

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

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 Mike Truesdell, Dominic Ciancibelli, Mike Dennis Langham, and Rosemary Brinson Siipola. Councilmember Mary Putka was absent. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Randy Gibson. 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

Cowlitz County Chaplain Tom Hahn began by explaining the history of the “Challenge Coin” which had its beginnings back in roman times and has evolved over time but is still a symbol to emergency responders that “you are one of us.” One side of the coin shows courage, integrity, and strength, and the other is compassion, commitment, and caring. The challenge coin story appeared in the Chaplaincy newsletter and the Chaplains want to present the coin to local persons that exemplify those qualities represented by the coin. Immediately after the article appeared, he heard from the officers in Kalama that they would like to honor Chief Gibson with this presentation. Chaplain Hahn read a statement written by Kalama Officer Cody Traub and supported by the department of how the Chief from his first day on the job until now has worked to make the department a respected and efficient agency after 17 years of turmoil prior to his tenure. He has mended relationships and brought the department back into cooperation with other agencies throughout the County and region. Chief Gibson’s philosophy is to not look at the past, but look forward. He leads by example and includes the officers in making changes and decisions that affect the department and working conditions. In 2013 Chief Gibson was diagnosed with cancer and has been continuing to fight through several relapses, but has continues to lead the department and support the officers and community. Officer Traub noted in his statement, that he received great support from the Chief during and after an altercation with a suspect that turned violent and also throughout 2015 while he struggled with health issues of his own. Chief Gibson is dedicated to his officers as well as to the community. He has been a great mentor and is greatly respected by his officers. Chief Gibson received an ovation and the coin from Chaplain Hahn. He voiced his appreciation for the fine words and for the support he receives daily not only from the City staff but the many friends throughout the community. His health issues have their ups and downs and he is currently back in treatment. Chief Gibson noted that after 25 years in law enforcement he should be “burnt out” or taking this position (he left a department of 250) as an easy retirement post, but he doesn’t feel that way. All his officers are multi-skilled professionals and among the finest he has ever worked with. He looks

forward to coming to work every day and still believes in his profession. If God is willing he will continue to lead the department for many more years. Mayor Poulsen added that over the 58 years he can remember, the City has never had a Chief of Police of the caliber as our current Chief.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mike Phillips of 188 S Second addressed the Council with concerns that they need to be looking for an alternative location to get the Library up and operating just like the other departments of the City. The Library is a cultural center for this community used by toddlers and up to the seniors of Kalama. He understands that the plans for renovations have been put on hold due to the flood in December and it will take some time for the building to be ready for occupancy. He believes the City needs to look at other options for a temporary location, such as the empty portion of the Kids resale building. This could be available for rent of \$1300 a month and could be taken from the Library budget. It was pointed out that utilities would also have to be paid. This would use a good portion of the Library budget and is much higher than the \$750 a year they have paid the City in the past. Mayor Poulsen stated this is going to be a lengthy process and the City is still waiting on insurance information and for the building to be cleared by a hygienist. Staff is working hard to operate the regular city functions and work on the issues of moving and repairing buildings. Mr. Phillips stated he thinks the City needs to think outside the box and explore other options. It was suggested that perhaps FOLK or Envision help or look to find a local church to offer a space for the summer reading program. Mayor Poulsen offered to have a meeting with those that are concerned to discuss where the City is at and what they are planning. The City is still getting information on the FEMA funding that may be available. All these things are moving slow, which is why he had announced it could be up to a year. In the meantime, the Library staff is working on getting the collection into the new circulation system and organizing the books that were moved. The warehouse is not available to the public and we do have an agreement with a cost with the Port. It was asked why the City isn't looking for grants to help. While the Library does look for grants, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster didn't know if there would be anything that would help with a temporary location or flood recovery except the current FEMA funds.

There was a brief discussion regarding the mandatory garbage service within the City and now being enforced at the manufactured home park, Columbia Terrace Estates. The City has received some concerns from people who "have no garbage" and will not be using the services, but will still have to pay for them. They are looking at options and wonder why the City just can't waive the charges.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS - None

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

- A.** Mayor Pete Poulsen reported that the work on the Port property at Kalama River Road is not for new Costco. This is preliminary site work for the business park.
- B.** Councilmember Mike Truesdell had no report.
- C.** Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.
- D.** Councilmember Mike Langham had no report.
- E.** Councilmember Rosemary Siipola had no report.
- F.** Councilmember Mary Putka was absent.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A.** City Administrator Adam Smee reported that many things are happening with the various capital projects for paving and street work. Several grant applications have been completed. The Bank building is getting closer to completion and the City offices have to move by mid-March as there is a wedding scheduled for the last weekend in March.
- B.** Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented a written report. He noted that Phase 2 of Stone Forest is getting close to being able to start construction which will connect up on Cloverdale Road. The computer and software upgrade at the Water Plant has been completed and is working well. The engineers are also working along Meeker Drive to monitor the land movement as part of the stabilization project. Kelly also reported that he has purchased safety shoring for the department to use when trenching in ditches.

Mayor Poulsen informed the Council to be careful when sending emails and to not respond when one is sent, as it could create a "meeting" and violate the open public meetings act. He also asked the Council to be thinking about the current code regarding livestock within the City limits and that it might have to be amended. The City is dealing with neighbors complaining about a local livestock operation and the smells it creates. Currently there doesn't seem to be any code that prohibits what is going on, so the City has not been able to address the nuisance complaint. This is an issue where government may have to take action to address issues that result from conflicts between neighbors.

- C.** Police Chief Randy Gibson presented his statistical report which is the usual mixture of events. The major pursuit that took place last week ending here in Kalama is the third pursuit that has ended here. The murder suspects were arrested and are held in the County jail at this time. It did tie up traffic for a considerable time with over 30 police vehicles being involved. Chief Gibson informed everyone that the Port of Kalama and NW Innovations will be holding a public hearing on the methanol plant on March 22nd at 6 pm at the Kalama High School Gym. They may have anywhere from 70 to 2000 in attendance.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported her staff will begin getting the files into the new filing system setup at the Bank to prepare for the move. The final 2016 budget document has been completed and is posted on the City website. There have been new building permits issued so growth is continuing.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included

1. *Claim & Payroll Warrants 35824 through 35883 and all electronic ACH transactions for a total of \$318,080.76 &*
2. *Minutes of the February 3, 2016 City Council Meeting*

Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer