Mayor Barbara Larsen called the Regular Meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:36 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Khembar Yund, Greg Marcil, Julie Bean and Jeff Skeie. Councilmember Ed Smith was absent.

Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 Regular Council meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Marcil abstained, the rest ‘Aye’, motion passed.

City Attorney Tom O’Neill reports that he has met with Mr. Willis from Waste Control regarding the ‘Draft’ Solid Waste Service Contract. A proposed Waste service rate structure will be presented at the next Regular Council meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington presented a memorandum from Police Chief Bob Heuer requesting approval to purchase equipment which will be reimbursed from the Homeland Security Grant.

Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve the purchase of equipment in the amount of $635.31 to be reimbursed from the Homeland Security Grant. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

City Engineer Mike Johnson presented the bid results for the Studebaker Wellhouse Repair Project. The engineer’s estimate for this project was $20,175. Two bids were received: Five Rivers Construction, Inc. from Longview bid $20,668.88 and Davinci, Inc. from Woodland bid $25,501.20. Johnson recommends award of contract to Five Rivers Construction, Inc.

Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Yund to award the contract for the Studebaker Wellhouse Repair Project to Five Rivers Construction, Inc. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

In response to a question from Mayor Larsen, Johnson estimates that the project should begin in the next two to three weeks and will take approximately 60 days to complete.

Public Works Director David Vorse presented a Chemical Procurement Proposal outlining specifications to solicit bids to furnish the chemicals needed at the Water Treatment Plant. This would provide the opportunity to compare costs, on an annual basis. The initial agreement would be for six months to allow for inclusion into the city’s budget cycle. Thereafter bids would be taken in September for a twelve month chemical supply, with prices fixed for the duration of the contract. Costs would then be available before the budget process. Mr.
Johnson reports that the City of Kalama has saved up to 20% in chemical costs by requesting bids.

Vorse requests approval to purchase two 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 regular cab (4x2), ½ ton pickups on the state procurement contract. Vorse noted that $40,000 for public works vehicle requisition was budget for 2006. The total purchase will cost approximately $31,000. The Public Works Department currently has one 1-ton and two ¾-ton pickups. Councilmember Marcil recommends purchase of the 4.3 liter 6-cylinder engine instead of the 4.8 liter 8 cylinder, as it is proven to be reliable for 300,000 miles. Councilmember Yund pointed out that the 6-cylinder is only available with the short bed, and therefore would not be an option.

Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve the purchase of two 2006 Chevrolet Silverado ½-ton pickups for the Public Works Department. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Councilmember Marcil reports that trees near ‘The Rock’ are rubbing against light fixtures and need to be trimmed before fixtures are damaged.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington stated that she will present the 2005 Budget Summary at the next Regular Council meeting.

Report of Meetings
Mayor Larsen attended a Community Action Plan board meeting. The Annual CAP Banquet will be held on February 3rd at the Convention Center in Longview. Councilmember Skeie reports that the annual Fire Department banquet will be held February 4th at the Wild Grizzly Casino in Kelso.

Covington requests approval of Ordinance 2006-01 amending the fireworks permit process. This amendment creates a window for receiving applications as well as changing the number of permits that are issued annually.

Councilmember Skeie stated that the consensus at the last council meeting was to accept five applications within the window with the number of permits issued remaining at two. Councilmember Yund would like to take public testimony to determine if the community could support three fireworks permits.

Covington reports that Cowlitz County’s Fireworks Permit fee is $100, the City’s fee is $10. The deadline to accept applications for a Cowlitz County Fireworks Permit is May 10th.

Covington proposes a February 1st to March 31st window for accepting applications. Five applications will be accepted only from nonprofit organizations that do charitable work of benefit to the community. Two Fireworks Permits will be issued annually.
Castle Rock Fraternal Order of Eagles’ representative, Nick Vandenbrock stated that the City could support three permit stands, but no more than three. Currently three organizations regularly apply for a fireworks permit within the City. Under the current ordinance, only two permits could be issued.

Covington noted that the availability of areas to site fireworks stands, which meet fire code standards, is very limited. Councilmember Yund wants to avoid the first come, first serve situation for issuance of permits.

Councilmembers Skeie, Yund and Bean stated they would not be opposed issuing three fireworks permits. In response to a question from Councilmember Bean, Covington stated that City ordinance does not allow for the sale of fireworks for New Years Day.

Councilmember Marcil wants the fee to remain low since only nonprofit organizations can seek a fireworks permit. Councilmember Yund would like to know if this fee covers the actual cost. Councilmember Skeie has no desire to increase this fee and noted that an increase would reduce the funds available for community work. Vorse suggests tracking the time that employees must spend on fireworks applications this year to determine the fee amount next year.

Councilmember Skeie is against limiting the number of applications that are accepted, as he would like to avoid first come, first serve restrictions. Covington stated she will revise the proposed ordinance and present it at the next Regular Council meeting.

Castle Rock Lions Club representative, Don Lansing stated that issuing three permits will cut into profits a bit, but can be supported by the community. However, Mr. Lansing is not sure if a Washington State Fireworks Permit can be obtained prior to this ‘window’ in the proposed ordinance.

Covington stated that an organization must have a Washington State Fireworks Permit, the property owner’s permission and a site plan with setbacks defined to be eligible to apply for a city Fireworks Permit. Covington will ascertain the date that Washington State Fireworks Permits can be applied for.

2335 Kathy Vorse, 155 Peroutka Road requests a utility adjustment for December services, due to unusual circumstances. Ms. Vorse reports that an outside faucet was turned on by an unknown person. They have since taken the handle off to prevent this from happening again.
Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve a utility adjustment for 155 Peroutka Road in the amount of $179.15. By roll call vote, Councilmember Skeie Nay, the rest ‘Aye’, motion passed.

There being no further business, Mayor Larsen adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer