Mayor Pro Temp Ed Smith called the 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: Khembar Yund, Greg Marcil and Julie Bean. Councilmember Jeff Skeie and Mayor Barbara Larsen were absent.

Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2007 Regular Council meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Yund abstained, the rest voted Aye, motion passed.

Police Chaplain Steve White, Balcer Street NE, summarized the sacrifices that law enforcement officers have made in the line of duty. During National Police Week citizens are called upon to recognize and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of law enforcement officers. Flags will be flown at half mast on Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community.

Councilmember Smith presented a proclamation declaring May 13-19, 2007 National Police Week in Castle Rock to Police Chief Bob Heuer and Councilmember Yund, a City of Kelso Detective. The Congress and President Bush have designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week.

Dan Dale, 173 Basswood Drive, Silver Lake, requests support for his business, Riverdale Raceway. He has constructed a motocross track on his 300 acre site located three miles east of Toutle. This year the venue has been expanded to include a summer concert arena. The first concert will be held on Friday June 1st. In the future, the business hopes to add a NHRA Drag Strip. Dale stated that Castle Rock’s motels are booked for the month of June due to the events being held at Riverdale Raceway. He noted that this venture is providing many economic benefits for Castle Rock’s businesses. Castle Rock events will also be promoted during raceway events. Dale is seeking promotion and signage support.

Councilmembers Yund and Smith suggested contacting the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce. Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce President Coni Bush introduced herself and agreed to meet with Mr. Dale on the development of promotional ideas.

Alan and Jane Brunk, 130 Gallow Road in Toutle, stated that they live near the Riverdale Raceway. They spoke in opposition of the events held on Mr. Dale’s property because his business produces noise late into the night which impedes the enjoyment of their property. The Brunks have attended many county commissioner meetings protesting the events taking place at this business.
Mayor Pro Temp Smith noted that Riverdale Raceway is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Castle Rock.

Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce President Coni Bush expressed concern regarding the lack of compliance with the 2-hour parking regulation on Cowlitz Street West. Parking on this street is extremely limited and some business owners and employees are occupying these valuable spaces during business hours. Mrs. Bush suggested that it is time for this regulation to be enforced as noncompliance is creating a loss in revenue. Another issue is the speed that vehicles are traveling on this street.

City Attorney Tom O’Neill reports that Police Chief Bob Heuer has advised him of a problem with the parking ordinance, which makes it unenforceable. O’Neill will review the ordinance and bring recommendations to council.

In response to a question from Councilmember Marcil, Bush stated that the two hour limit is ignored. Bush requests that these conflicts be resolved so the parking limit can be enforced. Police Chief Bob Heuer reports that this has been an ongoing problem due to the limited parking in the business district. Castle Rock Municipal Code contains three sections regarding this issue with various penalties for violations. Officers cannot enforce this code as it is currently written and Heuer is hesitant to ticket customers. The Chamber of Commerce has sent letters to business owners who are allowing their employees to park on Cowlitz Street West. In addition officers have made contact requesting compliance. In the past, warning cards were given to business owners to place on offending vehicles. The chief stated that business owners are asked to notify police so that they can contact the vehicle owner and ask them to move. Heuer hopes to resolve this problem without issuing citations.

Mayor Pro Temp Smith directed the City Attorney to update this ordinance for council consideration.

Robert Johnson, 1032 Third Avenue SW, requests public disclosure of the costs incurred negotiating the Clerks Labor Agreement with Teamsters Local #58. He also requests disclosure of the city salary schedules that were used to evaluate the salary increases for the department heads.

Teamsters Local #58 Representative Brian King spoke on the unresolved clerical contract and requests this be resolved fairly. He noted that the city is required to bargain in good faith and all employees should be fairly and adequately compensated for their work. Teamsters Local #58 also represents the Castle Rock Police and Public Works Department. Mr. King also stated that while the cost of living has increased, the clerks did not receive an increase at the beginning of the year because of the pending negotiation process.
Mr. King stated that the clerks sought representation June, 2006 and the city agreed to recognize Teamsters Local #58 as the sole bargaining representative. Contract negotiations began in the fall, and the clerks accepted the city’s offer in the second week of March, 2007. King noted that this offer was negotiated by the city’s hired professional negotiator, Howard Strickler, plus three management representatives. The offer was recommended by the union bargaining committee which consisted of King and a city clerk. The offer, as presented by the city’s agent, was ratified by the Teamster’s bargaining unit on March 9, 2007. King stated that the terms included pay increases of approximately 5% and a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a signing incentive. The city council approved the ratified offer without the Memorandum of Understanding. King stated that the city did not provide the annual pay raises to these employees in January as a penalty for negotiating. He stated that the city’s negotiator included the signing incentive in the final offer to offset that penalty.

Steve Harvey, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, reviewed the Cowlitz Regional Trail Plan. This concept originated a few years ago, while developing local Park & Recreation Plans. Officials recognized the need for a countywide trail plan. The Cowlitz Regional Trail Plan will promote trail systems by connecting existing trails and locating sites for future trails. Non-motorized trail systems offer more than recreational opportunities, by providing alternate transportation options. A committee consisting of representatives from the county, cities, clubs and businesses was formed to research property ownership, trail standards and easements needed for the trail system expansion. The projected paths primarily follow existing right-of-ways and road systems. Harvey noted that Castle Rock has the best trail system in Cowlitz County, which even exceeds national standards. The Regional Trail plan outlines possible funding sources and will assist jurisdictions when qualifying for funding. Planning and development of a North Cowlitz River Trail Loop is underway due to a National Park Service Technical Assistance Grant. The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments Board adopted the Cowlitz Regional Trail System Plan in December 2006 and Cowlitz County adopted the plan last month.

Public Works Director David Vorse indicated that small communities are at a disadvantage when applying for trail funding. Adoption of this plan would provide for the connectivity to an area with a larger population base, which will improve future funding opportunities for Castle Rock. The Castle Rock Riverfront Trail System is the starting point for the North Cowlitz River Trail Loop, which will follow the river corridor. A resolution for adoption of the Cowlitz Regional Trail Plan will be presented at the next Regular Council Meeting.

City Attorney Tom O’Neill reports that during the April 9th Regular Council Meeting, Brad Link, owner of C&L Burger Bar, indicated that he would provide a title showing the land description of the county owned property which abuts his business property. O’Neill has not received that document.
O’Neill requests a ten to fifteen minute executive session to discuss potential litigation regarding union matters.

2236 Police Chief Bob Heuer discussed that the 25 mile per hour speed limit on Cowlitz Street West is too fast for this business area. The Police Department has conducted speed assessments on this street, with the average speed being 14 mph and a top speed of 20 mph. He recommended that the speed limit on this street be lowered to 10 or 15 mph for the three blocks through the business district.

Councilmember Marcil commented that people realize that they must proceed with caution on this street as cars are backing out at an angle. Don Miller, 1062 Cowlitz View Court, noted that the primary problem on this street is the lack of visibility when backing out of the angled parking spaces.

Mayor Pro Temp Smith directed City Engineer Mike Johnson to perform a speed study in this area.

2443 Heuer stated that the need for network cards to access the Spillman Records Management System from the laptops in the patrol vehicles was discussed during the budget cycle. The cost to setup this network is $3000 to $4000. The City of Kelso has offered to share their network capabilities. Chief Heuer said that Cascade Networks has indicated that the setup fee would be $50.

Side B

Heuer requests approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Kelso for this network service. Councilmember Yund reports that Kelso Police Chief Wayne Nelson indicates that he is willing to provide this service if no costs are incurred by the City of Kelso.

By consensus, councilmembers agreed to allow Police Chief Heuer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Kelso for access to the Spillman Records Management System.

2603 City Planner TJ Keiran stated that the Hearing Examiner questioned the length of time for a Conditional Use Permit during St. Mary’s Conditional Use Hearing. The Castle Rock Municipal Code authorizes issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a period of one year, with the option of a one-time one-year extension. St. Mary’s Church wanted an approved plan before initiating fundraising efforts, which would require more time then the code allows. The City Attorney felt a code revision may be needed as many projects require long term planning. This issue will be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

2805 City Planner TJ Keiran reports that the proposed Castle Rock Meadows Subdivision, 5191 Westside Hwy, located directly across from the High School, is
within the Castle Rock Urban Growth Area. The application is for an 80-lot single family residential subdivision. The City of Castle Rock is acting in an advisory capacity in accordance with the interlocal agreement with Cowlitz County. The interlocal agreement states that City standards will apply except for where the County standards are more restrictive. In this case the County standards shall apply. This application is being processed under the old subdivision code.

On May 16th the Planning Commission will attend the Cowlitz County Planning Commission meeting and present recommendations.

Keiran reviewed the April 19, 2007 Staff Report and Planning Commission Recommendations to the City Council. The Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan zones this site as Urban Residential. The Castle Rock Comprehensive Plan zones this site as Low Density Residential or R-1. The standards are similar, with the county standards being more stringent in some instances. The property is also within the 100 year flood plain of Whittle Creek and is regulated by the County’s Floodplain Management Ordinance. The applicant must conform to the Washington State Department of Ecology and Federal Emergency Management Agency standards by establishing a Base Flood Elevation. All buildings will then be required to be erected a minimum of one foot above that elevation.

Keiran stated that the County Traffic Report recommended against a crossing at Westside Highway as there is no sidewalk on the east side of that road and thereby no safe discharge point for pedestrians. The County did not want to require offsite improvements and the applicant agreed with that assessment. After meeting with the City and School District, the County now includes a pedestrian crossing as a condition for approval. Keiran met with the County Community Development Director onsite and a discharge point that requires only twenty feet of offsite improvements was agreed upon by the applicant.

As this application is being processed under the old subdivision code, the City does not have the ability to require the recreational land dedication or fee-in-lieu of (FILO). The City recommended a $35,000 FILO contribution be made by the developer. Through negotiations the applicant agreed upon a $25,000 FILO contribution to the North County Recreation Association to be used for toddler equipment at the Sports Complex. In response to a question from Councilmember Smith, Keiran stated that the City only has advisory authority as this development is outside the city limits.

In response to a question from Councilmember Bean, City Engineer Mike Johnson reports that the Water System Plan Update evaluated the system’s ability to add new water connections. The system has no supply concerns and therefore has the ability to add new connections. The City has experienced water pressure fluctuations which may be the result of two issues.
1. The distribution system may have a broken valve that has not been located and is rerouting water.
2. The water treatment plant has limited clearwell capacity for backwashing filters which is causing a drain to the system when refilling the clearwell.

Keiran requests that the City Council recommend approval to the County Commissioners subject to the following conditions:
1. Due to the proximity of the proposed development to Castle Rock High School and its associated recreational and trail facilities, the applicant should be required to construct a safe pedestrian crossing at Westside Highway to facilitate pedestrian circulation and ensure safe movement to and from the proposed development.
2. The applicant shall pay a $25,000 fee-in-lieu of recreational land dedication to the North County Recreation Association in order to provide toddler recreational equipment in the play facility identified on the Castle Rock School District Athletic Campus Master Plan.

Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Bean to recommend approval to submit Mr. Keiran’s staff report and recommendations to the Cowlitz County Commissioners regarding the subdivision proposed for 5191 Westside Highway.

Mr. Don Corkrum questioned who would be responsible for paying for the additional water lines and improvements to the subdivision site. The public works director summarized the functions of the Regional Utility Board and answered that this subdivision would be the county’s customer and be subject to their fees.

Mayor Pro Temp Smith tabled the motion made by Councilmember Yund because of additional questions being posed by the public.

Joanne Purvis questioned why the council’s recommendation goes to the County Commissioners and not to the County Planning Commission. TJ Keiran stated that our planning commission recommends to the County Planning Commission and our city council makes recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Glenda Godwin, 6011 Westside Highway, read into record issues that she would like to have addressed regarding the proposed Westside Highway development. Ms Godwin was specifically concerned over flood levels and the impact over infill of naturally occurring drainage areas associated with the Whittle Creek system. A copy of her concerns is on file in the city clerk’s office.

Ms Godwin also showed pictures of water over the roadway at Umiker Road and Westside Highway. She is concerned that displacement of the water will create a flooding problem at the High School. She questioned if the city would be liable for future damages if the city council takes any action to endorse this develop-
City Engineer Mike Johnson reiterated that the developer will need to establish a base flood elevation and set the homes above this point. In addition, the county is currently considering raising the base of Westside Highway. He does not have any direct information as what the county is requiring of the developer to mitigate excess runoff.

Mr. Corkrum noted that city councilmembers should be concerned over these issues in case of future annexation of that area. He also asked questions pertaining to water runoff.

TJ Keiran stated that the Washington State Department of Ecology has been involved in this permit process and is assisting in the establishment of the base flood level elevation. The county’s flood plain ordinance is consistent with that of the city. Ms Godwin was advised by the county planner that this property is not identified on the FEMA flood maps. Councilmember Yund asked if it would be appropriate to include concerns over the displacement of stormwater as a concern of the city. He agreed with the points denoted by Ms Godwin, however the city does not have the authority to impose any further costs for the developer, if they are following county guidelines. Councilmember Yund suggested that a narrative be included with the council’s recommendations outlining these shared concerns.

Mr. Keiran outlined the evaluation process required by the county to address the flood plain issues. He does not feel that the city has authority to participate in this process.

In answer to Mr. Smith’s question, the city attorney stated that any city council recommendation is only advisory and does not have any binding authority over the proposed development.

In answer to Mr. Corkrum’s question related to what is required of subdivisions for stormwater management, the city engineer answered that stormwater from their site is evaluated, however the applicant is not responsible for mitigating any runoff which comes from adjoining properties.

Councilmember Yund amended his original motion, seconded by Bean, to send the council’s recommendation to the county as described in the Castle Rock Planning Commission’s report on recommendations and conditions, including a narrative describing the council’s concerns over stormwater displacement resulting from this development. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’ on the motion, as amended.

TJ Keiran updated councilmembers on the status of two pending projects:
1. Bill Breneman rezone – applicant has retained an attorney to complete utility easements required as a condition of approval. Once these easements are secured, city council will need to take action on the rezone request.
2. CAP Subdivision – city council approved the conditions for the preliminary plat. These conditions were forwarded to the applicant and the city is waiting for a written response accepting these conditions. Mr. Keiran stated the applicant has exceeded their appeal process and the municipal code does not address how long the applicant has to respond.

Tape 2 Side – A

0011 City Engineer Mike Johnson stated the Castle Rock Water System Plan, completed August 2006 identifies various deficiencies and recommendations for improvement. He noted various incidents last winter where the treatment plant was not able to manufacture water and the city’s wells were used. Johnson stated the city has received a $1.8 million dollar Public Works Trust Fund loan to make improvements at the Water Treatment Plant. Johnson requested council approval of an engineering services proposal for designing improvements, including preparation of environmental permits, bid documents and quality assurance reviews. The estimated engineering costs are $174,150.

0410 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve the engineering proposal contract in the amount of $174,150. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

0506 Roger Dana, Buland Drive resident, stated he is a water customer, but he is not getting the product that he is paying for. He complained of drops in pressure which create air in their lines. He insists that councilmembers set a very high priority for fixing this problem. Mayor Pro-Temp Smith agreed that this is of high priority and assured Mr. Dana that both the engineer and public works director are working to ascertain the reasons for the pressure fluctuation.

Mr. Corkrum asked if the water department has the financial resources to repair major problems to the system. The public works director stated that capital improvements funds are available for emergencies. Mayor Pro-Temp Smith stated that councilmembers would convene an emergency meeting to approve expenditure of those funds if an emergency occurs.

Dave Vorse, Public Works Director outlined various means to amend the backwash procedure to lessen the impact on customers. However he does not guarantee that this will eliminate air in the lines.

1348 Mr. Johnson showed a schematic drawing of proposed parking improvements in the downtown business district. The plan would include development of forty-two additional parking spaces, striping, stormwater detention and paving. City council had allocated a total of $25,000 for Phase 1 of the project, of which $15,000 would be used for engineering costs. This schematic will be posted at City Hall for public review. Vorse stated that of the remaining $10,000 for the project, $7,000 will be allocated from the Arterial Street Fund for gravel and
$3000 from the Stormwater Fund for stormwater detention. Phase 2 will include paving and striping.

Johnson stated the Front Avenue sidewalk project is almost complete. They are currently working on the punch list.

Johnson reported that all of the piping has been installed for the Sewer Trunk Line Replacement project. Restoration and the punch list are currently being addressed.

In answer to Councilmember Marcil’s question, Vorse advised that within the past month, there have been nine leaks in water mains within the city.

Councilmember Yund noted that the contractor has been operating cleated equipment on the city streets, which have been damaging the roads. Mr. Johnson stated that the contractor is responsible for repairing any damages that they create, to previous conditions.

Mr. Vorse requested councilmembers to prioritize various grant/loan applications that the city will be submitting to Cowlitz County for Rural County Public Facility Funds. Projects include the following:

* Castle Rock Regional Water Treatment Plant Improvements; $180,000 grant and a $20,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of five years.
* Westside Highway RV Resort Infrastructure; $229,500 grant and a $25,500 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of five years.
* Utility Extension To Exit 48; $252,000 grant and a $63,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of ten years.
* North County Boat Launch Infrastructure; $130,000 grant and a $20,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of ten years.

Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Yund to submit four applications to Cowlitz County for Rural County Public Facility Funds, with a priority ranking as follows:

#1 Castle Rock Regional Water Treatment Plant Improvements; $180,000 grant and a $20,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of five years.
#2 North County Boat Launch Infrastructure; $130,000 grant and a $20,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of ten years.
#3 Utility Extension To Exit 48; $252,000 grant and a $63,000 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of ten years.
#4 Westside Highway RV Resort Infrastructure; $229,500 grant and a $25,500 loan at 1% interest rate for a period of five years.

By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Dave Vorse requested approval to sign the BFP Project Agreement with the
Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation (IAC) to construct a boat launch. The project is estimated to cost $1,339,754. Secured funding for this project includes $1,000,000 from IAC, $207,000 from the Port of Longview, and $3000 from the Friends of the Cowlitz.

Project Manager, Mr. Jajou, URS Corporation, stated that unknown costs include environmental mitigation measures which may be imposed by regulating agencies. Mayor Pro-Temp Smith noted that if it appears costs exceed available funding, then the city still has the option of abandoning the project.

3101 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Bean to submit the BFP Project Agreement. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

3134 Councilmembers reviewed URS Corporation’s proposal for additional scope of work and budget to complete the permitting, mitigation and engineering services to design the new two-land boat launch facility. Services include completion of the permitting and mitigation plan, mitigation design and engineering services, final design, construction documents, services during bidding, and services during construction, for a total estimated cost of $120,000. Of that amount, URS Corporation has allowed $31,000 for permitting and mitigation. Mr. Jajou cautions that his team does not have control over the permitting process and therefore this cost may increase. Mr. Vorse advised that IAC will allow a portion of the construction costs to be used for permitting. This would mean that additional funds may be needed for the construction phase.

Mr. Jajou stated that part of the mitigation, which includes Whittle Creek mitigation (estimated cost of $62,000), can be part of the construction costs, which would be in addition to this $120,000 proposal. Vorse stated that it is unknown at this time if design and engineering services will be needed for the Whittle Creek mitigation.

Vorse noted that the city councilmembers have already approved $7,000 of the $120,000 contract. The original URS contract for preliminary design work was for $70,000 and this amendment would increase the total URS Corporation engineering service contract to $190,000 for the total project.

3719 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve the URS Corporation amended contract in the amount of $113,000, for a total project contract cost of $190,000. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

3826 Councilmember Bean made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve April expenditures in the amount of $474,704.31 as described on the Summary of Claims and further described as check numbers 36104 through 36226 for General expenses and check numbers 19510 through 19550 for Payroll expenses. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.
Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve payment of the invoice from FiServ in the amount of $285.93 for printing of delinquency notices. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

By consensus, councilmembers permitted the Clerk-Treasurer to sign a release with AWC to determine feasibility of participating in the AWC Workers Comp Retro Program.

Covington provided an overview of the First Quarter budget report. She noted fund overruns for Arterial Street Fund ($56,397), Local Criminal Justice ($208.84) and DOT Spoil Site Fund ($792.86). She stated that all of these over runs have been resolved.

Covington stated that the city has joined with CowlitzToday, which features a county-wide event calendar. She said that all calendar events included on the city’s website are now directly linked to this new site. This change will result in a cost savings for the city, since updates can be made in-house. It will also provide a wider audience because events are automatically listed on both a city and county-wide event calendar. Access to the city website, including all event calendars is still through the city’s website address at: www.ci.castle-rock.wa.us

Mr. Don Corkrum advised that the city website speed is slow. Covington will notify the city’s webmaster.

Covington reported that the third phase of the Horizons grant project to reduce poverty will begin this month. Vicki Selander and Beth Coleman will join Covington in providing leadership training of volunteers. This training will proceed over the next two months.

Covington stated that 86 volunteers participated in the Castle Rock Clean-Up Day, held April 21st.

Vicki Selander announced that the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation will be donating two computers to our library. The State Library will be purchasing and delivering the computers to our library by July 31st.

Councilmember Yund advised Vorse of a citizen recommendation to have a park bench installed near the skate park. Vorse will note this request.

Vorse added that most of the park benches have been funded by donations. The cost for a park bench is $550. Councilmember Bean noted that Seattle has put bolts on smooth surfaces to deter skateboarders from using and damaging these surfaces.
Councilmember Marcil attended a County Commissioner’s meeting for flood protection on the Cowlitz River. The county has agreed to participate in the cost, which will reduce the city’s contribution.

By consensus, councilmembers agreed with the proposed contribution for flood protection. Vorse will advise County Commissioners of the consensus and ask that a contract be forwarded for council action.

Committee recommendations for compensation of the mayor and council member positions will be tabled for discussion until the next council meeting. Mayor Pro-Temp Smith suggested that any council action on this issue be considered during the city’s budget process later in the year.

Anthony Shelton, Diane Street SW, stated that he had a $400 water bill created when his eight year old son left the garden hose on. This was discovered when the utility billing clerk notified him of a high meter reading. Mr. Shelton stated that the water ran onto the ground for a few days and he requested an adjustment of his utility bill in the amount of $175.82 to offset the additional sewer costs.

Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Mr. Shelton’s request for a utility adjustment in the amount of $175.82 due to unusual circumstances.

In discussion: In answer to Councilmember Bean’s question, Mr. Shelton affirmed that he has removed the outside faucet knobs so that this will not happen again.

Vote on the above motion: unanimous ‘Aye’.

Covington noted that amendments are needed to the International Building Codes. She recommended that a workshop meeting be held to discuss the proposed changes and to review current codes. Councilmembers agreed that a workshop is warranted and asked the clerk-treasurer to make arrangements.

Mayor Pro-Temp Smith adjourned regular session at 10:00 p.m. for a fifteen minute Executive Session to discuss potential litigation pertaining to the clerical bargaining unit.

Mayor Pro-Temp Smith reconvened regular session at 10:08 p.m. and adjourned the meeting

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Mayor Pro-Temp

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Clerk-Treasurer