county wide transportation system plan dealing with transportation alternatives to automobiles. This would include public transit, bicycles, and walking. The grant is for \$125,000 and there is no cost to the City. The grant application requires a letter of commitment signed by all entities participating.

This letter would be signed by the Mayor as an acknowledgment of the grant and to proceed with the project. Results of the plan would be recommendations for amendments to local comprehensive plans in the future as well as a list of projects with proposed sources of funding and ways to implement them. A partner in the project will be Pathways 2020 which has been working on a County wide trail system. The project will continue into 2012. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of commitment with the COG for the transportation planning grant. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded, and the motion carried.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

A. Jim Dickey - Reservoir Ceiling Painting project

Mr. Jim Dickey of 448 S. Second Place addressed the Council regarding the approval of the Reservoir Ceiling Painting project at the last meeting. After thinking about this, he feels the Council should have taken more time to make this decision. First, the engineers had grossly underestimated the project and should have done a better job. With the bids twice what the engineer's estimate was, the City needs to expect more from the engineers it hires. Then there is the fact that this is a failure of the paint on the original construction. The engineers say it is due to poor preparation, but they haven't been very specific so that the City can be sure that it isn't repeated. Since the contractor with the low bid is not known to the City, they should be having them present to find out about their experience and references. Mr. Dickey continued that because this was a paint failure and the City wants to be sure the problem is corrected, the engineers have recommended an inspector be on the site which will be quite costly. How qualified and experienced is this inspector? After all this, the City only gets a two-year warranty which isn't adequate. What about other projects such as the Sauer Road waterline? Are they being better estimated? With the economy where it is and the City proposing rate increases, the Council needs to be more selective when it is spending money. Mayor Poulsen thanked Mr. Dickey for his comments and believes they are valid concerns. With the paint failure there are health concerns that the City has to

address. Since there were only 3 bidders, rebidding the project would probably not get better results. It is a complicated project. Mayor Poulsen also added that the rate increases have been predicted over several years and are not new. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson noted he had asked for references and information on the inspector to be used. He received that information. The inspector has over 25 years of experience with good credentials. All of the Council appreciate Mr. Dickey's comments and his providing them with feedback that they don't get from the other citizens. They would like to have more people attending and speaking out on decisions the Council needs to make. Mr. Dickey noted that this is a good Council, but they do need

The Sauer Road Waterline project was discussed. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary explained that requirements for testing waterlines make the construction a little more complicated, so at this time it is not possible burst a waterline. The old line will stay in place while they construct the new one and test it.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Loan for Police Vehicle - Authorize Mayor to sign loan documents

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that the Council had authorized Chief Bruce Hall to pursue a loan for the new police vehicle through Fibre Credit Union. State law does not allow the City to open an account with a credit union. Without an account the City cannot get a loan. So the City is working with Cowlitz Bank on the loan. Chief Hall was able to get Cowlitz Bank to agree to the same terms on the loan of 5 years with no down payment, but the interest rate is 6.75% instead of 6%. The papers should be ready for signature either Friday or Monday. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the loan documents with Cowlitz Bank for the purchase of the police vehicle. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded, and the motion carried.

B. 2010 Budget Information

After some discussion, the Council decided they could proceed with the Public Hearing on November 4th without any additional workshops. There was some discussion regarding initiative 1033. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson on behalf of the entire City Council proclaimed the Council to be against the passage of Initiative 1033 due to the adverse affects it will have on the financial condition of the City.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. First Street Improvement Project-Temporary Interfund Loan for Interim Financing

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that the City has

received the first invoice from the contractor on the downtown project. The application for the grant funding has been submitted to the state. This is a reimbursement grant, so the City has to wait for the invoice prior to receiving any funding. It is not clear what the turnaround time on getting the funds from the state will be since this is federal stimulus money as well. At this time the Street funds do not have enough funds to cover the payment due prior to receiving the grant funds. Ms. McMaster suggested that the Council consider authorizing an interfund loan from a water or sewer reserve fund to cover the payments during the interim periods while waiting for state funding. This would require interest be paid. Councilmember Bud Gish asked how this had been dealt with on previous projects. In the past, the turnaround with the state had allowed the payments to be made timely. On Phase one of the First Street project the City had received County money up front, so had a balance to pull payments from as well. Adding all the federal requirements under the stimulus funding is what is creating a question as to how long the process could take. The contractor should not have to wait beyond 45 days for payments. It was recommended that the loan be for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 so that it could be used for future payments on this project if necessary. The exact fund from which to take the loan was discussed. Ms. McMaster would meet with Director of Public Works Carl McCrary to determine where this should be taken from. A budget amendment ordinance would be needed to authorize the loan, so it would be included at the time. It was the consensus of the Council to pursue this option.

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1244 - An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending the 2009 Budget to include unanticipated grant and loan funding and the associated project and purchase expenditures increasing authorized expenditures and adjusting estimated ending fund balances in the Budget for the total amount of \$391,299.00.

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster read Ordinance No. 1244 by Title. She explained that this ordinance is adding items previously approved by the Council into the budget including the Sauer Road grant and project, the FEMA funding received, the additional STIP grant funding for the downtown project, the loan and purchase of the police car, and the Reservoir Ceiling Painting project. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council adopt Ordinance 1244 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

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 Chief Hall was in California training on the RIMS software so that citizens may be able to have access and file minor claims on line. Also Chief Hall hopes to go pickup the new vehicle on Friday. Councilmember Hutchinson added that he has been up at the school, and the flaggers are doing better, plus drivers are paying more attention. Mayor Poulsen noted the City has also applied for grant funding for some caution lights to be placed at the crosswalk.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis reported that Envision Kalama is still working on plaques and trees for the downtown but needs some information on how to proceed since the City has received funding for the trees as well. He would be talking with Carl.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary provided a written report. He informed the Council that he has approved five small change orders on the First Street project for a total cost of \$6520 to date. The contractor is doing well, but is having some issues with the sidewalk subcontractor being slow. Councilmember Don Purvis asked when the street lights might be delivered, but this was not known at this time. There has been some redesign of some of the light bases due to location of other utilities as well as relocation of some of the lights. A question was raised regarding the excavators working on the street and if any damage to the street was occurring. Mr. McCrary noted all the work behind the scenes on the grants and projects that Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster does to keep them on track and in compliance. He and the Council thanked her for her work.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall was absent.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the Library event with photographer was successful and raised \$465 for the Library. She is also attending County Summit committee meetings on combining purchasing. Ms. McMaster then informed the Council that she has ordered 5 computers - 3 for her department and 2 for Public Works. Two computers have crashed, one is having power issues, and it was recommended that a new computer be installed at the sewer plant as the current set up is not adequate. Also if the proper equipment is in place, the City can get the new receipting software prior to the first of next year. With this purchase is also a new firewall for City Hall. The proposed purchase of computers will be taken out of the request for the 2010 budget.

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 \$ 67,927.72 For October, 2009, the City Council minutes of October 7, 2009 and the City Council Budget workshop minutes of

October 14, 2009. 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 tape can be made available for listening.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer