

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 20, 2012**

CITY COUNCIL – PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the workshop of the Kalama City Council at 6:00 pm. Councilmembers present were Adam Smee, Dominic Ciancibelli, Mike Langham, Don Purvis and Mary Putka. Planning Commissioners present were Chairperson Kimberly Sullivan, Don Mathison, Jeremy Somogye, Kevin Wade, Michael Schreiber, and Jim Hendrickson. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster and City Planner Matt Hermen. Members in the audience are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Mayor Poulsen welcomed the Commissioners explaining that he set this meeting in order to hear from them what they need from the Council. It is to be an informal exchange of ideas in an effort to improve communications. Commissioner Jim Hendrickson noted he would appreciate better direction on items sent to them, such as the recent sign code, stating what the Council's goal is. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli explained that many times things happen that create the need for fine tuning the codes to address the on-going effort to improve the downtown area. Commissioner Don Mathison stated that the zoning code is a flexible document, meant to be adaptable as the City grows and changes. He sees a need to get the business community more involved since often codes will affect them. There was discussion that neither the Council nor the Commission like to revisit codes that were recently updated, but it is not possible to get everything that will come up. Loopholes or un-thought of actions will happen. City Planner Matt Hermen noted that he feels the Commission would like to see a plan or checklist in place at the first of the year setting out the expectations of the Council for the Commission. They could then form a work plan from that. Issues being reviewed regarding the sign code were discussed including signs on fences, in windows, and abandoned signs. It was noted that the City is trying to encourage business growth, and signage is important, but they still need to be regulated.

Mayor Poulsen asked about the work on available incentives to help property owners to improve their buildings. It was explained that they have looked at several options and programs such as the national Main Street program which involve tax incentives. One thing they will need to look at is what revenues the City may have or be able to use for incentive programs. The Commission will continue this project and bring recommendations back to the Council. Commissioner Mike Schreiber stated there may help from the Housing Authority for those buildings that have apartments on the upper floors. He added that the sign code requires abandoned signs be removed so that could be better enforced to improve the downtown appearance.

Mayor Poulsen stated that there would be more meetings like this between the Commission and Council in the future. He would meet with the Chair and discuss when the next one would be.

Mayor Poulsen invited the Commissioners to stay for the regular meeting to hear from the Port of Kalama regarding their project at the East Port.

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the tape can be made available for listening.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer