

**CITY OF KALAMA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 2, 2007**

**1. OPENING**

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the City Council meeting at 5:35 p.m.

**A. Flag Salute**

Mayor Poulsen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Roll Call**

Councilmembers present were Adam Smee, Dominic Ciancibelli, Chuck Hutchinson, Don Purvis, and Bud Gish. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Bruce Hall. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent. 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**

**Post Office - Objection to the Placement of the Ballot Box.**

Postmaster Alice Farrarin-Laroy addressed the Council regarding their decision at the last City Council meeting to approve the placement of a ballot drop box along the drive through path of the post office. Ms. Farrarin-Laroy indicated that she and her superiors are very displeased with the location as it is too close to the mail boxes. This will cause a great deal of confusion for patrons. Many will be placing unstamped ballots into the mail box rather than the ballot boxes and then these votes will end up not being counted. The other issue is that in order for anyone to access the ballot box, they will have to cross post office property, and no premission has been requested or granted for this access. Ms. Farrarin-Laroy asked why the City did not consider other locations. She suggested the City consider somewhere along the alley that goes behind the City Hall and the Post Office. It was explained that the location along the Ivy Street right-of-way near the Post Office provides the most visible and easy access for the public. It is at least 10 to 15 feet from the existing mail box location. Ms. Farrarin-Laroy strongly suggested that the City needs to obtain an easement to allow for access through the Post Office parking lot and drive through lane in order to place the box where they intend to place it. Mayor Poulsen and the Council requested a formal letter from the Postmaster General addressing their concerns. The City Attorney would be contacted about the need for an easement and if the action taken by the Council was legal. Out of consideration, the City staff would look for other possible locations. Post Office employee Tina Harding explained that people will drop the ballots in the mail box, and placing the ballot box near the mail box will be creating a problem.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Corner Cup Espresso Proposal**

Police Chief Bruce Hall, Sgt. Steve Parker, and Police Explorer Cody Traub showed a video of the site presenting several traffic flow scenarios. A large van was placed at the proposed location to represent the building, and several different size vehicles were used to demonstrate the access to the building, showing access and visibility issues. Applicant Jennifer Amren indicated that the lanes on each side of the building would be one-way only, and they would limit the southside exit to a left turn only.

David Nelson, attorney representing Jeff and Norman Carrigg who own properties adjacent to the area to be used for the espresso stand, expressed his clients' concerns. This activity will block the view of the building on the adjoining lot and limit the area where semi-trucks currently park while visiting the Columbia Inn Restaurant, thereby reducing their business. Mr. Nelson also addressed his belief that the City could not allow a dedicated street to be used for commercial purposes, suggesting that the City Attorney be asked if this is an appropriate use of City right-of-way. It was explained that this had been addressed by the City Attorney and was legal and has been done in other jurisdictions. Ms. Amren indicated that prior to her discussions with the City, she had discussed the proposal with Mr. Jeff Carrigg, as she had believed the property to be his. There was some discussion that if curbs were in place along the street in that area, there would be limits on the parking. The street right-of-way on the south side is used as restaurant parking now.

Chief Hall explained his purpose in doing the video had been to shoot holes in the engineer's report, which he had read but had not fully understood. As shown in the video, he was not able to do this. The Council will have to make a judgement call, but he has great concerns with the traffic flow. Councilmember Don Purvis indicated that he had sent a letter to the City Attorney requesting information on the City's possible liability if they were to approve the proposal, but had not received a response at this time. He has concerns that with the engineer's report on file, the City could be open for some liability. Ms. Amren noted that the liability would be placed on her as the leasee and drivers also have to be held liable for their own actions. It was noted that there are other areas that have visibility concerns in the downtown area. This is not a good argument for creating another one. Mayor Poulsen raised his concerns that people will be taking shortcuts from the drive throughs.

Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli stated that he had participated in the video with the Chief and after doing so, found the traffic concerns to be very scary. He added that many customers may find the traffic concerns to be such that they may not patronize the business. He indicated that he would like to hear from the City Attorney regarding the liability issues. There was some discussion regarding having only one drive-up window to help alleviate the traffic concerns, but Ms. Amren indicated that one window would not support the business adequately. It was asked how this would affect the Saturday Market which is located on the adjacent property, plus the other business activities in the area. Ms. Amren indicated that she believed it could all be done safely.

Councilmember Adam Smee made a motion the City Council grant the lease conditioned that there be a curb placed as approved by the Public Works Director; the stop sign be moved, and the leasee is to pay for all improvements. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson seconded. Councilmember Bud Gish announced he would be abstaining from the vote due to his relationship

with the applicant. The vote carried with a vote of 2 in favor (Smee & Hutchinson), 1 against (Purvis) and one abstention (Ciancibelli). The City will draw up the lease and contact the applicant.

**B. Juniper Street Vacation - Sherry's Corner - Recommendations from Planning Commission**

The Council reviewed the recommendations from the Planning Commission and confirmed the location of the property being vacated. This is the area adjacent to the laundromat, currently used as a parking lot. It would not be possible to put a street through the area as it goes straight up a cliff. The Planning Commission has recommended approval, and an ordinance has been prepared for action later in the meeting.

**C. Woerz - Taylor Road Maintenance Request**

Mayor Poulsen noted that after reviewing the proposal, he cannot see what the City can do. This is a private roadway, a portion of which lies in the County. The portion in the County actually lies between the portion that is in the City limits and the existing City street, Taylor Road. After checking with City Planner Justin Erickson, it appears that this area is also outside the City's designated urban services boundary. Councilmember Bud Gish noted his concern that were the City to provide maintenance to a private road, it could be considered a gift of public funds. There was further discussion about having the roadway turned over to the City, but it was believed that the only way that could happen would be to have the area annexed into the City. The roadway would then have to be widened as well to meet City standards, and the applicant has indicated that he does not wish to do that. He would like to blacktop the road at its present 12 foot width. The private drive is owned by the adjoining property owners. There are utility easements within the drive. The County will not let the Woerzs build another home on the property unless the driveway is publicly maintained, and the County will not do so. Mayor Poulsen indicated that he will meet with the City Attorney and City Planner again and discuss the issue, but at this time he does not see how the City can agree to maintain a roadway that is not city-owned nor inside the City limits.

**8. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**9. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Ordinance No. 1196 - An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington, relating to street vacations, authorizing the vacation of approximately 5033 square feet of undeveloped right-of-way along a portion of Juniper Street in downtown Kalama, Cowlitz County, Washington.**

Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson made a motion the City Council adopt Ordinance No 1196 as read by the City Clerk. Councilmember Adam Smee seconded. The exact area of the vacation was discussed and identified. It was noted that the applicant owns property on both the north and south sides of the street right-of-way. The motion carried.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE -**

**A. Letter from the Kalama Fair regarding parade and street closures.**

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

A. Mayor Pete Poulsen reported to the Council that the culvert replacement has been completed by the railroad. The Port of Kalama did contribute \$20,000 to the Railroad for the cost of the job. Department of Transportation has provided \$30,000 to the City to cover those costs. The actual costs for the City to remove and secure the sewer line during the project was just over \$32,000, so the City will have to cover the amount over the \$30,000 plus the previous amount of \$9000 plus that was paid out.

The Fir Street project is looking good, and the contractor has made great progress. Mayor Poulsen informed the Council that he has decided to hold off on having the First Street parking stripes repainted. The only way to remove the stripes is to paint over them or burn them off. Either way will leave scars on the road and will make the street look very poor. After all the money spent, it would be a shame to allow the look of the street to become a blemish. There were some objections from the Council. The cost would be on the contractor to fix it and the City should be able to demand that it be done in such a way that the street looks new. Mayor Poulsen agreed to let the Council make the final decision. He believes that people will adjust to the way the lines have been painted, and so far there have been no major problems.

There was also a request made that the City enforce the 2 hour parking limitations, especially when a vehicle is parked for several days and causes an obstruction to other traffic. The Auto Parts business is now parking their customers' cars on the street which is also cause for some concerns.

B. Councilmember Adam Smee had no report.

C. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli had no report.

D. Councilmember Chuck Hutchinson had no report.

E. Councilmember Donald Purvis had no report.

F. Councilmember Bud Gish reported the Public Works Committee had met and discussed the projects. He noted that the dog kennel at the WWTP has been poured and the Council will be hearing from the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding playground equipment at an up coming meeting.

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A. Director of Public Works Carl McCrary had no report.

B. Police Chief Bruce Hall wished everyone a safe 4th.

C. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster informed the Council that the official population of Kalama is now 2105. She also requested that the Councilmembers try to plan to attend a portion of the Days of Discovery event coming up on August 25 and 26th.

D. City Attorney Paul Brachvogel was absent.

**13. CONSENT AGENDA -**

*Councilmember Bud Gish made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including the Claims Vouchers Totaling \$ 977,449.72 for June 2007, the Payroll Vouchers totaling \$108,289.94 for June 2007, and the minutes of the June 18, 2007 City Council Meeting*  
Councilmember Don Purvis seconded, and the motion carried.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the tape can be made available for listening.

      /s/        
**Pete Poulsen - Mayor**

      /s/        
**Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer**