

**CITY OF KALAMA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 4, 2011**

**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, and Don Purvis. Councilmember Bud Gish was absent. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Acting Police Chief Steve Parker. 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**

**A. Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation**

Mr. Eric Yakovich of Lower Columbia Mental Health Center thanked the Mayor and Council for making the proclamation noting the importance of recognizing the effects and treatment of mental health issues. He invited those interested to attend the Run the Path event at Lake Sacagawea, in Longview on May 21, 2011. Mayor Poulsen read the Proclamation.

**B. National Police Week Proclamation**

Cowlitz County Police Chaplin Steve White thanked the Council for once again making the proclamation. The designation of the Police Memorial Day has been in effect since 1962, and with the recent line-of-duty death of the Rainier Police Chief the significance has hit closer to home. Since the beginning of the year there have been many deaths across the country of officers responding to routine calls which is a sad fact. The proclamation requires that flags be flown at half-staff on May 15, 2011. Mayor Poulsen read the Proclamation designating the week of May 15 through the 21<sup>st</sup> as National Police Week.

**C. Public Work Week Proclamation**

Mayor Pete Poulsen read the Proclamation also designating the week of May 15 through May 21, 2011 as Public Works Week in honor of the City's Public Works staff. Mayor Poulsen then took the opportunity to congratulate and award Director of Public Works Carl McCrary for his twenty-five years of service to the City of Kalama with a crystal plaque. Mr. McCrary thanked Mayor Poulsen.

He noted that earlier in the day a lunch had been held where the City's Utility Clerk, Sue Seay, had presented him with a wonderful poem. He read the last stanza which noted that all his

contributions were greatly appreciated noting that they were all done while being "scheduled around hunting season."

**D. Waste Control - Annual Report to the Council**

Waste Control Owner Joe Willis congratulated Carl and noted that this is one of the reasons his company enjoys working with Kalama; Kalama has an amazing staff. He noted the office staff makes their job easy and it makes all of us look good. Mr. Willis noted that the sense of community that he sees throughout Cowlitz County is a great offset to the issue of rates. Everyone works together. At this time the services and plans for the future are going well. He asked, what is the one issue that the Mayor and Council get the most questions on? Mayor Poulsen and several Councilmembers noted it was recycling and why we don't have curbside recycling. Mr. Willis noted that the City can have curbside recycling if they want, but there is an additional cost to add this service. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted that this has been the hesitation for the City to pursue it as it is a city-wide service. With many older residents on fixed incomes and costs increasing, adding something more to the utility bills is something the City has not wanted to do. It was noted that there are recycling bins for metal, plastics, mixed paper, oil, and antifreeze out at the City Public Works Shop, and a new container for cardboard will added soon. There was some discussion regarding the County proposal to buy the old Weyerhaeuser landfill and use it rather than continue with the plan to ship the waste to the east side of Washington. Mr. Willis indicated that after much discussion they agreed that the new landfill site would make sense, since shipping the waste east will cost more than keeping it local. If Cowlitz County wasn't to buy the site, then other companies could and then ship in waste from other areas. It seems logical to use it for the local citizenry. There are still some permit issues to be resolved before this will be a done deal. Ms. McMaster thanked Mr. Willis for the earlier compliment to her staff, acknowledging that the same can be said of the Waste Control staff. Mayor Poulsen and the Council thanked Mr. Willis for the report.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

**A. VFW - Ed Farrell**

Mr. Ed Farrell of the Kalama VFW asked the Council what the VFW can do to secure a place to set up a hot-dog stand during the annual Car Show. He was referred to the Amalak and Kalama Chamber as they are the local sponsors of the event.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Accept Meeker Drive Sidewalk Project as Complete**

Director of Public Works Carl McCrary informed the Council

that he has walked the project which is now complete. It looks good, and he is recommending the City accept the project as complete. The project engineer Hammond Collier is also recommending accepting the project. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the City Council accept the Meeker Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project as complete on the recommendation of the Director of Public Works. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded. Mayor Poulsen asked Carl if the one bench he had received safety concerns about had been reviewed. Carl explained that he and engineers had looked at it and didn't find it to be hazardous at the location near the wetland. The motion carried.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Envision Kalama - Elm Street Improvements**

Envision President Mark Wilson began by informing the Council of the upcoming event being sponsored by the Port commemorating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first railroad spike for the Northern Pacific Railroad being driven in Kalama. The event will be on May 21, 2011 and will focus on historical pictures, stories and plans for the planned interpretive center display. Railroad Historian David Sprau will also do a talk.

Mr. Wilson then addressed the proposed landscaping improvements Envision Kalama would like to pursue. He presented a concept drawing developed by a landscape architect showing how they would improve the area of Elm Street between East Frontage Road and First Street. This would improve the appearance of the southern entrance to the City. They would like to be able to begin some of the work on May 14 which is when the downtown cleanup is scheduled, and volunteers will be available. This would also allow for projects to be pursued when other volunteers are looking to offer services. It was noted that the landscaping on the north side of Elm Street in this area has been an issue with the Satellite Shop owners adjacent to the right-of-way. Mr. Wilson added that the architect is also looking at the area in front of City Hall, and the area near Maruhn Park near the north entrance to the City. He asked if the City would have any objections to pursue the projects. The City Council was in agreement that this be pursued as a continuation of the beautification of the downtown area.

## **9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Ordinance No. 1272 - An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington establishing a new fund for the purpose of receiving, holding, and expending the Document Recording Fees for Low-Income Housing as authorized by the State Legislature pursuant to HB 2060 in 2002, to be titled fund no. 109 - Special Revenue Fund - Affordable Housing.**

Ordinance No. 1272 was read by Title. Councilmember Don Purvis made a motion the Council adopt Ordinance No. 1272 as read. Councilmember Chuck

Hutchinson seconded. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that during the audit, the Auditor requested that the Affordable Housing funds be separated from the Tourism Funds which were being tracked separately within the same special revenue fund. These are the funds that come from the document recording fees that the Council recently provided to the Kalama Housing Authority. The Auditor requested a separate fund be established back to the beginning of 2010. This ordinance authorizes the establishment of the fund and the moving of the accumulated revenues and expenditures. The motion carried.

**B. Ordinance No. 1273 - An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending the 2011 Budget to account for the unanticipated revenues and expenditures to cover the costs for the recruitment of a new police chief increasing the Budget in the amount of \$15,000.**

Ordinance No. 1273 was read by title. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council put into effect Ordinance No. 1273 as read. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded, and the motion carried.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE - None**

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

**A.** Mayor Pete Poulsen reported that Greg Prothman was here today to begin the process for recruiting a new Police Chief. After talking with the Police and other City staff, he has a good idea what Kalama is looking for. Acting Chief Steve Parker stated their conversation had been very positive. Mayor Poulsen noted that anyone can apply and they expect a wide pool of applicants. Mayor Poulsen then informed the Council that the Community Building fundraiser on Saturday night was a great event. There was good chocolate, good wine and great music. He hasn't heard yet what was raised, but it appeared to be a success.

**B.** Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

**C.** Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli reported on the Planning Commission workshop to discuss the downtown design standards. He feels they are on the right track. Two of the items they will focus on are the enforcement and the things that will trigger compliance to the standards. Mayor Poulsen had also attended the workshop and concurred with Dominic. He added that he thinks the Council needs to be thinking of ways that they may be able to help business owners in the future with an incentive to comply.

**D.** Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson had no report.

**E.** Councilmember Donald Purvis had no report.

**F.** Councilmember Bud Gish was absent.

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A.** Director of Public Works Carl McCrary presented a written report which was included in the electronic packet sent out. He noted that the City does have great employees, and those employees are grateful for the support they received from the City Council. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson observed that when everyone does their job and does it well, it reflects back on everyone. The City staff makes the Council look good too.

**B.** Action Police Chief Steve Parker reported that the Department has let the temporary officer Mike Powell go at the end of April. They are hoping to have the new officer in place by sometime next week. He will be at the next Council meeting to be sworn in. Mayor Poulsen asked if there was a way to have him introduced to the community so he doesn't have to start cold. It was suggested that Acting Chief Parker bring him to the Chamber meeting or other civic organization meetings to be introduced. Also during a training shift, the training officer could also walk him through the downtown businesses to introduce him as well. Acting Chief Parker also noted they are working with Woodland, where the new officer has been a reserve officer to secure some of his special equipment at a reduced cost. Mayor Poulsen asked about the School Board meeting and the fundraising for the new drug dog. Acting Chief Parker stated the department had not been called to the recent School Board meeting. He added that there is about \$1800 in the dog fund right now.

**C.** Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the City has received the first grant payment on the Meeker Drive Sidewalk project from the County. They have also received the garbage payment from the School. The Kalama Library's computers are back up after being down for several weeks. The audit should be completed by next week and the exit conference is scheduled for next Wednesday afternoon. So far it appears to be a good audit with no issues. The Annual Report has been completed and filed with the State. Ms. McMaster informed the Council that Dept. of Ecology will be offering the City a \$50,000 grant for updating our Shoreline Management Plan which is mandated by the State. This is if the State budget gets finalized and passed. This will be discussed further with the City Planner as to how the City wants to proceed. The update can be done in conjunction with the other entities in the County who will also be getting funding. This could include just doing the mapping jointly or all of it. As shoreline management is very complicated, the City could also consider hiring an outside consultant for helping with the plan which could be covered by the grant. Exactly what the update will cost, and what the grant will cover are items that will be reviewed further.

**D.** City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent.

### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including Claims Vouchers Totaling \$65,107.46, Payroll Vouchers totaling \$65,549.83, the City Council minutes of April 20, 2011 and the City Council Special Meeting minutes of April 28, 2011. Councilmember Adam Smeed seconded, and the motion carried.*

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the tape can be made available for listening.

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**Pete Poulsen - Mayor**

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**Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer**