

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

1. OPENING

Mayor Mike Reuter opened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Reuter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers present were Jon Stanfill, Sandra Macias, Mike Dennis Langham, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, and Mary Putka. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Ralph Herrera. City Attorney Sam Satterfield was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

3. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

A. Cowlitz County Sheriff Brad Thurman

Police Chief Ralph Herrera introduced Sheriff Brad Thurman. Sheriff Thurman presented Chief Herrera and the Department a frame sketch of Deputy Justin Derosier to be hung at the Department in honor of his service and sacrifice. Kalama, along with the other departments throughout the County supported the County not only that night but over the next several weeks as his department dealt with the tragedy. He then presented Sergeant Steve Parker the medal of valor from the County for his actions taken on the night of the incident. A medal of valor was also awarded to Office Jeff Skeie who was not present. These two Kalama officers were the first on scene that night, helping to get Deputy Derosier to emergency services and staying on site in spite of the danger to themselves.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Street Improvement Bond Funding

City Administrator Adam Smee requested direction from the Council on how they would like to proceed on the issue of the bond funding for future street improvements. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola addressed the issue stating that the initiative decimates the transportation funding across the state and not only in Kalama. She was not able to attend the workshop, but after reading the minutes she will not be supporting the issuing of the bond. She will leave it to the new Council to address the issue. They can put the sales tax out next for a vote. She noted that if I-976 passes street improvements will not continue and if it doesn't pass the City can continue to do a street a year. She feels the candidates made it clear they believe they know best and are up to the challenge, so she wished them luck.

Councilmember Jon Stanfill understands the sentiment but has concerns with what happens to streets in the future. People he has spoken with understand the need and the actions. The Council needs to project the services it is responsible to provide. As he will be on the Council next year, he hopes they will find a way to make it happen. He personally feels those that use a service should pay for it, so the vehicle tab for streets makes sense. Councilmember Sandra Macias stated she agrees with Councilmember Stanfill but her concerns are with the candidates who don't seem to appreciate the consequences to the public by not taking action. She remembers when she was untrusting of the local government, so she attended Council and Planning meetings to get the information. Then she ran for Council and since elected she has learned more about how the City operates and the rules that govern it. She has worked with staff members to help them by supporting them in their needs. She noted that Administrator Adam Smee is amazing and no matter who the Mayor is, he will ensure that the City moves forward on the right track. He knows the rules. His job is to provide the appropriate information to the Council which is what he did in this case. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster has operated a short-staffed department where the public is always interacting with the staff whether in person or by phone and they do a lot of work. She has learned about the rules that restrict what council and staff can do. She noted that over her time on the Council she has only received 3 emails from the public, but recently she has received requests regarding the candidates as some are hearing the election is already over. They don't have any information on the candidates and nothing appears to be available except from the County elections department. She really feels the bond is the right thing to do for the City, but after hearing from the candidates at the workshop, they seem to feel they know best. She hopes that she will be able establish working relationships with the new members, but currently there is little information for the public to see who these people are. While the statements from the candidates that seem to be speaking for the public indicate the bond idea is not supported, she and other Councilmembers have heard the opposite from people they have discussed it with. So, she will not move the bond issue forward. Councilmember Mary Putka noted that when the police facility issue was before the Council, it wasn't until near the end of the process that the public began to show up, but even then, it was only a small number. She would support the bond, but is willing to pass it to the new Council. She has heard that the City needs to maintain streets and this would be a good way. Those that will be on the Council next year will need to deal with those citizens that will be unhappy with poor street conditions. Councilmember Mike Langham agreed with the other Councilmembers. Councilmember Siipola noted that the candidates need to avoid the facebook and understand that those there are not the public. Mayor Reuter noted that all of the Council have good points. He feels that a Councilmanic Bond or vote should be something only used when there is no other option for a vital function of the City that needs to be done. Councilmember Putka asked if he believed that about the police station. He replied it had to be done, but felt it could have been better with more time. The money would have been spent no matter where it went. He feels that people will be upset when they don't see the car tab drop to \$30 if I-976 passes. He feels we may be doing what was done before and we need to learn from past mistakes. Councilmember Siipola noted that the police facility was not a mistake. Mayor Reuter replied the City could have sold it better to the public. It was noted by several Councilmembers that by law they are not allowed to campaign for it. Mayor Reuter continued that he feels the bond is a tax without the vote of the people. It is important, but the City has other issues to address in the future including a new fire station and if we push this through it will not be perceived

well. The flooding issues and police department were important, as well as the school, and the next is the fire department. If we save the money here, perhaps the people will support the fire district in the future. It was noted that streets for the fire department to travel on are important. City Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster noted that the City has no funding connection to the Fire District. Mayor Reuter agreed, but the people will get fed up with tax after tax. All of these things are important from the Police department to the school and the flooding and we got them done. He doesn't see that streets are as important as a new fire station. Councilmember Siipola noted that the tab fee is not new, so it is not increasing or adding a tax. The Fire District is its own entity and the district includes all the area outside in the county as well. Mayor Reuter noted that next November Kalama may have two issues on the ballot the new fire station funding and the sales tax for funding streets. The voters will decide where they want to spend their money. It is a way of letting the citizens determine how they spend their money and what is important to them. It will be difficult for the new Council and the public to understand if the tab doesn't reduce if I-976 passes. The tab fees were explained. The complaints about the lack of street repairs is what the Council will hear. No action was taken on the issue.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tourism Policy, Procedure, and Committee Recommendations

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster provided the recommendations from the Tourism Committee to the Council. The Council requested during the 2019 budget discussions that a committee be formed to look at how the City spends the tourism dollars. The members of the committee were citizens that are familiar with the tourism activities in Kalama, including Councilmember Mary Putka, Liz Newman, Port of Kalama, Linda Dolph, citizen and Heritage Festival organizer, Taryn Nelson, Kalama Chamber, Carol Day, Amalak and Kalama Library, Eric Nerison, Kalama Schools, Matt Salsman, McMenamins, and Mary Gillespie, Kalama Lions. The Committee reviewed the laws regarding tourism funding, and information from other jurisdictions for policy and procedures. They recommend the City establish a Kalama Tourism Advisory Committee. They are presenting a draft ordinance to the Council which establishes the committee and its membership and procedures and sets out policy for addressing tourism and funding in the City. They developed a new application for the awarding of tourism dollars. Ms. McMaster explained that normally the applications are sent out at the first of September, but since this was in the process that is not the case this year. They will go out immediately if the council adopts the policy with a return date of October 15th. Hopefully the committee can send the recommendations back to the Council by the second meeting in November. This was one of the reasons she asked committee members to serve on the new Advisory Committee if the City establishes it. State law does set out criteria for the make-up of the Committee which includes two representatives that collect the lodging tax funds, two representatives that use the funding, and a Councilmember as the Chair. It is recommended that Kalama's committee have two additional positions, a citizen at large and a Kalama business owner for a total of 7 members. Councilmember Putka would head the committee with Liz Newman and Matt Salsman as the representatives that collect the lodging tax funds, Linda Dolph and Taryn Nelson as representatives that use the funding, and Mary Gillespie has applied for the citizen at large position. The City would still need a local business owner to complete the seven-member

committee. They are one-year positions, so new members could be appointed next year. Councilmember Sandra Macias explained that the Council wanted a committee to review the process and policy as since McMenamins opened the City now receives close to \$30,000 in lodging tax dollars versus the \$3000 to 4000 it use to receive. Councilmember Putka pointed out the policy is specific with criteria for what will qualify for funding, so the City won't just be giving the money away. Councilmembers were all impressed with the application. Councilmember Macias asked if the special event permit requirements were addressed in the application to deal with public safety concerns. Ms. McMaster noted that it isn't connected to the funding, but that it is referenced as to all the things that are required by the special events permit and if they are included in the funding budget being presented, as well as recommending the applicant meet with the Police, Fire and Public Works while planning the event. Committee member Linda Dolph suggested that staff also pass the information to the police of what events are coming. Committee member Eric Nerison thanked the city for going through the process in developing a policy to encourage tourism in the community.

8. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1426 Tourism Advisory Committee and Policy

Ordinance no. 1426 was read by title: An Ordinance of the City Council of the city of Kalama, Washington establishing a Kalama Tourism Advisory Committee (KTAC), as well as policy and procedures related to tourism funds including evaluating applications from public, non-profit, and for-profit entities requesting funding from the City's tourism dollars. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola made a motion the Council adopt Ordinance No. 1426 as read. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Kalama citizen Tanaja Gravina commented that she appreciates the Council not taking the Councilmanic action. The public doesn't feel they have a say when this is done. Past actions left people feeling unheard. She believes those watching this meeting will feel like they were heard. While she believes that streets need to be maintained, this would not be the action to take. The initiative being poorly written will face legal challenges and the legislature will likely take some action on the issues. The action does not totally appear to be heartfelt but maybe a bit spiteful, which is sad, but she does understand the frustration of the Councilmembers.

Kalama citizen John Flynn stated he appreciates the Council giving the issue a second thought and taking no action on the TBD Councilmanic bond. As a candidate for the Council he thinks he speaks for all of the candidates, he accepts the challenge of addressing the issue next year and believes they are all up to it.

Kalama citizen Linda Dolph, requested some clarification regarding the bond and the initiative as she missed the workshop. City Administrator Adam Smee explained the initiative will take the City tab fee of \$40 away. The City by issuing a bond which would be paid by the existing tab fee would preserve the \$40 fee into the future until the bond is paid back. The City

is not putting anything on the ballot for November. This is a maneuver to preserve existing funding which other jurisdictions are also looking at to address street funding. The initiative is poorly written, but if it passes and the City has taken no actions, the other option to the City is to go out next year for a sales tax to fund street improvements to restore funding. The bond would be used to fund a number of street improvements immediately rather than one a year and regardless of whether I-976 passed or not the tab fees would be used to pay the debt.

Kalama citizen Jim Bain commented that he feels the responsible thing for the Council to do is to cover the revenue stream and pass the bond. He noted that he does not believe this is "loophole" that Adam just found. It is an option that it is his responsibility to present to the Council, and was one of the options available. It is one of the top four things the Council needs to do – protect streets. Mayor Reuter noted that Adam did discuss the option with him first and he approved the information being presented to the Council for discussion. Councilmember Macias noted that it is his and Coni's role to provide the Council with information which is more readily available to them. Council business cannot be discussed outside of a public meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor Mike Reuter reported that there are a few more hours on the Give More 24 event. Kalama's main charity organization is Envision Kalama. There are several more organizations that can be donated to throughout the County.

B. Councilmember Jon Stanfill reported he attend the Chamber meeting. There will be a Haunted Pub Crawl coming up. A representative from the Longview/Kelso Chamber meeting was there to discuss the education and initiatives. Kalama Chamber members can take advantage of the Longview/Kelso programs.

C. Councilmember Sandra Macias reported the Port has announced that KOIN is putting a weather cam at the Port which will be a neat feature.

D. Councilmember Mike Langham had no report.

E. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola reported she will attend the COG board meeting next week and attend SWRTPO meeting yesterday. She took the opportunity to address Ms. Gravina's comment that nothing is being done out of spite, but she is challenging the incoming Councilmembers who will be leading the City. People will show up and be angry for different reasons to let the Council know how they feel. She hopes the candidates will prepare for it, listen, learn and be responsible. Listen to what staff has to say, as they are there to provide information. She added that Kalama has a staff that is more professional then any other city this size in the state. Once they recognize and see how other cities are struggling, they will appreciate that fact. There are things that need to be done. Economic development down being one and others that provide the quality of life that we all enjoy and is drawing new residents to want to come here. Kalama will grow and we can do a lot with what we have and

can't stop the growth. The new Council will have to address issues and need to learn the rules and laws that will allow them to do what is necessary to keep the City operating efficiently. Needs of the City will always be there and are never done. The City is an equal partner with the School, the Fire District, and the Port – not a junior partner and for the Council the City has to come first. Putting items on the ballot is not easy as the Councilmembers are limited by campaign rules.

F. Councilmember Mary Putka reported the Library will be getting a fifth computer from the state which will be set up and reserved for adults. Mayor Reuter noted there were also four tablets received. Councilmember Putka added that Library staff will be working to establish relationships with the school over the next year. Amalak made a donation to the Library to be use for junior non-fiction. FOLK is looking at how it might possibly be able to provide cards to families that cannot afford to purchase one. There are some challenges, but they along with the Library Board are looking into it. She added there will be a beginner's computer class at the Library this weekend.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. City Administrator Adam Smee reported he will be attending the upcoming Port of Kalama meeting on their capital improvement plan next Tuesday. He will also be making a trip to Wenatchee to look at an economic development program. Today he sat on a panel for a Boundary Review Board event which involved BRB representatives from all over the state right here in Kalama. Staff has met with the School's architect regarding the timeline for submittal of materials for improvements at the High School and Middle School. He continued that a meeting was held today regarding a multi-family development project up on Cloverdale that would be three four-plexes. As with much of Kalama, there are topography challenges for access and fire access, but the pre-application meeting provides them with information on what they need to do. Administrator Smee noted he attend a forum on the new legislation that addresses homelessness by allowing jurisdictions to enact a measure that would divert a portion of the state's sales tax (not increasing taxes) to be used for locally. The amounts are based on sales, and Kalama's would be around \$5000 a year. This wouldn't do much, but the City could contribute to another entity such as Longview or the County so we could participate. He attended the Solid Waste Advisory Committee as the Small Cities Representative where they are updating the Solid Waste Management Plan which sets out how the region deals with waste. One recommendation is that they bring rate increases to the cities before the implementation.

B. Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen was absent.

C. Police Chief Ralph Herrera presented his statistical report of 145 calls for service with 20 reports. The staff is learning to use the new Lexipol programs and will be ready to begin updating the policies. The Jail contract is still being negotiated which will impact the budget which he is working on. Octoberfest at McMenamins is this weekend, but is an indoor event. There is a planning meeting for the Lighted Boat Festival next week. It was noted that this event is growing. National Coffee with a Cop days is coming up and will be held at Kalama Koffee.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported the Department Heads have all received the revenues, payroll and other info for the 2020 budget so they are now working on the other expenses. She let all the candidates know that Amalak is working with the League of Women Voters to host a Kalama candidate forum in October. She has sent all the candidates information on who to contact and encourages to do so soon, so a date can be confirmed. The event may be held in the Chambers so it can be broadcast live or at the Community Building where it will be recorded.

E. City Attorney Sam Satterfield had no report.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including: Claims and Payroll Warrants #40756-40812 plus ACH/EFT payments for the Month of September in the amount of \$ 191,297.87; minutes of the September 5,2019 City Council Meeting and the September 17, 2019 City Council workshop; reappointment of Coleen Neel to the Cowlitz County Mosquito Control Board for a two-year term; and appoint the following to the Kalama Tourism Advisory Committee for the Term of October 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020:

Mary Putka – Chair – Term to end 12-31-2019
Liz Newman
Matt Salsman
Linda Dolph
Taryn Nelson
Mary Gillespie

Councilmember Jon Stanfill seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reuter adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

Mike Reuter - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer