

**KALAMA TOWN HALL
KALAMA POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY
OCTOBER 11, 2017 @ 6PM**

Meeting Overview

City Administrator Adam Smee, Police Chief Ralph Herrera, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Mayor Pete Poulsen hosted the meeting. Approximately 50 people were in attendance with only 39 signing in. The audience was encouraged to ask questions throughout the presentation.

The City had displays showing the preliminary design of the new facility, the other options for sites that the City considered, a concept for moving the park amenities to the top of the hill, and examples of the potential costs to the taxpayers if Proposition #1 is approved.

Chief Herrera presented a power point showing the current working conditions of the Department and explaining the many challenges and deficiencies of the current temporary location. He explained the needs of an efficient and operational facility needed to help the City to keep and recruit excellent staff and to serve the community. Questions asked were:

“Why doesn’t the City upgrade the electrical at the Community Building to fix possible dangerous issues?”
The current use is temporary and it was not intended to be used for this long a period of time.

“How long is evidence kept?” It can be kept for several months or even years depending on the case, the prosecutor, and possible appeals.

Mayor Poulsen spoke several times during the evening beginning with a review of how the Police department has changed for the better over the years. He encouraged the citizens to support the Police department and their community. The citizens are the community and yes, the citizens are who funds the City through taxes and fees. It is a fact of life. He addressed the question that should the proposition fail, what would the City do. If it fails, the City will have to reassess and the citizens can expect to see another levy proposal that will probably be closer to \$4 million so the City can purchase property and develop another site.

City Administrator Adam Smee and Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster also presented a power point reviewing the need, the many sites that were discussed, why they were rejected, and how the decision for using the Park came about. Also in the discussion was how the bond works as a funding mechanism for the next 30 years and the cost to the taxpayers. The criteria for making a site selection had 3 items: Cost to the taxpayers, will it support the growth of the department, and how soon can construction begin. There were many questions mostly about the possibility of using the upper floor of the City Hall for the Police and spending the money on that building. The biggest reason was that the usable space is not sufficient for growth, and the cost to retrofit the building was not cost effective. Other discussion items and questions included doing a joint facility with the Fire District, the high cost of building public facilities, issues with the area above the site along Meeker Drive, property downtown being bought by the City which removes it from the tax base, and the Library renovation being completed first. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The meeting was recorded by KLTN and that recording can be made available on request.