

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 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 Assistant Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, 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 - None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2011 Revenue Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Taxes

Mayor Poulsen opened the hearing on the 2011 Revenues and Ad Valorem-Property taxes. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained the property tax increase which is 1.203 percent over the rate for 2010. Other revenue sources being increased include dog license fees by \$5, non-resident library cards by \$5, and fingerprinting services by \$5.

The City is not raising any of the utility charges at this time. Ms. McMaster then asked the Council for a final consensus on the waiving of fees for the Community Building for certain non-profit events that benefit the building or the City directly. Should this continue or, in light of the shortfalls, should all events pay the \$100 fee? Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli voiced his feeling that if any fees are increased it should be for the private events, and the non-profits should continue to be eligible for the waivers. There was much discussion on the value of the non-profit events and the contributions they make. It was also suggested that the fee be taken from the final proceeds given to the City. It was explained that in some cases the non-profits don't give the money directly to the City but donate books or pay to have the floor refinished from the proceeds, so it wouldn't work. Mayor Poulsen noted that the building needs to pay for itself. Since the citizens at the workshop on October 20th have agreed to do some fundraising perhaps the City can wait six months and reevaluate prior to making this decision. Ms. McMaster noted that she has based the budget projections on all events being paid for. It was noted that there are maybe six events that receive the waiver which is \$600. She pointed out that the public present at the last meeting were all in agreement that increased the full rental fee would probably make the building less rentable. Councilmember Bud Gish noted that everything costs something, and it

is fair to have the non-profits cover the operating expenses of the building. Mayor Poulsen took a poll of the Council regarding waiving the fee which resulted in four in favor of rescinding the waiver and one undecided.

Ms. McMaster returned to the tax information noting that based upon population the tax cost to each citizen is about \$412 per year.

Mr. Jim Dickey asked if the City's assessed valuation had increased or decreased and why the taxes were increasing more than 1%? Ms. McMaster responded that the valuation has decreased. The law only allows the 1% increase, but the City is allowed to capture amounts that were lost in previous years which is the additional percentage amount. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked what the fire meter fee is? This is the fee for industrial fire meters that are separate from a regular service meter and used only for fire protection. With no further comments from the floor or the Council, Mayor Poulsen closed the hearing 7:38 p.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

A. Mayor Poulsen introduced the newest Cowlitz County Commissioner Mike Karnofski who was appointed to the position vacated by the retirement of Kathleen Johnson. Mr. Karnofski explained he had worked 37 years for Weyerhaeuser. In the last couple of months he has learned a lot about the operations of the County especially the law and justice departments since this is his assignment. The County has budget issues just like the City. He added that if the City has any concerns or needs to please contact him.

B. Oliver Breuninger

Mayor Poulsen recognized Mr. Oliver Breuninger of 323 Taylor Road. Mr. Breuninger introduced himself and stated that he is very depressed about the people running his town. He has been attacked, assaulted, lied about, and slandered. His wife is sick, and so is he. He calls the police and gets little response regarding a property dispute and a fence. He continues that he is disgusted with the Council, and if he could create problems for them he would. As a taxpayer he is sorry he lives in this town. As he left the room, he continued that the Council should all be ashamed of themselves. Mayor Poulsen noted that he has heard these complaints many times over the last four years from Mr. Breuninger.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Award the Bid on the Meeker Drive Sidewalk Project

Mr. Robin Nelson project engineer from Hammond Collier provided a review of the bids and a recommendation of award to the lowest bidder, Woodland Constructors. There were 14 bids with a wide cost range. Mr. Nelson noted they have received favorable references for the contractor. The contractor is also able to bond the project and has indicated that this is the only current project for this contractor.

Mr. Nelson noted that they will keep a watch on the project since it did come in quite low and less than the engineer's estimate. If authorized by the Council they will be the construction managers on the job. Mr. Nick Massey of Woodland Constructors introduced himself. He stated that they really do want to do the project. He believes it will be a short 10 to 12 day project. It was asked about the funding for the project and it is grant funded. Mr. Dan Ohall asked if it is a fixed bid project? The bid is fixed with a unit price bid. It can be changed with change order requests. Councilmember Adam Smee made a motion the City Council award the contract for the Meeker Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Woodland Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$73,500. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Construction Management Agreement for Meeker Drive Sidewalk Project

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the supplement to Professional Services Agreement with Hammond Collier Wade Livingstone for construction management services not to exceed \$6100 for the Meeker Drive Sidewalk Improvement project. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded, and the motion carried.

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS - None

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen noted that City Crewmember Danny Aumiller had retired and the City had a nice surprise party for him last Friday. The Public Works crew "roasted" him quite well including a gift of a gold shovel for all his years of service. Danny was surprised and appreciative.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson noted that last Friday night's Halloween event went well with lots of candy handed out and lots of people in the downtown.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis had no report.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Assistant Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen reported the crew is preparing for the winter and keeping the storm drains

clear. He was asked about the trees that appear to be dying. This has been addressed with the supplier. The trees had some type of bug or disease that was treated and they should come back in the spring.

Councilmember Don Purvis noted that Envision may have some funds available for additional greenery should it be needed. There was a question about the City Hall roof. It was explained that there is substantial work still to be done, but the architect is on top of it at this time.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall provided a statistical report showing increases and decreases in police responses and crimes from November of 2007 through October 2010. There are not a lot of obvious reasons for the increases but it is assumed that the economy plays a part.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the Council will be setting the public hearings on the 2011 budget under the consent agenda. She also suggested that a workshop be held prior to the regular meeting. The Council agreed. At the first hearing the requests for tourism funding will be presented. There was some discussion that the City and other organizations look at reviving one of the festival type events from the past. The idea would be to find something that works for our community as well as the car show does. It would be good to get all the businesses to participate more. There was also some discussion about doing a directory board as well as the wayfinding signs.

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 \$75,076.28, Payroll Vouchers totaling \$78,788.63 and the City Council Budget Workshop minutes of October 20,2010, the City Council meeting minutes of October 20, 2010,and the 2011 Budget Hearings for November 17 and December 1, 2010. 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