

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2013**

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, Don Purvis, 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 Police Chief Randy Gibson. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was also in attendance. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted that the reappointment of Mary Cox to the Housing Authority Board was included on the consent agenda with the other Housing Authority Board appointments.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

3. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS - None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Establishing a 6% Utility Tax on Garbage Services For Street Improvements

Mayor Poulsen opened the public hearing. City Administrator Adam Smee explained that Kalama does not currently assess a utility tax on garbage services like it does on other utility services. He has proposed that the City establish a 6% tax on garbage services and use the funds only toward street improvements and maintenance. The funds can be used to do direct maintenance or as matching funds for grant funded projects. Costs to the citizens will be about \$2 to \$3 per billing cycle depending on cart sizes. This was not included on the informal survey that was sent out to the public. The hearing tonight as well as the town hall meeting held in February, were both advertised and posted. This tax would not apply to residents outside the city. There were no public comments. The hearing was closed.

B. Establishing a \$20 Vehicle Tab Fee to Fund Transportation Benefit District

Mayor Poulsen opened the public hearing. Administrator Adam Smee explained that this is also a street funding source for the recently established Transportation Benefit District (TBD). The TBD is a separate taxing authority of the City, incorporating all of the city limits. The City Council acts as the governing board. This will require a separate fund

and accounted for as a separate entity from the City. The twenty dollar tab fee can be enacted by Council action versus the two-tenth of percent sales tax that would have to go through an election. This will allow the City to begin collecting funds sooner and more efficiently. In the meantime the City streets will continue to deteriorate. In preparing the new Transportation Improvement plan for this year and next five, it appears the City could expend up to \$460,000 in maintenance improvement costs or matching funds to improve streets. These two funding options will help to provide a large portion toward that amount over the next six years. There is no sunset clause as that only applies to the sales tax funding option. Dan Ohall, Kalama citizen noted that if the City does not enact the vehicle tab fee the citizens could still incur that fee if the County should choose to enact it. Then the City would only receive a portion of the funds. The informal survey was showing the respondents favoring the sales tax option. However, those that attended the February Town Hall were leaning that way until all the facts were provided, and many changed their preference to the tab fee. The vehicle exemptions were reviewed as well. There were no other public comments. The hearing was closed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS - None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cowlitz County Interlocal Agreement – Water Supply Improvements

Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen informed the Council that last fall he had applied for an Economic Development Fund grant through Cowlitz County in the amount of \$138,000 to clean the City's Ranney well plus add some valves that would allow the City to operate two filters at the same time. Due to the iron content of the unfiltered water, the City is not currently able to do this. The improvements would provide a way for the City to purge the iron, resulting in an increased output when needed in the summer. The County awarded the City \$70,000 towards the project. The City will be able to clean the well and add the piping and valves with the funds. The catch basin for capturing and filtering the iron water will still have to be funded.

8. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1306 – Establishing a 6% Utility Tax On Garbage Services

Ordinance No. 1306 was read by title: An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington establishing a Six Percent Utility Tax on Solid Waste, Garbage and Refuse Services to provide revenues for City street long term maintenance as well as updating all provisions in Kalama Municipal Code 5.20 Business and Occupation Utility Tax. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli made a motion the Council adopt Ordinance 1306 establishing a 6% utility tax on garbage services. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Ordinance No. 1307 – Establishing a \$20 Vehicle Tab Fee For TBD

Ordinance No. 1307 was read by title: An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington establishing a funding source for the Transportation Benefit District established under Ordinance No 1299 by enacting a Twenty Dollar Vehicle Tab Fee to be effective beginning October 1, 2013. Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1307 establishing a funding source for the Transportation Benefit District of the \$20 vehicle fee. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - None

10. MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen reported the COG has posted the Director's position through the Prothman agency. Director Steve Harvey is retiring at the end of March. Mayor Poulsen noted that he has been meeting with organizers for the 2015 City anniversary celebration.

B. Councilmember Mike Truesdell was absent.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli reported Public Works is running smoothly.

D. Councilmember Mike Langham had no report. He would be attending the 911 communications meeting on the 15th.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis reported on his attendance at the Volcano training seminar. He found the information on how to coordinate groups during an emergency interesting.

F. Councilmember Mary Putka reported there were over 200 entries in the Fire Up program this winter. The summer reading program theme is Dig into Reading. Also FOLK will be covering the cost for Anytime Library which allows the patrons to use E-Books.

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. City Administrator Adam Smee reported the land use code update with the Planning Commission is going well with all parties cooperating well.

B. Superintendent of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen provided a written reported and noted several items including replacing the carbon filters on the sewer line

on Taylor Road, 4 new stop signs in the Whitney addition, and moving 10 feet of water line off Modrow Road.

C. Police Chief Randy Gibson provided his statistical report for the period. He noted the new video information board in the Police Department lobby, the 2 vandalism incidents over this last weekend, and road barricade at the undeveloped portion of 2nd Street where trespassing and dumping were occurring. He also noted the National Night Out event scheduled for August 6 which he hopes will be as well attended as last years.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster presented the February Treasurer's Report which looks good so far for the year. The new software is working well but we keep adding functions like monthly and online billing which require some tweeks. Staffing has been a challenge due to a family health issue and current levels.

E. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel had no report.

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including

1. Claims Vouchers Totaling \$58,114.87 for February, 2013
2. Payroll Vouchers Totaling \$70,520.37 for February 16-28, 2013 \
3. Minutes of the February 13, 2013 Town Hall Meeting
4. Minutes of the February 20, 2013 City Council Meeting
5. Approve Mayor's appointments of Mike Reuter and Rebekah Souza and the reappointment of Mary Cox to the Kalama Housing Authority Board
6. Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Cowlitz County Interlocal Agreement for the \$70,000 grant funding for Water Supply Improvements.

Councilmember Don Purvis seconded the motion. Mayor Poulsen introduced Mike Reuter to the Council from the audience, thanking him for volunteering and being involved with the Parks Board as well. The motion carried.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 7:49 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