

- 001 Mayor Barbara Larsen called the regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum Mayor Larsen continued the meeting until March 1, 2005.

Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Regular Council Meeting
March 1, 2005, continued from February 28, 2005

Tape 1 of 2

Side A

- 010 Mayor Barbara Larsen called the regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:30 p.m.; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Larsen explained that this meeting was a continuation of the February 28th Regular Council Meeting. The following councilmembers were present: Khembar Yund, Greg Marcil and Jeff Skeie.

- 031 Councilmember Marcil made a motion which was recognized by Mayor Larsen, to approve the minutes for the February 14, 2005 Regular Council Meeting.

Vote on motion: Councilmember Marcil 'Aye', Councilmembers Yund and Skeie abstained as they did not attend that meeting. Mayor Larsen recognized the minutes as adopted.

- 043 Mayor Larsen closed the regular meeting at 7:33 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing to take comment on a proposed amendment to the Castle Rock Comprehensive Plan pertaining to Park and Recreation for the City of Castle Rock.

Project Planner Justin Erickson, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Government explained that funding agencies require the plan to be updated every six years to allow the city to retain eligibility for funding opportunities. When the proposed amendments are adopted, they will supersede the 1998 Park and Recreation Plan.

Erickson noted that information used to complete the proposed Park Plan was compiled from public comments generated from over 400 community survey responders. In addition, priorities outlined by Park Board Commissioners are included in the six-year Capital Improvement Program contained in the Park Plan, which also provides a summary and timeline.

- 145 At the request of the Mayor, Public Works Director David Vorse provided a summary of progress on the Boat Launch.

Castle Rock resident Beth Coleman expressed her appreciation for the improved park facilities.

Councilmember Yund conveyed gratitude to the Park Board Commissioners, Justin Erickson and city personnel for all the work that went into the Park and Recreation Plan. Vorse noted that the Park and Recreation Plan is a collaborative effort between the City of Castle Rock and the Castle Rock School District.

Vorse responded to an inquiry made by Planning Commission member, Nancy Murphy, regarding the lack of plans for use of the land located between Green Acres, near the Cowlitz River. Vorse stated this is school board property and currently is not within the city limits.

Spencer Partridge questioned how the Sports Complex fits into the Park and Recreation Plan. Vorse explained that the Sports Complex originated as a result of the cooperation between the school district and the city and the 1998 Park and Recreation Plan. The 1998 Park and Recreation Plan provided eligibility for funding grants, the same as the 2005 Park and Recreation Plan will provide for the next six years.

226 Mayor Larsen closed the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m. after receiving no further comments, and resumed the regular session.

230 Beth Coleman, Mountain Mania representative, requests closure of Cowlitz Street West, 100 block of First Avenue SW and two blocks of Front Avenue on either side of Cowlitz Street W for the Mountain Mania event on the fourth weekend in July. Coleman will present a route map for approval at a future date. As in the past, Mountain Mania is pursuing insurance coverage thru the Castle Rock Lions Club.

By consensus, Councilmembers did not voice any concerns with the proposed street closures for that event.

276 Linda Knowles, Castle Rock Fraternal Order of Eagles, requests street closures for a short parade on Saturday June 25th at 3:00 pm during the Washington State Eagles Youth Convention. The parade would start at the Middle School Bus Garage on D Street. Participants would travel north on First Avenue SW to B Street; then proceed one block east on B Street to Front Avenue SW; and continue south on Front Avenue SW back to the Middle School. By consensus, Councilmembers supported the event and did not voice any concerns over the proposed route.

295 Jeff Rasmussen, Chairman Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners, outlined a plan to combat county methamphetamine (meth) use and associated crimes. New three part programs would be funded from a sales tax increases. These increases in the sales tax require voter approval. If approved, one-third of the added sales tax revenue would be used for educational programs, one-third used for treatment programs and one-third used for new criminal justice programs. The funds would be divided 60% to the County and 40% to cities, based on population. Cities would have the option of combining funds or using them separately. This increase would be taken to voters in the fall and include a 15 year sunset expiration clause. Rasmussen handed out a table outlining the amounts of distribution estimated to be raised should county sales taxes be increased by .1%, .2% or .3%. Rasmussen stated the county has the option of increasing sales taxes up to 0.3% but he recommends asking voters to only consider a 0.2% increase.

Councilmember Yund noted that based on the distribution table submitted by Rasmussen, a .2% increase in sales taxes would result in the city receiving only \$36,390.60. For this reason, Yund stated he supported all entities combining funds to allow development of programs to combat meth use. Councilmember Skeie stated he is not in favor of a tax increase unless a positive outcome is achieved. Rasmussen feels that prevention is a key component in combating

meth use and he added that treatment funds could also be extended toward creating alternative recreational activities. Councilmember Yund pointed out that current efforts and programs to thwart meth use are not working. Rasmussen added that the county's efforts in the battle against meth use has created a major financial impact and has forced the county to reduce funds that could have been used for park and recreation activities

Rasmussen stated that he intends to develop a committee comprised of city and county representatives to research if entities are in support of combining funding resources and to ascertain if voters would support an addition to the sales tax. Meetings will be scheduled and a time commitment will be required from all involved parties. Rasmussen will communicate meeting schedules to City Hall and asks that they disseminate the information to city councilmembers.

493 In response to a question by Mayor Larsen, Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington answered that the county is preparing a 25th anniversary commemorative edition of the "Awesome" visitor's brochure, which should be available within the month.

510 In the absence of a Fire Department representative, Covington advised that the Fire Department anticipates scheduling a training burning on March 26th. They will be using the city-owned house located on Jackson Street. Covington stated the Fire Department is requesting council approval to close Jackson Street during that event. Councilmember Marcil suggested that representatives of Cascade Select Market be notified to allow them to detour deliveries on that day.

By consensus, Councilmembers voiced no other issues with closing Jackson Street during the burn, provided the grocery store deliveries are diverted.

528 City Engineer Mike Johnson presented a response from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the "Draft" Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement for the I-5 Toutle Rest Area.

Areas noted include the following:

Condition 3 in the "Draft" Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement stated that the service charge will increase at the same rate as the City's other monthly sewer rates increase. WSDOT requests that Condition 3 be changed to state that the monthly service charge shall not be increased for five years. Johnson recommends changing Condition 3 to state that the monthly service charge shall remain fixed for a period of two years.

Condition 4 in the "Draft" Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement stated that any damage caused to the city's sewer system by the acceptance of this sewage shall be repaired at WSDOT's expense. WSDOT requests that that statement be stricken from Condition 4 as unnecessary considering the work completed by WSDOT on the city's sewer main in 2002. Johnson recommends leaving Condition 4 as it is, to assure WSDOT repairs any damage cause by sewage from the rest area.

Condition 6 in the "Draft" Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement stated that WSDOT shall implement measures to reduce the corrosive nature of the wastewater. WSDOT requests that that statement be stricken due to the measures taken to provide the city with a corrosive resistant receiving main in 2002. Johnson recommends

revising Condition 6 to state that WSDOT shall implement measures to reduce odors at these manholes. Measures may include a soil biofilter, carbon canisters, chemical injection or other method as mutually agreed to between the City and WSDOT.

Councilmember Skeie remarked that if WSDOT looked for alternatives to providing treatment of their sewer waste or if they chose to close the rest area, it could create a substantial impact to the sewer utility revenues.

By consensus, Councilmembers concurred with the city engineer's recommendations, as outlined above and directed Johnson to forward those comments to WSDOT.

Side B

589 Public Works Director David Vorse reported that the city's application for a \$655,000 Washington State Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loan to complete the Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation was granted too late for that project. Vorse noted that terms of the loan is 0.5% interest for 20 years and the funding agency has indicated an interest in amending the scope to allow the city to complete upgrades to benefit the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Vorse submitted the following list of proposed alternatives, including estimated costs and outlined benefits of each improvement:

\$200,000 Disinfection System upgrade: use of ultra violet system for disinfection and reuse for irrigation and wash down water.

\$200,000 Belt Filter Press – will reduce the time and labor needed when processing solids and will allow the city to upgrade solids to a Class A Exceptional Biosolid classification. Allow for reprocessing solids for public use and possibly create a revenue source through sales of nutrient rich organic material.

\$255,000 Upsizing of headwork and clarifier. Include improvements to main trunk lines into the plant, reduce infiltration and inflow problems in deep mains, thus ultimately increasing the treatment plant capacity for future development.

In answer to Councilmember Yund's question, Vorse stated that acceptance of this low-interest loan would require an approximate 7% increase in customer rates. He stated city officials could accept only a partial amount of the loan, or decline it altogether. Vorse noted that low interest loans of only .5% will soon be difficult to secure and recommended that councilmembers consider if the benefits of the improvements are worth any further customer increases. The public works director also cautioned that costs for the improvements are only estimates.

Councilmember Skeie and Yund agreed that the listed improvements would result in benefits to the system, however they voiced concern that further rate increases would not be supported by the community. Councilmember Marcil noted that sewer revenues are still not adequate enough to fully pay for the system needs and are currently supported (in part) by water revenues.

In answer to council's question, Vorse stated the main trunk lines were installed over fifty years ago and are 12' to 14' deep. A few

years ago, the city experienced a problem with a sink hole along those lines. Vorse estimated if another sinkhole would occur, it could cost the city over \$20,000 to repair.

Councilmember Yund remarked that the main trunk line needs to be replaced and the interest rate is very good. He did not think that the community would support the disinfection upgrades, however there would be a benefit to making improvements to upgrade the biosolids to a Class A. Yund stated he would hate to see the city lose the opportunity to take advantage of such a low interest loan offer.

Councilmember Skeie also supported upgrades to the main trunk line, but voiced concern that this would require the city to tear up a newly overlaid street. Pertaining to the main trunk line, he also stated that he would be interested in seeing where the severe problems areas are located. In addition, Mr. Skeie stated if Vorse could show that upgrading to a Class A biosolid classification would generate enough revenue to support the cost, then ratepayers might support the investment.

- 917 Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Marcil to accept the modified proposal to include upgrades to the main trunk lines and then upgrade to Class A biosolids.

In discussion, Councilmember Yund stated Vorse will still need to come before the council to request funding approval. The motion only directs Vorse to seek approval from the funding agency for the modified project scope.

Vote on the above motion: Unanimous 'Aye'.

- 944 In answer to Councilmember Yund's question regarding the city-owned house on Jackson Street, Vorse stated that prior owner, Mr. Glenn Taylor, intends to have all of his property removed and the keys turned into the city by this Thursday.
- 947 Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington stated a committee has been working to create activities scheduled on the weekends prior to and after May 18th, which is the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Covington listed some of the activities and requested council approve allocation of \$400 for development of brochures to advertise the event. Funding would come from the Hotel/Motel tax revenues.
- 980 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Skeie to allocate \$400 from the Exhibit Hall Fund for promotion of the city's 25th anniversary activities. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
- 986 Covington presented an overview of the 2005 beginning fund balances. Councilmembers noted that estimates were closer to the actual amounts. Covington also reported that she has not received any notification of having received the FEMA grant reimbursement for the Fire Department SCBA equipment and this is reflective in the General Fund beginning fund balance. In addition, estimated fund balances for the City Exhibit Hall fund and the Ambulance Service fund were higher than the actual balances. Department supervisors for these funds will need to note the discrepancy to avoid any year-end budget deficits.
- 1013 Council Report Of Meetings:
Councilmember Marcil attended the boat launch planning review meeting.

Mayor Larsen and Councilmember Skeie attended the Cowlitz Street West design meeting. Councilmember Skeie stated he was impressed with the progress.

Covington advised that the consultants for the development of a Business Feasibility and Marketing Plan will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss their progress and deliver a preliminary assessment.

1033 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Ordinance No. 2005-02, an ordinance amending the fiscal year 2004 Fire Department budget an additional \$11,993 by increasing the appropriated amount for purchase of SCBA equipment funded by a FEMA grant, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

1039 Paul Helenberg, project manager for the North County Recreation Association's sports complex project, requested that a letter be drafted to the Cowlitz County Commissioners requesting that the Rural Facilities Funds that were received from the county for installation of utility systems for the sports complex, be reallocated to fund building permit fees, construction of the concession stand and other materials. Helenberg advised that it was more cost effective to install a septic tank system to serve the complex, instead of connecting to the county service lines. Therefore, a portion of the \$100,000 received from the county Rural Development funds remains unspent. Approval to reallocate the use of these remaining funds would allow completion of various projects to support the sports complex. By consensus, Councilmembers directed staff to submit a letter to the county commissioners to amend the interlocal agreement to include funding these projects. Commissioner Rasmussen stated that he is aware of this request and the initial intent for those funds was to complete the sports complex, as long as the Rural Development funds are used in accordance with State legislation.

1094 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Resolution No. 2005-02, a resolution relating to planning pursuant to RCW 35A.63.073 amending the Castle Rock Comprehensive Plan to include an updated park and recreation plan. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

Vorse distributed copies of the Park Board minutes that outline comments received from the park plan survey. He suggested that council could review these, at their convenience.

1108 Fire Chief Koreis requested council approval to close the 600 block of Sixth Street on March 12th to allow for another training burn to be held. Closure will be from 9:00 am until the training is completed and accommodations will be made for residents.

In response to a citizen's question, Koreis outlined conditions which allow Fire Departments to conduct training burn exercises. He stated there are students needing training to complete requirements for the county fire academy and the training burns scheduled for March will accommodate their needs. By consensus, councilmembers approved of the street closure request.

1150 Chief Koreis reported that he recently attended the National Fire Academy. He is also participating in long and short term funding alternatives. Koreis noted that even with consolidation of the Fire District, city ambulance and city fire services, there will be an anticipated funding shortfall by fiscal year 2009. This estimate is based on calculations for inflation and individual needs for the

department. Currently equipment costs are increasing between 4% to 50% each year. Koreis recommended that a joint meeting between Fire District #6 Commissioners and the City Council be scheduled for April to discuss alternatives for his department.

Tape #2 of 2

Side - A

001 Branden McNew recently graduated from the Fire Academy. In addition, McNew, Rick Wakefield and Kohl Mykelbust are attending EMT training courses. Koreis stated he is focusing personnel efforts on retention and recruitment for his volunteer department.

Koreis also announced that Tiffany Palmer has been hired as a part-time clerk for the fire/ambulance department. She has a background in medical billing and she will be working Monday – Thursday in the afternoon.

070 Vorse commended Justin Erickson for developing an informational map outlining park and recreation facilities within the city. He will be getting price quotes for printing costs and Vorse hopes to distribute the pamphlet to visitors this summer.

108 Mayor Larsen adjourned regular session at 9:10 p.m. for a 15-minute executive session to discuss land acquisition. Possible action to be taken following the executive session.

110 Mayor Larsen reconvened regular session at 9:28 p.m., with no action to be taken.

111 Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer