

**CITY OF KALAMA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2017**

**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 Dominic Ciancibelli, Mike Dennis Langham, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, and Mary Putka. Councilmember Mike Truesdell was absent. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Acting Police Chief Steve Parker. City Attorney Erin Hillier was also present. 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 - None**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Kalama Resident Mr. Mike Reuter presented some additional information regarding the methanol plant which came from a natural gas engineer. He also informed the Council that he did some research about the Alaska pipeline at Prudhoe Bay which when it began had an output of over 2 million gallons a day and now only 200,000 or so. It will stop producing in the next few years. It may be that we have lots of gas now, but it can be depleted. China is depleting our resources while retaining theirs. They have gas but in areas where there are civil and other issues for getting access. There was some discussion on capacity issues which with Northwest Innovations acting as an anchor that will draw other gas based business it is likely that the current capacity along the I5 corridor will be used up. This would create the need to build a new pipeline which we as taxpayers will pay for. It was compared to the PUD windmills that are no longer being used but are still being paid for by tax and rate payers. The new plant may not be here for 20-30 years and then all those costs come back on the taxpayers. The gas will be coming from Canada as the US supplies in the midwest don't come over the Rockies, so it is all from one pipeline. Mr. Reuter stated that it is not worth losing all the areas capacity for this one company from another country so it can be shipped back to that for their use. One thing China uses methanol for is gasoline blending. Mayor Poulsen noted that this project will be bringing jobs back to America after many years of hearing complaints of jobs going to China. Mr. Reuter noted that we shouldn't stake our future on a commodity that is not dependable.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Request from John Norton–Antique District Freeway Sign–City Pay Fee**

Mr. John Norton, Kalama resident and owner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street Antiques began that most everyone is aware of the signs on the freeway. However, he wasn't aware that he would be requested to pay for maintenance by the State. He has only had his store for a little over 6 months and he believes based on conversations he hears in the store that these signs pull people into town. They not only shop at his store, but other business and then often stay for a meal at a local restaurant. The sign was originally paid for through the Antique Association, but that is no longer active. The \$683 is more than one small shop can pay. The other two shop owners have refused to help pay the cost. He did talk with officials at the state but got no result. Dena Ott, former antique store owner had told him the City had paid for portion in the past from the tourism monies. Mayor Poulsen noted that there used to be a large number of stores and Kalama was known for antiques. That is no longer the case with only three stores and there is no longer an association. He stated that the final decision will be based on how the Council feels about spending the Tourism money. There was concern raised that if the City pays for this sign, could some of the other business mainly the restaurants come to the City expecting the same thing which could be a problem. It was suggested that Mr. Norton approach the Chamber of Commerce as they represent the business community that receive a benefit from the sign. It was agreed that the sign doesn't only bring in business for antiques. Since the business have a Chamber to represent them, they may want to support. There was a question regarding using public money to support the sign when it is focused on one business. City Attorney Erin Hiller stated that it is up to Council on how they spend the tourism dollars and it would not constitute a gift because it is at the discretion of Council. Mr. Norton noted that if the sign was gone, he thinks less people wouldn't come into town. Mayor Poulsen noted that the City would be willing to partner with the Chamber and the antique store owners rather than fund the entire cost. Mr. Norton agreed to contact the Chamber as this would be more in their business line. Everyone agreed that the sign has a value to the Community. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola suggested the Mr. Norton ask for an extension from the state. There was also a question of how the sign will be funded in the future and the need for a plan. The City tourism dollars are currently weak and limited. Mayor Poulsen stated we don't want to lose business, so contact the Chamber and see if they will help and come back to the City. Mr. Norton agreed and stated he appreciated the Council listening.

**9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS - None**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE - None**

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

**A.** Mayor Pete Poulsen introduced Arne Mortenson, new County Commissioner for this area. Mr. Mortenson noted that he is still learning the ropes.

**B.** Councilmember Mike Truesdell absent

**C.** Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli met with Kelly and toured the area of the bore at Robb Road for the water line extension. The project is moving forward. Kelly also showed him the service area that will be served once the line is extended.

**D.** Councilmember Mike Langham noted the 911 Board is still waiting on attorney's approval of the contract. It's been over 3 years.

**E.** Councilmember Rosemary Siipola reported she attended the first meeting of the new Health Advisory Committee. Cowlitz County is leading the state in addiction issues. She found it very interesting in hearing what is causing and what can be done towards prevention and correcting the problems.

**F.** Councilmember Mary Putka reported citizens will see flyers for "Save the Date" for the Library celebration set for July 29th. Envision Kalama will meet with Amalak and Folk to discuss what needs for the Library are and discuss donations of funds for purchase of furnishings. These groups are great supporters, but it is often in-kind work and the need for new space is money.

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A.** City Administrator Adam Smee reported the Library renovation is on schedule. They are holding weekly phone conferences to discuss progress which includes: the cut in of the transom windows on the south side and filling in the old window areas; pouring the new concrete for flooring for the new rest room areas; and removing all the exterior brick. There have only been a few issues found that were unexpected. The building use to have holding cells when it was a police station and the south side had an old fireplace. The contractor has been good to work with. He is trying to hold the line in the budget but one change order for a concrete curb to fill the gap at the sidewalk found after removing the brick. He will try not to disappoint anyone for the anniversary date. He was hoping to have more visible progress to help with the fundraising efforts. Adam informed the Council that Prothman is moving forward with the search for the new Chief and is planning to begin advertising next week. They will advertise for a month and has a tentative date for interviews in mid-May. Adam continued that he Met with the Economic Development consultants to review progress on the plan. They have completed task 1 cataloging the existing conditions. They have a draft of task 2 which includes some preliminary sketches of concepts on how to improve the area downtown. They have some very creative ideas, thinking outside the box, in developing a vision for the community. All are well within the realm of probability and it is clear they spent time looking at our community, its demographics, and history. He had provided them with the local history book and a copy of the downtown design guidelines and they also spent a day walking the core and took photos. Adam noted he is wanting to see how they connect the market study to design and recruitment. He found the progress encouraging.

**B.** Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented a written report. Kelly reported on the fluoridation class he attended in Sacramento. It was a good class taught by engineer and very interesting. The City's Water System Plan should be accepted in about two weeks by Department of Health. The Crew installed new tanks at the Water Plant along

with a contractor. Kelly continued that Tapani and the sub-contractor Armadillo are putting in two casings for sewer and water under the railroad at Robb Road. A 10 inch waterline will tie in at Temco and cross to the base of Todd on Old Highway 99, resulting in the ability to provide fire flow to the south Port area. The first two days went well, but at 70 feet they hit solid rock, so it has been slow going since. It is interesting to watch how they do the work. The project is 7 feet deep at tracks and will be at 25 feet on the other side. This is the first phase and Phase two will be to go under the underpass and tie in the waterline at Todd Road. Phase 3 will be to tie into the Tidewater Drive area with a fourth phase to bring the line north along Old Highway 99. Kelly noted that construction in Stone Forest is going well. The City fared well during all the rain and snow events. Kelly noted that the Robb Road project is set to finish in March, but it may depend on how long it takes to get through the rock.

C. Acting Police Chief Steve Parker presented his statistical report showing and 81 calls for service with incident reports for 14. He informed the Council that Office Justin Taylor has submitted his resignation with his last day being March 11, 2017. He is leaving to take a position with the Cowlitz County Sheriff as a step for career advancement. The department is looking for a replacement by trying to contact one lateral applicant and the top 3 entry level candidates.

Mayor Poulsen notice Mr. Lewis Hendricks, resident on Greystone, in that audience and asked if had any concerns. Mr. Hendricks stated he likes attend once in a while. He asked about the empty house in his neighborhood which are now at 3 with two under foreclosure and the one at 156 Greystone being condemned. There has been no vagrancy issues, but two of the homes have been empty a very long time. City Administrator noted that it does take a long time to get results on nuisance issues. He did note that one condemned property on Birch is being demolished so while slow, progress does happen. He does wish there was a better mechanism to get results.

Mr. Hendricks also noted issues he is having with racoons and opossum in his yard. He has shot two with a pellet gun. He thinks the come to the areas due to the homes that are keeping chickens in the area. Acting Chief Parker noted he would prefer Mr. Hendricks get a trap rather than use a gun in a residential area.

Mr. Mike Reuter commended that Kelly and the City crew stating that in his work he drives all over in the Portland area and southwest Washington and Kalama is one of the cleanest cities he goes through. The town always looks nice.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported she is working on closing February and has begun work on the 2016 annual report. The DOE Grant agreement for the update of the Sewer Plan has been signed. The office is busy as usual.

E. City Attorney Erin Hillier stated that she is glad to be back. She will be attending the Municipal Attorney Conference in April and will bring back information the City may need.

### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council approve the Consent*

*Agenda including:*

1. Claim and Payroll Warrants 37298 through 37357 and electronic and ACH payments in the amount of \$84,785.07 for a total of \$269,510.06
2. Minutes of the February 15, 2017 City Council Meeting

*Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.*

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 8: 15 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

  
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**Pete Poulsen - Mayor**

  
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**Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer**