

- 0006 Mayor Barbara Larsen called the regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:34 p.m., with the following councilmembers present: Greg Marcil, Julie Bean and Ed Smith. Councilmember Khembar Yund was absent. Councilmember Jeff Skeie arrived at 8:18 p.m.
- 0127 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2007 Budget Workshop Meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Marcil abstained, the rest Aye, motion passed.
- 0160 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2007 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Marcil abstained, the rest Aye, motion passed.
- 0177 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2007 Budget Workshop Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
- 0208 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2007 Budget Workshop Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
- 0292 City Engineer Mike Johnson requests approval of the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project Agreement Change Order #2. Change Order #2 will decrease the contract amount by \$58,090.02. Item 1 will provide a credit for the additional engineering inspection costs incurred due to high groundwater conditions. Item 2 modifies the contract quantities for unit price bid items to reflect the quantities actually used.
- 0384 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve Change Order #2 of the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project Agreement with Creagan Excavating, Inc. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
- 0400 Johnson requests an increase to the Engineering Services Agreement with Gray & Osborne, Inc. for the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project in the amount of \$4,304. This increase will compensate for the additional time required to provide engineering and inspection services due to the project suspension.
- 0440 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Marcil to amend the Engineering Services Agreement with Gray & Osborne, Inc. for the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project for an increase of \$4,304.
- 0459 Johnson recommends acceptance of the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project as complete.

In response to questions from Councilmembers Smith and Marcil, Johnson explained that street repairs will be completed when the City completes other paving repairs. The City must pay per ton for asphalt under the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project Agreement with Creagan Excavating, Inc. However, the City can obtain a better price per ton for asphalt by grouping paving repairs. It is more cost efficient for the City to release the contractor from this street repair requirement.

In response to a question from Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington, Public Works Director David Vorse specified that funding of the street repairs that are needed due to the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project will be taken from the Regional Sewer Fund as part of that project.

- 0623 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Marcil to accept the Sewer Influent Trunk Replacement Project as complete. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
- 0660 Vorse reports that he has received word from the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments that the Regional Transportation Planning Organization has approved SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement Program funding for Riverfront Trail East Improvements. This grant application in the amount of \$199,956 is to pave and light the gravel trail from the Shintaffer ramp to Huntington Avenue N. The grant is for 100% of project cost with no match required. This application will now go before legislators for final approval.
- 0737 Vorse reports that the Woodard Avenue Overlay Project remains on Cowlitz County's contracted list of projects for paving this year. However, this project has been bumped to the end of the contractor's list of paving projects for completion in 2007. This contract has 13 ½ paving days remaining. Only days that have conditions conducive to paving are considered paving days.

In response to a question from Councilmember Marcil, Vorse specified that the contractor, not the County, determines the order of projects. Cowlitz County has notified the contractor that funding for this project is not available in 2008.

In response to a question from Mayor Larsen, Vorse reports that he will continue to call this contractor and Cowlitz County daily to reiterate the need for project completion in 2007.

- 0895 Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington requests payment of October expenditures in the amount of \$302,195.26 as outlined on the Summary of Claims and further described as check numbers 36718 through 36833 for general expenditures and check numbers 19780 through 19822 for payroll expenses.

0903 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve payment of October 2007 invoices in the amount of \$302,195.26, as described in the Summary of Claims. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

0921 Covington reports that the City was awarded a Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) Growth Management Service Grant (GMSG) in the amount of \$9,700 for development of regulations and the revision of the zoning map to comply with the Castle Rock Comprehensive Plan. The other CTED grant application to update the Critical Areas Map and associated ordinances for \$100,000 was denied. Covington is researching other funding options.

0968 Covington requests approval to use funds budgeted to paint City Hall for gutter repairs at City Hall.

In response to a question from Councilmember Marcil, Covington specified that \$5,000 was budgeted to paint City Hall. The estimated cost for gutter repairs is \$2,500 to \$2,700. In addition, today a contractor was needed to repair a sewer plug that occurred at City Hall.

1049 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Bean to expend up to \$2,700 that was budgeted to paint City Hall for repair of the gutters at City Hall. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

1065 Covington recommends leaving the Ad Valorem tax rate as previously set even though the Washington State Supreme Court invalidated Initiative 747. There are two reasons for this recommendation: 1) The Cowlitz County Assessor must have the ordinance setting this rate, which requires two readings and signatures of councilmembers, by November 30th. 2) The tax limit may again be capped and anything over that limit could be required to be paid back.

By consensus, the Ad Valorem tax rate will remain as set.

1162 Art Lee, 325 Allen Avenue SE, requests a utility adjustment due to a high meter read. Mr. Lee has checked thoroughly and could not find a reason for this high read. The read was 10,000 cubic feet above normal usage.

Public Works Director David Vorse reports that when the meter was checked after this high read, it no longer was working. A new meter was installed and repeated monitoring indicates normal usage. This high read followed by meter failure could possibly be a due to equipment malfunction as no water was located.

Councilmember Smith expressed concern that under the ordinance for a utility adjustment, Mr. Lee would be responsible to pay for 50% of the high read which may be the result of an equipment malfunction.

- 1333 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve a utility adjustment for 325 Allen Avenue SE in the amount of \$354.94.

During discussion: Covington explained the leak adjustment ordinance for unusual circumstances which only allows for credit of 50% of the overage above the average usage. Councilmember Smith pointed out that the meter failure directly after this high read indicates that the high read is the result of equipment break down. The resident should not be responsible for an equipment malfunction. Covington specified that this instance may not be best resolved with a leak adjustment due to unusual circumstance. Vorse concurred, that in circumstances where a high read is the result of an equipment malfunction the resident should not be held responsible for any loss above the normal usage.

- 1507 Councilmember Bean amended the motion, seconded by Marcil to approve a utility adjustment to average usage for 325 Allen Avenue SE due to equipment malfunction. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
- 1621 Librarian Vicki Selander reports that the Library Levy is passing with 63% of the vote. The election will be certified on November 27, 2007.

1680 Report of Meetings

The Mayor and Councilmembers have been attending Budget Workshop Meetings.

Mayor Larsen will attend a Health Board Meeting next Thursday.

- 1713 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve Ordinance 2007-09 rescinding Ordinance 2001-13, which initially established an expendable police vehicle replacement fund, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- 1733 Covington, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, requests funding for 50% of the cost for a promotional tourism stock card in the amount of \$900 from the Hotel/Motel Fund. The two sided stock cards would be placed in motels and at tourist destinations. Recommended changes to the card were noted.

Councilmember Smith specified that the Castle Rock Exhibit Hall should not be identified on the card as the Castle Rock Historical Museum.

In response to a question from Councilmember Bean, Covington reports that \$900 is available in the Hotel/Motel Fund for this purpose.

- 1897 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Bean to expend up to \$900 from the Hotel/Motel Fund for purchase of promotional tourism stock cards. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

1913 Mayor Larsen recessed the regular session at 8:07 p.m. to await the arrival of a fourth councilmember.

Councilmember Jeff Skeie arrived at 8:18 p.m.

1944 Mayor Larsen reconvened regular session at 8:20 p.m.

1948 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Skeie to approve Ordinance 2007-08 fixing the estimated amount to be raised by Ad Valorem taxes for the 2008 budget of the City of Castle Rock, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

1980 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Skeie to approve Resolution 2007-07, pursuant to Section 209 of Referendum 47 of the State of Washington, authorizing an increase in the regular property tax levy, in addition to any amount resulting from new construction, improvements and any increase in the value of state assessed property, from the amount that was levied in 2007, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

2055 There being no further business, Mayor Larsen adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer