

January 3, 2012

6:30 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE – Administered by the Honorable Edward Putka

- Susan Humbyrd, Council position No. 5
- Grover Laseke, Mayor

7:00 p.m.

The REGULAR Meeting of the Woodland City Council was held on the above date at the Woodland City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 Davidson Avenue, Woodland WA. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grover Laseke at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present:

Councilmember John Burke
Councilmember Marilee McCall
Councilmember Susan Humbyrd
Councilmember Benjamin Fredricks
Councilmember Al Swindell
Councilmember Marshall Allen
Councilmember Scott Perry

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Clerk-Treasurer Mari Ripp
Police Chief Rob Stephenson
City Attorney Bill Eling
Fire Chief Mike Jackson
Community Development Planner Carolyn Johnson
Interim Public Works Director Ken Alexander

PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF MAYOR PROTEM

- a. Recognition of Councilmember Marilee McCall for earning the AWC Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML).
- b. Mayor ProTem Nominations and Election

Councilmember Perry Nominated John J. Burke and seconded by Councilmember Allen.

Councilmember McCall nominated herself and seconded by Councilmember Humbyrd.

Councilmember Swindell moved to close the nominations and seconded by Councilmember Humbyrd.

Mayor Laseke handed out the ballots for voting. Discussion followed.

Vote: 4 votes for Councilmember Burke and 3 votes for Councilmember McCall. Councilmember Burke was elected to Mayor ProTem. **ballots with results are an official part of the minutes.*

CITIZEN INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Gary Gray, Longview WA for Americorp - will be in Woodland on January 16th on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day for a community service project titled Make this a Holiday “A Day On, Not a Day Off”.

Sarah Clark, Woodland WA for Americorp - will be doing a service project at the Woodland Community Service Center, January 16th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a deep cleaning, minor repairs and food donations.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Burke moved to approve the meeting agenda. Councilmember Swindell seconded the motion.

Yes: Burke, McCall, Humbyrd, Fredricks, Swindell, Allen, Perry No: None Abstain: None. (7-0) M/S/C

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

- Mayor
 - Citywide employee meeting January 4th 8:00 a.m. at Council Chambers
 - Met with the Department Heads; will be touring city facilities this week and meeting with many people
- Clerk/Treasurer
 - Liquor License: Contract Liquor Store #582 (Kester)
 - Special Meeting/Workshop Monday, January 9, 2012 7:00 p.m. re: Council committee assignments, review Ord. 1180-Council Rules & Procedures, discuss 2012 calendar for upcoming issues such as Transportation Benefit District, Council Retreat, etc.
 - Special Meeting January 18, 2012 6:00 p.m. for WQCC (City, School, Port) at Community Center re: discussion on local issues
 - Community member Dave Kroon (Fran Kroon) is in Legacy hospital for a medical condition. They are suggesting that people donate blood in support of Dave and the family.
- Police
 - First day of assignment of detective position to Dave Plaza; Officer Murray rotated back to an officer position per a regular rotation
- Fire
 - 2011 call volume is the highest ever
 - Some members are attending EMT training
- Public Works
 - Davidson Alley waterline project is complete except for paving
 - Port meeting on Guild Road
 - ADA ramps/sidewalk WSDOT project is done
- Planning
 - Looking to organize a 2012 Joint meeting with the Council to set Goals & Priorities by the end of February; Date TBD
 - Aging Readiness presentation upcoming
- Attorney
 - Report on payroll correction re: Chief Jackson & Chief Stephenson Options: invoke Administrative Appeal and City could reach a settlement; City could

adjust salaries going forward, but the City will need to recover the repayment. No council action is required for the repayment of funds. The Council may elect to place the two Department Heads at the “presumed” step increase. City Attorney also contacted MRSC for guidance.

Councilmember Fredricks requested that action be set to have the 2 department heads (Chief Jackson and Chief Stephenson) move to the next step on the step plan for 2012 and have it on the next council agenda (for January 17th). Discussion followed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Human Resources/
Government | - Susan Humbyrd | - Met 12/29 and reviewed Public Works Director applications; selected 5 finalist for interviews to be held on January 20 th ; Public Meet and Greet the finalists on January 19 th 7:00 p.m. |
| Finance | - Benjamin Fredricks | - Next meeting TBD |
| Public Safety | - Marilee McCall | - Next meeting January 17 th 5:45 p.m. |
| Public Utilities | - Al Swindell | - Next meeting January 10 th 5:30 p.m. |
| • Facilities | - Marilee McCall | - Meeting TBD and next steps going forward |
| • Horseshoe Lake Mgmt | - | - No report |
| Parks/Recreation | - Susan Humbyrd | - Last meeting cancelled; Next meeting TBD |

AD HOC COMMITTEES

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Comprehensive Plan Review | - Marilee McCall | - Cowlitz Co. is working on their Comp Plan; information forthcoming |
| Cowlitz Wahkiakum Council of Governments | - Susan Humbyrd | - Next meeting Jan 26 th at noon |
| AWC/Legislative | - Al Swindell | - AWC Legislative Action Conference Jan 25-26 Olympia |
| | | - AWC Elected Officials training is Jan 13-14 Lynnwood or Feb 10-11 in Tacoma: (See CT to register) |
| Chamber of Commerce | - Darlene Johnson | - Ed Orcutt attended the Chamber meeting; Legislative calls begin Jan 17 th 7:30 a.m.; Annual installation banquet on Jan 21 st at Red Lion in Kelso 6:00 p.m. A bus will be available for transportation |
| Downtown Revitalization | - Tom Golik | - |
| Woodland Quality Community Coalition | - Marilee McCall | - Next meeting January 18, 2012 6:00 p.m. for WQCC (City, School, Port) at Community Center |

CITIZEN INPUT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Sandy Larson-5111 NW 389th Street - spoke on the proposed tax on the utilities and costs to tenants.

Nelson Holmberg-Executive Director, Port of Woodland, 115 Davidson Avenue- is concerned about the proposed tax, the expense to do business in Woodland, to attract new business and retain current businesses. He read comments from businesses and their concerns.

Walter Hansen, Sr. PO Box 2000, Woodland – agrees that it is a poor time to raise taxes in a poor economy. The City should not have spent reserves in past years when it was not an emergency. Recommends approval of Consent Item C to support the Tourist Information Center for Hotel Motel Tax and Consent Item E-Woodland Historical Museum. Also Consent Item-D to the Lilac Gardens. Does not support item I-Ordinance No. 1228 Public Utility Tax.

Bernie Schockelt - represents industry and Columbia River Carbonates (CRC), 300 N. Pekin Road – spoke on taxes. Stated that CRC has paid taxes amounting to thousands of dollars to various agencies in the city and county. He stated the 18% PUD rate increase is a windfall to the local government. The city needs to provide an economy that is conducive to business. They may not be making a \$50,000 donation to the new park project in light of the tax and cost of business. They are against the utility tax

Jeff Luethold, 3913 NW Bratton Road – spoke against the public utility tax. He is also a landlord for rental properties. He would like to see Woodland be more of a bedroom community and grow in manufacturing, commercial, etc. We should not have higher taxes than Kalama, Ridgefield, etc. We need better incentives. If you need to fund fire life safety then reprioritize the expenses.

Donna Butler, 315 Hollyberry Street – appeal to the council to vote no against the Public Utility Tax. She spoke to some local residents.

Dan Moir, 1365 Lewis River Road, Hi School Pharmacy – will affect their customers if the tax is passed. If you add it to the water and sewer rate increase and the PUD increase, it affects the residents.

Willis Martin, manage Woodland Manufactured Home Park with 130 homes at 369 Gun Club Road – this is difficult to the residents at their park. Their residents benefit from the police and fire almost weekly. However many senior citizens cannot afford another increase. Encourage the City to find another source of revenue for the Fire Department.

Darlene Johnson, PO Box 1808, Woodland – is against the Public Utility Tax. It is not a good time. A little bit here and here and here. Fire and Police are an important aspect of the General Fund. Prioritize the expenditures. It is legally right but morally wrong to put a tax on the utilities. Only charge for the cost of the services. Woodland needs to be in the place to attract businesses to the city and to provide family wage jobs.

Darwin Rounds, 576 Buckeye Street, Woodland - The idea is a priority by choice not a necessity. There are other dollars estimated to cover it as a projection. The whole budget is a projection. The sunset clause is questionable because it is a bad idea. This will not be a help to the school and their issue this spring.

Dave Wells, 2028 Rhododendron Dr. – is a landlord and business owner. Does not support the proposed tax. Business expenses are going up and more costs are coming. Look at filling the buildings downtown and look to the future.

Nick Massie, P.O. Box 1527, Woodland - spoke on the payroll mistake. Is the council catching the other possible mistakes? Need to look at tightening belts before a tax increase.

Council recessed at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Claims Voucher warrants 42628 through 42713 for the month of December 2011 in the amount of \$212,748.60 and payroll warrants number 29524 through 29540 for the month of December 2011 in the amount of \$284,205.93 for a grand total of \$496,954.53.
- B. Approval of minutes of December 19, 2011.
- C. Authorize Mayor to sign Agreement for 2012 Hotel Motel funding with the Woodland Tourist Information Center.
- D. Authorize Mayor to sign Agreement for 2012 Hotel Motel funding with the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens.
- E. Authorize Mayor to sign Agreement for 2012 Hotel Motel funding with the Woodland Historical Museum.
- F. Authorize Mayor to sign Cowlitz Co. Humane Society 2012 Agreement.
- G. Authorize Mayor to sign Downtown Woodland Revitalization Agreement for 2012.
- H. Authorize bid award to Sunbelt Rentals in the amount of \$18,204.84 with tax for purchase of generator for Wastewater Lift Stations.

Councilmember Swindell moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Burke seconded the motion.

Yes: Burke, McCall, Humbyrd, Fredricks, Swindell, Allen, Perry No: None Abstain: None. (7-0)

M/S/C

ACTION AGENDA

Action I) Ordinance No. 1228 – Imposing a 6.5% Public Utility Tax on Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste (FINAL READING) -- TABLED to May 21, 2012

Councilmember McCall moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1228- imposing a 6.5% Public Utility Tax on Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste/Recycling subject to a sunset of three (3) years after adoption (FINAL READING). Councilmember Fredricks seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Motion to TABLE to 2nd council meeting in May after receiving 1st Quarter 2012 Finance Reports

Councilmember Perry moved to table this item to the 2nd meeting in May after receiving 1st Quarter 2012 finance reports. Councilmember Burke seconded the motion.

Yes: Burke, Humbyrd, Allen, Perry No: McCall, Fredricks, Swindell Abstain: None. (4-3)

M/S/C

Council recessed at 9:18 p.m. and reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

Action J) Renewal of Contract with Metereaders, LLC for water meter reading

Councilmember Swindell moved to authorize contract renewal with Metereaders, LLC for reading water meters beginning January 1, 2012. Councilmember Fredricks seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Yes: Burke, McCall, Humbyrd, Fredricks, Swindell, Allen, Perry No: None Abstain: None. (7-0)

M/S/C

Action K) Ordinance No. 1222 – adopting a moratorium on medical marijuana and growing gardens (FIRST & FINAL READING) – TABLED to January 17th

Councilmember Fredricks moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1222- adopting a moratorium on medical marijuana and growing gardens in the City of Woodland (FIRST & FINAL READING). Councilmember Burke seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The City Attorney gave a report on the matter.

Motion to TABLE to next council meeting on January 17th

Councilmember Fredricks moved to table to January 17th and City Attorney will present options for 1) moratorium 2) Zoning restrictions. Councilmember Humbyrd seconded the motion.

Yes: Burke, McCall, Humbyrd, Fredricks, Swindell, Allen, Perry No: None Abstain: None. (7-0)

M/S/C

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Swindell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Humbyrd seconded the motion.

Yes: Burke, McCall, Humbyrd, Fredricks, Swindell, Allen, Perry No: None Abstain: None. (7-0)

M/S/C

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Grover B. Laseke, Mayor

Minutes approved: January 17, 2012

Attest: _____

Mari E. Ripp, Clerk-Treasurer

These minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings.
A recording is available in the office of the Clerk-Treasurer