

**CITY OF KALAMA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

**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 Officer Cody Traub. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Poulsen announced the Council would be going into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss a legal potential litigation issue. The regular meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None**

**4. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS - None**

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Amendment to Six-Year Transportation Plan**

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the public hearing on amending the 2010 - 2015 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary explained that this would add the repaving of a section of Old Pacific Highway South to the plan. The City has applied for federal stimulus funds to do the projects and to qualify it needs to be included on the City's plan. Mr. Paul Stickle of Kalama asked which portion of Old Pacific Highway was included. Mr. McCrary explained it would be from the south City Limits north .59 miles to just south of Cedar Springs Mobile Home Park. The cost is estimated at \$280,000.00. Mayor Poulsen closed the hearing at 7:18 p.m.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

**A. Mr. Jim Spencer**

Mr. Spencer of 448 Holly Street presented a letter regarding the City's current policies regarding sewer billings as they relate to yard and garden watering. He feels that those residents with irrigation systems are unfairly charged for sewer since the water does not go into the sewer system. The current summer sewer rates do not include the months of May or October when some watering does occur. He suggested possibly metering irrigation systems with a sub-meter.

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked who would own the meters - the City or the customer? The City would read the meters, but who would

install and pay for them would have to be determined. There could also be some issues regarding access to the these secondary meters for the meter reader. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli noted that some customers might use the secondary meter and bypass the original for other water usage that would be going into the sewer in order to reduce their bills. It might be easier to meter the sewer but that would be burdensome and impractical. There was some discussion on the possibility of including May and October in the averaging once the City is able to do monthly billing. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary has never heard of a City metering sewer or having irrigation meters. He noted there would be issues with adding the sub-meters based on how most homes are plumbed from the main meter. Another suggestion was to use a recycling system for outside watering. Mr. Spencer noted that he hadn't thought about someone trying to not pay for water they are using, but that he really just wanted to implant the idea for the City to think about. Mayor Poulsen noted that conservation is great, but that it does create a vicious circle. Conservation that takes place creates the need for increases to the rates to cover costs. He thanked Mr. Spencer for the ideas.

**B. Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sinnett**

Mr. Sinnett of 105 Gwynne Road addressed the Council regarding a water leak at his home. The leak is going to be very difficult to find due to how the main line is 100 feet and branches off to the out buildings on his property. He would like to have the City grant a sewer adjustment on his bill until the leak can be found and repaired. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary noted that the policy states the owner has 10 days to repair the leak once notified of it in order to qualify for a leak adjustment. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted that the City may have a few precedents for extenuating circumstances, but that timely repairs are required. Any adjustments to the sewer would be tied to the leak adjustment policy, so could not be done separately. Ms. McMaster will look at possible exceptions.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. 2 Million Gallon Reservoir Ceiling Painting - Change Order #1**

Councilmember Adam Smee stated that based upon legal recommendations he makes a motion the City Council decline Item #1 as listed on Change Order #1. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster asked if the Council needed to take action on item #2. There was some discussion that this may have been approved by Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, who had left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Councilmember Adam Smee made motion the City Council approve item #2 for \$4500 on Change Order # 1 as approved by Public Works. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson seconded. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli asked if the Council was sure of the action and that it needed to be taken. After some discussion the motion and second were withdrawn. If further action is needed, the item will be brought back to the Council.

**B. Columbia Terrace Estates - Low-Income Discount**

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that she and Director of Public Works Carl McCrary had been working on how to allow the residents at the manufactured home park Columbia Terrace Estates to utilize the City's low-income discount if eligible. The City bills the Park for services and the Park bills the residents. Mr. McCrary had located a policy from San Jose California that could possibly be utilized. They researched this with Municipal Research and the State Auditor to determine if it would be possible. At this time it appears that if properly documented it could be done. After looking at how this might work, Ms. McMaster determined that the proposed policy to issue refunds would not be practical. Issuing anywhere from 20 to 40 or more refunds on a regular basis would be very burdensome to the City. She is working with the Park management to determine if they are willing and able to pass the discount on to the residents through their billing system. It appears they are willing to do so. The next step will to determine if all the proper backup documentation can be received by the City. This will probably require a code amendment to the low-income discount policy which will be brought before the City Council at a later date.

**8. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution No. 545 Amendment to Six-Year Transportation Plan**

Resolution No. 545 was read by Title - **WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of R.C.W. 35.77.010, Laws of the State of Washington, the City of Kalama has prepared a revised and extended Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for the ensuing six calendar years, 2010 through 2015.** Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No. 545. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded, and the motion carried. This adds the Old Pacific Highway Project to the current plan.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE - None was brought forward**

**11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**

**A.** Mayor Pete Poulsen noted the Downtown project is nearing completion. A question about the building next door was raised and what can be done if the owner chooses to let it sit vacant. The City will be looking at the options which may include some code changes. Mayor Poulsen added that he has scheduled a presentation for the Council on some funding opportunities for sites that have old gas stations. This will be on March 17, 2010.

**B.** Councilmember Adam Smee reported it appears the Summit committee on Building and Planning may conclude its work. After many meetings it has become apparent that while some things would be good to have consolidated or uniform, combining departments throughout the County would not work.

**C.** Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

**D.** Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson reported that Chief Hall has transported the vehicles to get the dog equipment exchanged to the new vehicle. This led to a discussion of what the old car could be used for and it was suggested that if it was cleaned up the Finance Department could possibly use it. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted that she would consider any vehicle provided it is mechanically sound. It was noted that this car is burning oil and has other problems. Councilmember Hutchinson added that the Chamber held it's after hours meeting on Tuesday. He has heard that some of the Chamber members and business owners are concerned with possible code changes for the downtown area, but there is also a positive response. Councilmember Hutchinson reported he had attended the recent Housing Authority Board meeting. There is a serious need for short and long term low income housing in this area. With the two new Walmarts which provide low paying jobs, the need will increase, and this is being felt in all the cities. It was noted that the entities approving these kinds of applications should also be addressing the impacts they create.

**E.** Councilmember Donald Purvis reported that Envision Kalama will be meeting tomorrow evening. There was also discussion regarding the new mall proposal near the Longview Wye. It was also noted that the Hawaiian Days of Discovery event appears to have been cancelled.

**F.** Councilmember Bud Gish reported the Downtown Street project and the Sauer Road waterline project are each 95% completed. The Public Works crew has also replaced 80 old water meters throughout the City. The City is also applying for some stimulus funding for LED lighting and additional crosswalk improvements for downtown.

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A.** Director of Public Works Carl McCrary left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A written report was provided.

**B.** Officer Cody Traub sitting in for Police Chief Bruce Hall provided the Council with a statistical report for January. He provided information on a child neglect case that he handled in which 3 children were removed due to the squalid and disgusting conditions they were living in. It started out as an animal complaint, but after seeing the conditions, Officer Traub called in CPS to take the 3 children between the ages of 9 to 16, and arrested the parents. The children were put into foster home together and are doing much better. The parents have also given up their custody rights. Mayor Poulsen asked Officer Traub how he is handling the job in light of all the recent police shootings. Officer Traub stated that he is very concerned and has to be constantly looking over his shoulder. He doesn't take anything for granted and stays very alert when responding to calls or making traffic stops.

**C.** Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported that AWC will be holding a Land Use Training class here next week on Tuesday at 6 p.m. Several members of the Planning Commission will be attending and the Council could also attend if they like. There is the joint workshop with the Planning Commission on Wednesday at 6 p.m. The repairs of the doors

and the vault at the Community Building are nearly complete.

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers Totaling \$104,751.25 for February, Payroll Vouchers totaling \$46,943.94 for February 1-15, 2010, and the City Council minutes of February 3, 2010. Councilmember Don Purvis 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. There is no tape of this meeting as it was discovered at the end of the meeting that the recording equipment was not operating properly.

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**Pete Poulsen - Mayor**

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**Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer**