

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the September 28, 2015 regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:32 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Lee Kessler, Earl Queen, Mike Davis and Ellen Rose.

## BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

1. Bill Kasch, Longview resident, requested city council consider banning private fireworks. He provided a copy of the Fire Protection Bureau outline on fireworks sales and discharge laws. Kasch stated 65 cities in Washington State have banned private fireworks. None of the cities within Cowlitz County have banned those uses. He plans to make this request to Cowlitz County Commissioners and other city councils. Mayor Helenberg thanked Mr. Kasch and stated the city will follow-up with Cowlitz County Commissioners for their input.

## PRESENTATION

Dianne Swanson, Castle Rock CARE Coalition coordinator, noted that every two years the CARE Coalition updates their strategic plan to evaluate issues in our community that need to be addressed. Castle Rock School District conducts an annual Healthy Youth Survey with students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. This survey includes questions evaluating perceptions relating to drug use, smoking, drinking, mental health, family involvement, school support and community involvement.

Swanson provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing results of the last Health Youth Survey and the differences of perception within grade levels.

Swanson stated CARE Coalition also conducts an annual Community Survey which is taken by students and adults. She noted the survey showed a disconnect between students and adults in their perception of underage drinking. Every adult that took the survey indicated they did not approve of underage drinking; however the students' felt that adults in the community did not have any issues with underage drinking. The coalition will be working to correct this misperception by through various campaigns and projects.

Other projects, such as the Prescription Drug Drop Box, located in the Senior Center, need to be promoted more to allow for more people to know this service is available. Swanson stated last weekend CARE Coalition held a successful medication drop off event and also distributed home lock boxes to participants.

CARE Coalition projects -

- continue to increase awareness of the harm created by alcohol and marijuana use
- addressing mental health issues for youth
- address electronic cigarette use

Swanson stated that over the past four years CARE Coalition has seen a reduction in alcohol and drug use by youth. The following are additional projects/programs sponsored or supported by the CARE Coalition:

- All Stars and Lifestyles youth programs through the school system. These are evidenced based programs that will begin next fall.
- Web and Link Programs (Middle and High School). Uses a mentoring program to help at risk youth.
- Suicide prevention program (High School)
- Partnership with Castle Rock Police Department (Click It Or Ticket program, compliance checks, National Night Out, Health/Safety Fairs, alcohol purchase surveys and public service announcements to promote safety).
- Community projects include – prescription drug take back, trigger and home lock boxes, Social Norms, Strengthening Families, I Topped The Rock, Harvest Festival and various advocacy work programs; both state-wide and locally.

Mayor Helenberg stated he was alarmed at the suicide rates with young adults in our county. He questioned whether the county's sales tax imposed to support mental health programs is getting to those agencies who work with at-risk people. Councilmember Kessler noted that mental health issues in middle and high schools are high; yet schools are cutting guidance staff positions due to unfunded mandates. Mayor Helenberg commended Dianne Swanson with the work the CARE Coalition is doing and the positive impact this organization has had on our community.

#### Department Reports

1. Public Works Director David Vorse reported that Castle Rock received a national award from American In Bloom for the city's programs engaging youth in the community. In addition, the U-Tube video created by Della Franklin for the Castle Rock American In Bloom (CR-AIB) entry received top honors at the national convention. CR-AIB will receive a \$1500 check as an award. Vorse stated Castle Rock was also nominated one of the top three cities in the nation for floral display.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington reported the final RDA bonds have been filed with USDA Rural Development and the city should be expecting reimbursement funds this month. Covington reported that due to unforeseen circumstances regarding the need for a Special Meeting to resolve issues relating to those bonds; she was unable to attend the Washington Finance Officer's meeting in Olympia. Unfortunately, those registration costs were pre-paid and she was unable to receive reimbursement. Covington also thanked the public works director for delivering the documents to USDA RDA; which allowed city could to meet the September 25<sup>th</sup> closing deadline.

Covington reported the State Auditor is currently conducting the city's audit for Accountability (fiscal years 2013 and 2014) and the fiscal 2014 financial audit. These

are audits mandated by State law. Councilmembers will be notified when the Exit Conference meeting is scheduled.

3. Mayor Helenberg announced the annual Harvest Festival will be held this weekend at the North County Community Garden area. They will be giving away free pumpkins and other vegetables to participants. Helenberg stated as of last week, over 5,000 lbs. of vegetables have been given away this year to the Lion's Club Food Bank and to the Castle Rock Senior Center. They expect to give away and additional 3,000 lbs. during the Harvest Festival. The Community Garden is a partnership between volunteers and the Castle Rock School District.
4. The mayor also announced that the annual North County Recreation Association (NCRA) dinner/auction is scheduled for this Saturday at Parker's Restaurant. This fundraiser supports recreation activities sponsored by NCRA.
5. Councilmember Queen attended the 911 Board meeting. Queen stated the communications center is still experiencing issues with the new system. The board also adopted the operating budgets the next two years.
6. Councilmember Davis thanked Sergeant Neves for his assistance in assuring the gun locks were being distributed for free at Habitat For Humanity. Davis stated that agency had initially been charging for those items.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the minutes to the September 14, 2015 regular council meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
2. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Kessler to approve the minutes to the September 16, 2015 Special Council meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

#### OLD BUSINESS –

1. Councilmembers continued discussion regarding Mr. Gordon Higgins's request for consideration to issue parking permits at the boat launch to qualified disabled veterans who do not own a boat or trailer. Mayor Helenberg stated he has discussed this issue with Councilmember Queen and Police Chief Heuer. They are recommending designating one parking space for disabled veterans to use on a first come, first served basis. This space will be identified specifically for that use. Chief Heuer stated he has seen similar parking designations are retail stores such as Target.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Kessler to designate one parking space designated for disabled veterans who do not own a boat, and is intended to be used on a first come/first served basis.

Discussion: Councilmember Queen stated most boat launch parking areas do not have such designations and this will help those disabled veterans who do not own a boat. In answer to Covington's question, Queen stated there already are spaces for those with boat trailers. Mayor Helenberg stated the signage should denote the space is reserved for that purpose.

Vote on the motion: Councilmember Kessler and Queen voted 'Aye'. Councilmember Rose voted 'Aye', with reservations and Councilmember Davis abstained. Motion passed.

2. Mayor Helenberg recommended councilmembers have a special meeting to interview all three applicants for the vacant city council position and to make formal appointment at the following council meeting. Councilmember Queen stated interviews need to be held in open session. City Attorney Randolph stated councilmembers can discuss the applications in Executive Session; but any decision must be done in open session. Randolph stated one of the bases for exemptions of Executive Session is interviewing people for public office. He stated interviews can be done in Executive Session; but council could choose to do so in open session. In any case, Randolph stated any decision must be made in open session. In answer to Kessler's question, Randolph stated city council would still need to schedule a Special meeting and then could go to Executive Session to conduct the interviews. Councilmembers Queen asked what happens if there is a tie vote for appointment. Randolph stated council could set up procedures to address this. In answer to Councilmember Rose's question, Councilmember Queen and City Attorney Randolph stated the mayor cannot vote to break a tie in this circumstance; he stated the appointment is a council decision. Councilmember Kessler stated he wanted to be assured that councilmembers are the only ones conducting interviews; he did not want to allow members of the public to ask questions of the applicants.

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed to amend the next meeting time for 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. to allow for interview of applicants for Council Position 1.

#### NEW BUSINESS-

1. City Engineer Dominic Miller provided a bid summary for the Trenchless Sewer Repair Project. The city received two bids:  
C-More Pipe, Rickreall, Oregon; amount of \$81,080.92 (base bid and additive item)  
Insta-Pipe Inc, Tumwater, WA; amount of \$150,078.11 (base bid and additive item)  
Engineer's Estimate: \$84,925.93

Miller stated staff recommends awarding the bid to C-More Pipe, contingent on USDA Rural Development approval for base bid and additive in the amount of \$81,080.92.

Councilmember Davis made a motion, seconded by Kessler to award the bid to C-More

Pipe as outlined by the city engineer, contingent on USDA Rural Development approval. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

2. Councilmembers reviewed the proposed Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement effective January 2016 – December 31, 2018. Mayor Helenberg and Councilmember Kessler negotiated the contract on behalf of the city. The contract includes a 2% increase in wages for 2016 and incentives for obtaining certifications outside of their regular scope of work. The contract also includes an option for a contract opener regarding medical insurance coverage options. In answer to Councilmember Davis, Helenberg stated staff now will be receiving direct payment for a uniform allowance, instead of the city purchasing those items.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Davis to approve the proposed Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2016-2018 as presented. By roll call voted, unanimous 'Aye'.

3. Councilmember Davis made a motion, seconded by Kessler to approve North County Recreation Association request to place two banners on city property to inform the public of the upcoming dinner/auction fundraiser. By roll call vote; unanimous 'Aye'.
4. In answer to the Mayor's question, Covington stated preliminary budget requests for fiscal year 2016, have been received from the police department and library.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Paul Helenberg adjourned the regular meeting at 8:33 p.m.

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Mayor Paul Helenberg

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Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington