

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 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, Don Purvis, and Bud Gish. City staff present were Assistant Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Bruce Hall. 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 - None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2010 Budget and 2010 to 2015 Capital Facilities Plan

a. Tourism Funding Requests

Mayor Poulsen opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm. He explained that he and staff had worked to cut \$91,000 from the budget to bring it into balance. There were cuts in all departments including police, administration, planning, library, and streets. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted the total budget is just under \$5,000,000 and includes only projects that have been started in 2009 and will be completed in 2010. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli asked for a comparison of the 2009 budget to 2010.

Mayor Poulsen noted there are 4 applications for the tourism funds. He asked the Untouchables Car Club to make their presentation first. Club Vice President Rick Walker made their presentation. They are requesting \$1000. Mr. Walker explained that the money the club raises through the event is put entirely back into the communities. They provided \$1000 scholarships to three students in 2009 including one from Kalama. They donate to Helping Hand and will be adopting a family to help for the Holidays. The car show has been in Kalama for 13 years and has been successful every year. It draws people from as far away as Arizona. The funds being requested are to help them to cover the costs of the advertising, including the artwork, and insurance costs. Mayor Poulsen noted that the show is a success for the community. He is glad to hear that so much of the money comes back to Kalama. The Council agreed to provide funding of \$1000 in the 2010 budget.

Mayor Poulsen noted the application from the Friends of the

Library at Kalama (FOLK) which was not a request for tourism funds, but for use of the Community Building for their annual dance and tea.

This has been accommodated through a new policy adopted for the Community Building.

The Kalama Chamber's application was presented next. Chamber President Vic Leatzow provided the Council with a packet of information on their plans for the future, noting the City has suffered in this economy with the loss of many businesses and 130 jobs. The Chamber is requesting \$6300 to help with marketing costs including new rack cards and radio advertising. This is a lot more than they have requested in the past. Mayor Poulsen noted he would like to see the City more involved in the process of marketing the City and where that is going before he wants to commit any funds. He would also like to involve the Envision Kalama group and will be attending their upcoming meeting. He has long been concerned with the demise of the business community and realizes the City has not been represented at Chamber as it should be. He would like to see a focus on improving the appearance of the City and on how to draw new businesses as well as tourists. Mr. Leatzow noted the Chamber has been discussing all options at marketing meetings which have been held. The current goal is to target I-5 to maybe draw some from the traffic that will be generated from the Olympics in Vancouver BC. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster informed the Council that the tourism funds will begin 2010 with around \$15,000. The average revenue is \$4000 a year in a good year. She asked the Council to keep this in mind as they look at the funding requests and whether the actions will be sustainable in the future. It was noted that the applications are a new process this year and it will keep organizations from coming several times during the year requesting funds. Mayor Poulsen asked if it was possible for them to hold off for 2 weeks rather than have the Council make a decision tonight where this is a large sum of money. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson stated he feels they should make the commitment to the Chamber and give a little more this year. The Chamber would need to understand that they can't expect the same level of funding in the next year. The discussion continued addressing all aspects of marketing Kalama for bringing in tourism and new business. It included how to get the downtown property owners to make improvements to some to their buildings, setting some architectural standards for new construction in the downtown area, what kind of businesses are sustaining here - mostly the restaurants, possible funding sources for making infrastructure improvements, and working towards the same goals by all the groups in Kalama. Everyone agreed that there needs to be a goal that is the focus for all to be working towards. Mayor Poulsen stated he felt this had been a good discussion and he sees where all are committed to looking at the problems Kalama is facing. The Council agreed to fund the Chamber for \$6300 in the 2010 budget.

Cowlitz County Tourism submitted an application for the City to advertise in the AWESOME brochure for the amount of \$2200. Director Mark Plotkin had a family emergency which prevented him from attending the meeting tonight. Councilmember Don Purvis noted that he has spoken with Mr. Plotkin about if the City were to get involved in the brochure again, there would have to be changes to the content.

There was some concern that with the amounts already promised whether the City should fund this project. It was noted that some of the Chamber funds will be going towards the brochure as well. This led to discussion of how to ensure that the money gives Kalama a good showing for the money. This coming year is the 30th anniversary of Mt. St. Helens erupting so that will help to draw interest. The brochure goes out to 100,000 or more and markets the whole region. The Chamber has a connection to the company putting the brochure together, so they will be able to ensure that Kalama's page in the final document is done well. It was suggested that the City give the funds to the Chamber to be used for the AWESOME brochure. This would allow the Chamber to control what the final content is prior to publication. The City wouldn't have to invest any of the funds until after they were satisfied with the final product. This would also keep a continuity of advertising by not having too many entities involved. The Council added the \$2200 to the amount it will budget for the Chamber in 2010. Chamber President Leatzow thanked the Council for the support.

Mayor Poulsen closed the public hearing at 8:35. A short break was taken at this time.

(Note: When the meeting resumed, the tape was inadvertently left off until the beginning of the Council reports.)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS - None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Police Building Project Budget Update

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that this action is necessary to finalize the costs associated with new Police Station. The Council had previously authorized the expenditure of up to \$125,000 but as they have been made aware previously, the project has cost more. The projected final expense is \$192,000. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson noted this comes out to \$88 per square foot. Councilmember Hutchinson made a motion the Council approve the final costs for the new Police Building not to exceed \$192,000. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded. Councilmember Gish asked Chief Hall if he was sure that the costs would not exceed this amount as the finishing items are completed. Chief Hall assured him and the Council that it would. He noted that having the crew do the work ensured that a lot of the money stayed within the community. The motion carried.

B. Adopt the Water System Plan - DOH Approval

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained the City had held a hearing on plan back in either January or February where they forwarded the plan on to the State Department of Health (DOH) for approval. Having received approval from DOH, the City can now officially adopt the plan. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City of Kalama adopt the Water System Plan, Volumes 1 and 2. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Zone Flashing Light Project - Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement With DOT

Councilmember Adam Smee made a motion the City Council accept the grant and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with DOT for the school zone lights. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded and the motion carried.

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution No. 538 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Kalama replacing Resolution No. 520 relating to fees and charges imposed by the City of Kalama and establishing the following fees and charges for the services set forth herein beginning January 1, 2010

Resolution No. 538 was read by title. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No. 538 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried. Kalama resident Mr. Jim Dickey thanked the Council for making certain fees more equitable between the residential and commercial users. He also voiced his appreciation for the efforts the City staff and Council do in trying to operate efficiently and still consider the effects their actions have on the citizens.

B. Resolution No. 539 - A Resolution of the City of Kalama establishing the dollar amount of tax revenue for ad valorem taxes which will be necessary to meet the financial requirements of the 2010 Budget of the City of Kalama

Resolution No. 539 was read by title. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli made a motion the City Council adopt Resolution No. 539. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded. It was asked what the amount of the property tax levy will be. The amount is \$1.765 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The City incurred a 1.5% drop in the overall assessed valuation of the property. The motion carried.

C. Resolution No. 540 - A Resolution of the City of Kalama establishing the amount of the property tax increase to meet the requirements of the 2010 Budget

Resolution No. 540 was read by title. It was noted that this resolution is necessary to save the City's banking capacity on the property taxes for future years. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the City Council adopt Resolution No. 540. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded, and the motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen reported he and Chief Hall had attended the opening of the Child Advocacy Center earlier in the day.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson had no report.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis reported he would be attending the Health Advisory Board meeting tomorrow. There is also an Envision Kalama meeting tomorrow night here at City Hall.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Assistant Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented a written report from Director of Public Works Carl McCrary. He provided information on the 2 Million Gallon Reservoir Ceiling Painting project which started today. The scaffolding is all in place. The Downtown project is proceeding slowly. Mayor Poulsen asked about the driveway to the Chevron and some concerns the owner has. Mr. Rasmussen noted he and the engineers had met with the owner earlier today and would be making some changes on the south end of the driveway which has not yet been poured.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall had no report.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster presented the October Treasurer's Report. She also reported the Library annual quilt raffle is underway and it is a beautiful quilt this year. The Library Board has also completed the Strategic Plan it has been working on for a couple of years. This will be on the next agenda for the Council to adopt. A copy was provided for them to review.

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel had no report.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers Totaling \$262,419.98 and the City Council minutes of November 4, 2009. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 9:20 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