

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 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, Don Purvis, and Bud Gish. 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 - None

A. Behavioral Health Transformation Coalition - Mental Health Tax

Mr. Eric Yakovich of the Cowlitz County Guidance Association presented information to the City Council regarding the need of the entire county to address issues of mental health, substance abuse, and the behavioral issues associated with them. The Behavioral Health Transformation Coalition was formed to look at ways to address the problems and submit a proposal back to the County Commissioners.

The Coalition is recommending the implementing of the 1/10th of 1 percent sales tax available by state law for dealing with mental health issues. Mr. Yakovich noted there is a crisis in this area, and many of those suffering from these problems are low income and have no where to turn to get the help they need. There are short-term fixes with the jail or the emergency room, but these are only band aids to the problem. The sales tax would provide a dedicated funding source to deal with the issues for providing access to mental health services. Mr. Yakovich is requesting the support of Kalama and the other cities in the county. Mayor Poulsen confirmed that the funds raised by the sales tax increase would be only used to support mental health services in the community. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli asked if the hospital provided any charitable care to help those in need. Mr. Yakovich replied that they do provide some care, but it is limited. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked if there would be an annual report available to the public showing how the money is being spent and the effects it may have on the current statistics. Mr. Yakovich believed that would be a good plan for accountability to the public. The Council requested a letter be drafted in support of the tax and presented for their review at the next meeting.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2012 Budget & 2012-2017 Capital Facilities Plan

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the hearing at 7:26 pm. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster presented the Council with a balanced budget for 2012. She explained that bringing the budget into balance was not an easy task. The budget includes the reduction of a full-time employee in the Finance Department to a part-time position with no benefits. The current estimate for the Street Fund beginning balance will probably be reduced. The Community Building Fund was cut back to bring it into balance which means that maintenance costs had to be cut back. This will limit the time the caretaker can spend as well as limit the crew to only addressing immediate repair needs in the next year. The Community Building budget still includes revenue from fund raising which she hopes will be continued.

Ms. McMaster asked the Council for further input on items related to Tourism expenditures. Currently the budget includes funding for the Big Idea, the Blues Festival, and the car show. It does not include contributions to the Chamber, the Awesome Brochure, nor the funding for the City's web page. She asked if any of these should be included. There was discussion regarding the Chamber and making contributions to them. In the end the consensus of the Council was that with the Blues Festival the Chamber will benefit from that in the next year. Big Idea funding will be available in 2013, so that may help in the future years. The only addition to the Tourism budget was to add the \$1200 funding for the City's web page. Ms. McMaster added that after she had finally balanced the budget the City received a request for a rate increase from the indigent defense attorney which is still being negotiated. She continued that depending upon what the Governor and the Legislature do, this budget could need to be cut back further. The proposed cuts to state-shared revenues could take up to \$32,000 away from the City's public safety or police budget. Mayor Poulsen noted he will be attending a mayors' meeting in December and hopes to receive more information at that time. Even with passage, the budget may still see further cutbacks.

Ms. McMaster turned to the Capital Facilities Plan for the next six years explaining that except for Streets, there are no funded projects for 2012. The two street projects have approved grant funding from this year. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary noted that even though the Sewer plan shows no projects for 2012, due to the poor condition of some of the old lines on the north side of the City, funds will probably be expended to replace portions of the lines. If the repairs can be covered within the operating funds they will be, but reserves in the I&I may be needed. This will have to be dealt with as we move forward in the year. Mayor Poulsen closed the hearing at 8:55 pm.

- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS - None**
- 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS - None**
- 9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS - None**

A. Resolution No. 564 - Adopt fees for 2012

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster read Resolution No. 564 by title - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Kalama replacing Resolution No. 555 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, 2012. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No. 564 as read. Councilmember Bud Gish seconded. There was a review of the few items being increased or added which are the deposit for a hydrant permit from \$500 to \$700, Industrial/Commercial water hookup fees, and the City is adding a fee for the removal of meter for non-payment. The motion carried.

B. Resolution No. 565 - Property Tax Levy - Establish 2012 Tax Rate

Ms. McMaster read Resolution No. 565 by title - 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 budget of the City of Kalama. Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No 565 as read. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded. It was noted the tax rate would be approximately \$1.95 per \$1000 of assessed value. The motion carried.

C. Resolution No. 566 - Property Tax Levy - Establish Percentage of Increase

Ms. McMaster read Resolution No. 566 by title - A Resolution of the City of Kalama establishing the amount of the property tax increase to meet the requirements of the 2012 Budget. Councilmember Gish made a motion the Council adopt Resolution No. 566 as read. Councilmember Purvis seconded. The resolution establishes the percentage of increase to the property taxes which for 2012 is less than the allowable 1%. The motion carried.

D. Ordinance No. 1282- Increase to Sewer Rates

Ms. McMaster read Ordinance No. 1282 by title - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Kalama increasing charges for the base meter fees and usage charges for sewer collections to meet the needs of providing services and the cost of improvements to the sewer system by amending Kalama Municipal Code Section 12.08.011. Councilmember Bud Gish made the motion the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1282 as read. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli seconded. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson asked why there is a difference between the charges for a residential meter versus a commercial meter when they are the same size. In his case, his business doesn't even use as much water as a home does. Ms. McMaster explained that while it isn't an answer she has not been able to determine why the rates were set this way, but they have been like this for a long time. The motion carried.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE - None**

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen had no report.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson had no report, but made a suggestion that since the Community Building is having trouble supporting itself and the maintenance budget has been cut back to only allow for emergency repairs, that perhaps a list could be posted of items that need to be done. Service groups within the City could then take on some of them to help keep the building in good condition. The public might also be willing to donate funds to help as well. Mr. Jim Dickey asked what some of the items were and the cost, indicating that he would be willing to donate funds. It was suggested that donations be made through Envision Kalama, so the donor can be assured a proper tax write off. Envision Kalama is a non-profit set up to accept donations for projects in Kalama. All the funding stays here in Kalama. It is overseen by a volunteer board, and the funding flows through Pathways 2020. Donations can be designated for a specific purpose, and Envision will make sure it is spent as specified. The purpose is to improve and enrich the community. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary indicated this could be done.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis had no report.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish had no report.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary presented a written report. He noted the highway traffic signs are now up on I-5. The crew also installed the Police Business Only parking sign at the Police Department. Mr. McCrary also noted that there are projects in town that are what you might call a wish list that could possibly be done as community service projects. He listed a few such as planting trees along west Frontage Road as a buffer, adding some ground cover at Toteff Park, or fixing the tile at the fireplaces at the Community Building. He will compile a list to provide to service groups and Envision Kalama.

B. Acting Police Chief, Sgt. Steve Parker provided a list of calls for the last two weeks. He noted that Chief Gibson is at a conference this week, funded by a scholarship.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported that she is still working on the way finding signs which should be ready this week. She added that there will be a Joint Entity meeting on the 29th at the Port offices. Mr. McCrary noted that the Planning Commission has approved the preliminary plat for the Victorian Heights subdivision and will be forwarding their recommendations to the City Council

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 \$58,791.54, Payroll Vouchers totaling \$59,002.40 and the City Council minutes of November 2, 2011. Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8:27 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