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. The following councilmembers were present: Khembar Yund, Greg Marcil, Ed Smith and Jeff Skeie. Councilmember Julie Bean was absent.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2006 Regular Council meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmembers Marcil and Skeie abstained and Councilmembers Yund and Smith voted ‘Aye’. Motion passed.

City Attorney Tom O’Neill discussed the draft Ordinance No. 2006-05, granting Cascade Natural Gas a franchise to operate on city right-of-way for the purpose of distributing fuel to their customers. He noted that Section 9 (pertaining to payments in the event of a dispute) will need to be amended, however the draft could be passed on first reading, in it’s current form.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Ordinance No. 2006-05, an ordinance granting Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, the right and privilege to use and occupy streets, avenues, alleys, highways and other public places for the purpose of supplying, distributing and selling gas to inhabitants of the City and the right and privilege of constructing and thereafter maintaining a gas works, mains, service pipes and other necessary equipment in the City for distribution of gas for light, fuel, power, heat and other purposes, and repealing Castle Rock Ordinance No. 524, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Police Chief Bob Heuer stated that he has completed preliminary plans and budget estimates for relocation of the police department to the upstairs former court/council chamber room. Councilmembers will meet for a special workshop at 7:00 p.m. on May 8th, to review design and estimated costs for the remodeling project. Chief Heuer stated he still needs to meet with the city clerk-treasurer to develop the proposed budget, however the city building inspector has already reviewed the plans. Councilmember Smith requested that Chief Heuer distribute copies of the proposal, prior to the workshop meeting.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Ordinance No. 2006-03, an ordinance to rezone property from R-2 (High Density Residential) to C-1 (Commercial) zone classification. Properties described as 211 Second Avenue SW (further described as Castle Rock Old Town Addition, Lot 1, Block 4) and 222 Second Avenue Sw and 141 ‘A’ Street SW (further described as Castle Rock Old Town Addition, Block 5, Lots 1, 2 and 5 through 8), on second reading.

Discussion: Councilmember Skeie stated he was surprised to see the public
comments from the last meeting. He stated that he would like to have a closer review prior to when a business is sited on the vacant lot.

Vote On Motion: By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

0921 City Planner Don Mathison recommended approval of Ordinance No. 2006-04. He explained that when the zoning ordinance was updated, the new text omitted ‘mixed use’ from the C-1 Commercial zone. The city previously allowed such use and this omission was not intended by either staff or the planning commission. The purpose of this ordinance is to correct this oversight to the current zoning ordinance for C-1 (Commercial).

1022 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve Ordinance No. 2006-04, an ordinance amending Castle Rock Municipal Code, Section 17.36 C-1 Retail Business District to include mixed use (residential/commercial) for the C-1 (Commercial) zone, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

1101 City Engineer Mike Johnson, requested approval of Change Order #1 for the Studebaker Wellhouse Repair Project. This change order will reduce the original contract cost by $1,152.38. He summarized the following change order items:
1) Contractor supplied smooth faced blocks instead of split face blocks, resulting in a total credit of $600 (without tax)
2) City supplied wellhouse door. Total credit of $656.20 (without tax)
3) City supplied metal roofing material. Total credit of $195.00 (without tax)
4) Soffit on exterior door was enclosed with plywood and trim. Additional cost of $298.82 (without tax)

1251 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Change Order #1, as presented.

Discussion: Councilmember Marcil noted dissatisfaction regarding the credit for Item #1. He stated this was the contractor’s fault and should have resulted in a higher credit.

Vote On Motion: Councilmembers Smith, Yund and Skeie voted ‘Aye’ Councilmember Marcil voted ‘Nay’. Motion passed.

1358 Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Skeie to accept the Studebaker Wellhouse Repair Project as complete. By roll call vote, Councilmember Marcil voted ‘Nay’, Councilmembers Smith, Yund and Skeie voted ‘Aye’. Motion passed.

In answer to Councilmember Smith’s question, Vorse explained that the original building was smooth block, however the contractor’s plans required split face blocks. The contractor’s error was discovered by staff, prior to inspection by the building official.
Vorse stated he submitted a proposal at the last council meeting which would expand parking in the business district from 15 spaces to approximately 45 spaces. Funding for this project was discussed during budget workshop meetings and recommended by councilmembers to be included in the proposed 2006 budget. Unfortunately, prior to the final adoption of the budget, the amount appropriated for the project was erroneously stricken from the budget. The amount was included in the same line item as another grant supported project. When the city received information that they would not receive the grant, the entire appropriations for the line item were stricken. Vorse reviewed minutes of the budget workshops where councilmembers included both the Huntington Avenue entry feature project and the alley/parking improvements. Vorse also noted that minutes to the November 14th council meeting outlined allocation for alley and parking improvements. Councilmember Smith pointed out that those minutes do not identify the entry feature as being a funded project, which adds to the confusion. Vorse stated he would do more research on the subject and report back to council. Councilmember Smith stated he would need more information before approving the alley design project.

Vorse stated that he has reviewed the budgets with the city clerk and there appears to be adequate funds available in the Arterial Street Fund for the alley project, if councilmembers choose to reallocate. However if council chooses, this project could be postponed until the next fiscal year.

City Engineer Mike Johnson updated councilmembers on the upcoming sidewalk improvement project. Preliminary design has been completed and he will be meeting with staff this week to formulate items for final design.

Vorse requested council approval to submit three separate grant applications, as listed below:

1. Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation, Boating Facilities Program, Local Boating Program, in the amount of $1,000,000; local match of $354,459. For construction of a boat launch facility.

2. Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation Washington Wildlife And Recreation Program, Trails Category, in the amount of $222,151; local match of $222,151. For extension of the Riverfront Trail to link the Castle Rock High School and Green Acres housing development with the existing multimodal trail system and to extend the east side of the trail farther north.

3. Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation Land And Water Conservation Program, in the amount of $222,151, local match of $222,151. For extension of the Riverfront Trail as listed in #2 above. This grant can be used as a match for the WWRP grant.
Vorse stated if council approves submission of the grants, councilmembers must also authorize the Mayor to sign an Application Authorization Memorandum agreeing to adhere to the terms of the funding agencies.

2182 Councilmember Marcil made a motion, seconded by Yund to authorize Vorse to submit the three grant applications on behalf of the city and to authorize the mayor to sign the Application Authorization Memorandum.

Discussion: In answer to Councilmember Smith’s question, Vorse explained that a portion of the city’s sponsor match for the boat launch construction would be donated by Washington State Fish And Wildlife in the amount of $85,000 to fund the prefabricated concrete ramps. The other $250,000 match would be another grant application to be submitted to Cowlitz County.

Vote on the motion: By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

2283 Vorse announced that the city has received award recognition from ‘Cowlitz On The Move’ for their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles in our community.

2345 Vorse asked if the city council would like to sponsor an employee wellness project by paying the team sponsorship fees for participation in the upcoming Relay For Life. Vorse stated last year the city had 33 people participating and raised $795 for cancer research. Those participants completed 395 laps for a total of 130 miles.

2347 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Skeie to approve paying the $250 fee for sponsoring a city Relay For Life team. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

2430 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve sponsorship of the Mountain Mania Fun Walk/Run event by including the event on the city’s liability insurance. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

2477 Councilmembers discussed proposed fee amendments for purchase of dredge spoils. Proposal includes three tiers; Occasional Haulers - $1.08/cu yd plus 15¢/cu yd road maintenance for a total cost of $1.23/cubic yard; Annual Haulers (hauling 10,000 cubic yards of spoils) - 90¢/cu yd plus 15¢/cu yd road maintenance for a total cost of $1.05/cubic yard. Spoils must be hauled within one year from date of contract, with no extensions. Hauler will be responsible for paying total yardage hauled, with a minimum of 10,000 cubic yards); and Annual Haulers (hauling 50,000 cubic yards of spoils) - 85¢/cu yd plus road maintenance bond in lieu of fee, for total cost of 85¢/cu yd. Must be hauled within one year from date of contract, with one six-month extension possible. Cost of spoils may be further negotiated if other benefits exist (such as suitable haul-back material, heavy equipment site work, etc).
In answer to Councilmember Yund’s request, Vorse explained the purpose of a road maintenance bond in lieu of a fee. The roadway is video taped prior to the project and then reviewed after the project to ascertain damages. Any damages are then paid for, or repaired by the contractor. Councilmembers noted this addresses visible damages and does not address any long-term damage that might manifest at a later date. City Attorney O’Neill stated the bond is a contract document, holding the contractor to the terms of the agreement.

Councilmember Marcil remarked that dredge spoils have sold for over $2.00/cubic yard in the Kalama area. Vorse answered that more dredge material is available in the north end of the county and the cost needs to be competitive if council wants to eventually get the material sold.

Councilmembers voiced concern that potholes would form after the contractor leaves and the city would not have the resources to fix the problems. Vorse stated the goal is to have any road problems fixed by the contractor; whether from the bond or from road maintenance fees.

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Councilmember Smith suggested that the 50,000 cubic yard haulers need to have a minimum yardage included in the text.

Councilmember Skeie stated he would rather have a lower cost and get the material moved to allow for development of the park area.

2861 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve the dredge spoil fee schedule, as presented. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Clerk-Treasurer Covington advised that a resolution will need to be adopted to formally incorporate this fee amendment.

2897 Vorse reported that both reservoirs have been inspected, with only minor repairs needed.

2924 Vorse also reported that the rock walls for the Huntington Avenue entry feature have been completed. A ‘volunteer planting party’ will be scheduled for May 3rd and 4th to install 1500 plants in this area.

3029 Vorse explained that he will be submitting a request to Cowlitz County Commissioners for Rural Development and County Road/Small City Fund to complete improvements to Cowlitz Street West and the city’s business district. The estimated cost of these improvements is $1.1 to $1.3 million dollars. To get enough funding to complete the project, Vorse stated the city could also apply for a Public Works Trust Fund loan in the amount of $300,000, at 1% interest. Vorse asked for council direction regarding options for funding this
By consensus, councilmembers directed Vorse to prepare the grant and loan applications for reconstruction of Cowlitz Street West Business District project. Councilmember Smith stated he is not opposed to seeking funds, but he would like to see a total cost estimate for the loan requirements.

Kristine Addington, requests council support to seek means to expand transportation services between the city and the Longview/Kelso area. She stated the only available transportation is the CAP bus and their route takes you to Tumwater before it goes to Longview. Ms Addington stated lack of alternative transportation negatively affects those residents that do not have private vehicles. She would like to develop a petition to provide councilmembers with an idea of how many residents would use the service. Councilmember Smith also recommended that Addington submit letters to the state and federal representatives to subsidize funding for alternative transportation in rural areas. Mayor Larsen asked the city clerk to assist Ms Addington with the petition process.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington submitted the first quarter budgetary report and also included a 10-year beginning fund balance comparison. Covington denoted funds where expenditures were currently exceeding revenues. She also noted that Fire District #6 still has not received their ambulance licensing and is currently operating under the city’s approval. For this reason, city staff members are still receipting ambulance payments and those payments are being transferred to Fire District #6, on a monthly basis. Councilmembers had no questions pertaining to the submitted financial report.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Skeie to approve payment in the amount of $2886.30 for purchase of Dell computers for the police department. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve payment to Winstead And Associates in the amount of $1665.58 for building inspection services. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘aye’.

Council Report Of Meetings:
Councilmember Smith attended the Mosquito Board meeting. They are prepared to respond to complaints related to mosquito problems within the county.

Mayor Larsen and Chief Heuer attended the Cowlitz County Jail grand opening ceremonies.

Covington announced that over 109 volunteers participated in the third annual spring clean-up event, held on April 22nd.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve the leak adjustment request submitted by Randy Lewis, 906 A-F Front Avenue SW, in the amount of $135.13. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.
Covington distributed copies of the city’s annual Loss Control Report conducted by AWC RMSA, the city’s insurance pool coverage. The city received high marks, which equates to full coverage for losses, without a deductible requirement.

Covington advised that she had met with Cowlitz County Treasurer to discuss the city’s interlocal agreement obligation to Cowlitz Fire Protection District #6 (FD#6) pertaining to payment of tax revenues. Because FD#6 did not identify the proposed annexation area early enough, they were unable to collect 2006 property taxes for the city’s portion that was annexed into the district. Per the city/district interlocal agreement, the city must remit to the district the percentage that the district would have received for properties within the city limits. Covington stated that the County Treasurer’s office has the ability to directly deduct this liability from the city’s property tax revenues and remit to the FD#6 account. She stated this would enable the district to receive funds in a more timely manner. Proposed resolution No. 2006-04 would allow the Treasurer’s office to make this transfer for the 2006 tax year.

Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Skeie to approve Resolution No. 2006-04, a resolution authorizing the Cowlitz County Treasurer’s office to make cash transfers from City of Castle Rock to Cowlitz County Fire Protection District #6 for 2006 tax collections, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve Resolution No. 2006-05, a resolution deeming certain property (theater seating) as surplus, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

Covington stated that Chief Heuer is proposing to use Property Room.Com to dispose of the theater seating, once they are deemed surplus.

There being no further business, Mayor Larsen adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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Mayor Barbara Larsen

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Clerk-Treasurer