

**January 16, 2013**

The SPECIAL Joint Meeting of the Woodland Quality Community Coalition (WQCC)- Woodland City Council, Woodland School District and Port of Woodland was held on the above date at the Woodland Community Center at 782 Park Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Grover Laseke, Mayor.

**WQCC-Woodland Quality Community Coalition**

**Mission Statement** – *Community stakeholders promoting common values, visions & goals for Woodland and the Lewis River Valley.*

**City of Woodland**

Councilmember John Burke  
Councilmember Marshall Allen  
Councilmember Benjamin Fredricks  
Councilmember Susan Humbyrd  
Councilmember Marilee McCall  
Councilmember Al Swindell  
Councilmember Scott Perry  
Public Works Director Bart Stepp  
Community Dev Planner Carolyn Johnson

**Woodland School District**

Superintendent Michael Green  
School Board Member Tina Cayton

**CWCOG**

Executive Director Steve Harvey

**Port of Woodland**

Executive Director Nelson Holmberg  
Commissioner Paul Cline  
Commissioner Dale Boon

Mayor Laseke introduced Steve Harvey and announced this would be his last facilitation before he retires. Steve Harvey spoke on directions the area has been going relating to community development.

**Updates from Entities:**

**1. City of Woodland**

- Economic Development Committee – Meets at 7:00 AM, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at Port office. Mayor Grover Laseke stated that downtown invigoration is one focus. Mayor Laseke reported that the new economic development groups have been meeting since first of August regarding strategies & what needs to be worked on. They have been looking recently at the losses of long standing businesses such as Bank of America (closing in March 2013), Oak Tree & Lewis River Motors. Looking at benefits to “reinventing” those spots with new businesses.

Nelson Holmberg – getting to deliverables, tasks – will do/has done(?) Op Ed piece to focus on positives such as featuring new businesses coming in such as Portco. News media – negative focus. Look at marketing report done 10 years

ago. Councilmember McCall suggested maybe a PSU student to work on a project and spoke on marketing the city.

- Industrial uses/commercial uses – Discussion re: only so much industrial land available; especially the 460 acres in Bottoms. Should be discouraging more commercial uses to be allowed in industrial zones. Inquiries are increasing from Puget Sound, Portland/Vancouver.
- Investments in trails, parks – quality of place that will attract new business. Need to look further into future about what development is desirable and facilities for people. City and port cooperative discussions have been good, should continue. Rely on economic development group to do the discussions. Discussion on how to better communicate, coordinate. Must be a “regional player,” all will benefit. Schools are a vital part of quality of community.
- Downtown Revitalization – Decided at last meeting that the next meeting will be at 5:00 pm to encourage participation.
- Marijuana – Liquor Control Board is holding a forum February 7, 6:00 pm at Clark College. Collective gardens moratorium will continue until legalities are hammered out.
- Police Station – Hoping to break ground soon.
- Council Retreat – will be held at the Port of Woodland Community Meeting room on January 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.
- State of the City Address– February 19th at council meeting.
- Fire Department – Finalizing specifics of the new contract with Clark County Fire Rescue and Clark County District No. 2 and is starting to come together with an anticipated target date if March 1st.
- Planning Commission & Park Board both have openings.
- Scott Avenue – Bart Stepp reported that the Port is voting on a support resolution and is sending an RFP to a consultant. The city received a TIB grant for overlay. Ranney Well project report should be back soon. SR503 turn lane construction at Gun Club and Hillshire will begin this summer.
- DWR meeting – Councilmember McCall and Fredricks are attending February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Laseke would be interested in having someone from student council to attend council meetings and give them an opportunity to be involved.

## **2. School District**

- Construction of new school is steaming toward Phase I. Looking to do a formal ground breaking with date TBD.
- Working on gym project in Yale School. Working to resolve issues with county permitting.

- National Board Certification – Woodland has several teachers who are working towards this. New teacher evaluation is designed to improve education and believes will have a positive impact.
- Working with Chief Jackson & Chief Stephenson on school safety. Is thankful for the interagency cooperation.
- Lewis River Academy – Program designed to assist homeschool families. Has high level of accountability.

### **3. Port of Woodland**

- Boat launch project is moving along with help of rural development funds. Will be a lengthy process due to permitting.
- Feasibility study for incubator park on Guild Road based on a park in Walla Walla. Expects it to take up around 3 acres.
- Strategic Plan refresh is in process.
- Noah's Ark was closed as their license was pulled but was purchased by Harlow's Trailways in January. Close to adding them to the Port and Harlow's added the existing employees from NA.
- The Port has a new intern, Darian Hopkins, a 17 year old who is doing running start at LCC. He is from Castle Rock and has public service aspirations.
- Carol Moore, Port Auditor, was announced as Employee of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Banquet.

### **4. Cowlitz Wahkiakum Council of Governments**

- Broadband feasibility meetings are upcoming in Cougar & Toutle in February. Have online surveys available for residents and businesses.
- Fire & Ice—will affect 503, 504 & Skamania County. Jennifer Keene is the contact on this project.
- SR 432—Consultant team is gathering information regarding traffic.
- Joint meeting of COG/CLEDD (Cowlitz-Lewis Economic Development District) meeting, January 31<sup>st</sup> and will consist of a work session on regional issues.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Industrial Use** – Mayor Laseke spoke on rezoning that the city has faced. Nelson Holmberg added that the Port is not opposed to any particular project but that they wanted to keep industrial property zoned as industrial to keep industry in Woodland and to attract light industrial jobs to our area. The Port has had several inquiries from businesses looking to move away from the highly populated areas such as Seattle and Vancouver. Commissioner Paul Cline asked

if there had been any common reasons why certain businesses decided to not locate here and if so, what can we do about that. Councilmember Scott Perry pointed out that people don't disclose their business plans because of competition. Mayor Laseke pointed out that as long as a business is code compliant that the City couldn't and shouldn't allow them in. Councilmember McCall shared how the quality of life in the area attracts industry and that we shouldn't be shortsighted regarding what our needs will be in 15-20 years. Councilmember Fredricks asked if there was any framework for being able to work within the various entities so that there would be a greater understanding between policy makers and entities.

- **Land Here, Live Here** – Regionalization—we are part of the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. PDX and I-5 makes our area attractive because of our available land and lack of traffic. The Discovery Corridor is starting to include Woodland. Nelson Holmberg said he would be glad to share more individually and would take the charge to lead if anyone wanted to join the port. Mayor Laseke added that developing relationships is so important to make communities blossom. Councilmember Al Swindell added the importance of attractive schools. Discussion of the importance of the community college presence in the area. The group would like to invite the LCC president to the next WQCC meeting.

Next meeting is April 17, 2013 hosted by Woodland School District

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Grover B. Laseke, Mayor

Minutes approved: January 19, 2013

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Cash, Administrative Clerk III

*These minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings.*