

002 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.

014 Approval of the minutes for January 10, 2005 was tabled as councilmembers have not had an opportunity to review them.

023 Ken Stone, Cowlitz County Public Works Director, delivered a presentation of the proposed Solid Waste Plan for Cowlitz County. Stone began by reviewing the history of solid waste disposal and the landfill. The cost to build a new landfill when the current one is full has increased due to recent legislative requirements.

In 2001 Waste Control presented Cowlitz County with a proposal to provide long hauling of solid waste when the landfill is full. In February 2003 the County solicited for Statement of Qualifications to provide long term solid waste disposal. Six proposals were received and reviewed by a committee of representatives from the City of Longview, the City of Kelso and Cowlitz County. The committee recommended negotiating with Waste Control for long term solid waste disposal. The Board of County Commissioners authorized those negotiations.

Councilmember Julie Bean arrived at 7:37 p.m., all councilmembers are present.

110 April 2004, the Board of County Commissioners set the rate at the landfill at not to exceed \$39.30 per ton for the remaining life of the landfill, which is expected to be around 2012. Cowlitz County is preparing a solid waste disposal contract and at this time has a Letter of Understanding with Waste Control. Contract objectives are long term disposal (20 to 30 years), long term stable rates, low cost, equal or improved service and a county wide option. The contract would not contain mandatory pickup obligations.

Stone noted that Cowlitz County currently has the lowest "tipping" fee in western Washington, however this fee would increase significantly when the landfill reaches capacity. A county-wide contract could secure lower, long term stable rates.

240 Under the proposed contract with Waste Control the operation of the landfill will remain the same until 2009. After that, the public would dispose of waste at the Waste Control site located on Third Avenue in Longview. Waste Control would then haul the waste to the landfill. Once the landfill is at capacity, solid waste will travel by rail from that site, for disposal in eastern Washington.

To assure participation, Cowlitz County is requesting that cities within the county enter into an Interlocal Agreement to secure lower county wide rates when finalizing contract terms.

279 In response to City Attorney Tom O'Neill's question, Stone disclosed that Waste Control would add a 300 foot building at the existing facility to serve as a Transfer Station to receive waste for hauling. The permitting process to add that building is already completed.

In answer to Public Works Director David Vorse's inquiry, Stone answered that hauling by rail would be done via the existing line which crosses Tennant Way.

Councilmember Yund requested clarification on the rates contained in proposed Exhibit A. Stone explained that those are the fees paid to Waste Control which apply until the transfer station is in operation. A secondary table shows the transfer station fees and long haul disposal fees which will be paid to Waste Control when those services are provided.

- 326 In response to O'Neill's inquiry, Stone explained that recycling fees are set by the County. Vorse noted that presently the Interlocal Agreement is in "Draft" form, with terms still being negotiated.

Councilmember Skeie questioned if the contract would prohibit contracting with another firm for 30 years, if another firm could provide a lower rate. Stone stated that another company would not be forbidden from doing business in the county, but the contract would need to be reviewed if that should occur. Skeie has concerns with enabling a single business to be the sole provider of a vital service for as long a period as 30 years. Stone explained that the fees to contract for long term service is lower, with rates increasing at only 1% per year. This rate would be subject to openers, such as an increase in diesel rates. A clause could be included to meet the same rate as the lowest county rate.

- 401 County Commissioner George Raiter reiterated that the rates in Cowlitz County are lower than any county in western Washington. The County cannot compete with the rates charged by large landfills in eastern Washington. Raiter stated that the County cannot negotiate a better rate than Waste Control has proposed, with only a 1% increase per year.

- 429 Councilmember Marcil was concerned with unexpected cost increases and how that would affect the rate, such as a large increase in the price of diesel. Stone reported that the price of diesel would not be a significant factor once hauling by rail began, but any unexpected increases would be negotiated.

- 457 In answer to Councilmember Yund's question, Stone revealed that Waste Control would continue to receive solid waste from Wahkiakum County as it is a sparsely populated county with only 3500 residents. Wahkiakum County will be included in the Interlocal Agreement.

- 471 Cowlitz County Commissioner George Raiter noted that the funds which were collected for a new landfill will instead be used to subsidize the new system.

- 485 In answer to Councilmember Smith's concern Stone believes that the Third Avenue facility can accommodate the waste it will receive, if the facility is managed well.

- 521 Mayor Barbara Larsen introduced John Kramer, the new manager at the Exhibit Hall. Mr. Kramer outlined some preliminary plans for new programs.

- 530 Glenn Taylor reports that he will have his personal property completely removed from the City-owned house on Jackson Street NW by the end of this month. Taylor will keep Public Works Director David Vorse apprised of his progress.

- 559 Richard Wilde, Castle Rock School District Superintendent, expressed his appreciation for the Police Department's apprehension of the suspects which are responsible for the recent vandalism involving slashed tires.
- 570 Fire Chief Eric Koreis stated the department is interviewing 12 applicants for the part-time secretary position. At this time 11 of those applicants have been through the interview process. Koreis anticipates that the department will soon fill this position.
- 578 Koreis reports that the Cowlitz County Medical Program Director, Dr. Brian Hoyt, has passed down an unfunded mandate requiring that all Emergency Medical System (EMS) reports be completed at the hospital. At this time Koreis is attempting to integrate the existing Castle Rock Ambulance database with the hospital's database, which would assist Castle Rock EMS personnel to fill out patient reports at the hospital as mandated.
- 585 Koreis, clarified a question that was asked at the last regular council meeting regarding a reimbursement for computer equipment. Koreis stated that fire department volunteer, Garry Lienhard, is employed in the computer industry and therefore he can locate computer equipment at a reduced cost. The Fire Department receives grant funds to be used toward the purchase of information technology to be used for computer equipment purchases.

Side B

- 592 Koreis had authorized Lienhard to purchase a laptop computer for the Fire Department. Lienhard has been authorized to purchase another laptop when he finds another at a reduced price. The laptop equipment will be used to complete patient reports at the hospital, as mandated.
- 616 Councilmember Yund is concerned that the new hospital mandate will keep needed personnel out of the City longer than necessary. Koreis is currently researching the incident of "back to back" calls to enable him to ascertain to what extent this mandate may have a negative effect on the department. The purpose of this mandate is an attempt to have the records of treatment stay with the patient, which would assist in preventing duplication of medicines and tests.
- 659 Koreis reported that transports have shown a 12% increase this year, and he continues to closely review revenue flows.
- 678 Koreis reports that Fire District #6 has agreed to their portion of the tax subsidy support and annexation plans are moving forward. Fire District #6 foresees a need for a new facility in the future and has hired a consultant for strategic planning of those needs.
- 706 Koreis will be attending the National Fire Academy scheduled February 12th to the 23rd and therefore will not be available to attend the next regular council meeting. Costs for the training, less meal reimbursement, will be funded by a FEMA scholarship.

Koreis praised personnel at the Fire Department for their performance when responding to a multiple vehicle accident in Kelso during a recent ice storm.

- 734 Koreis presented the Cowlitz County Mutual Aid Agreement for approval. City Attorney Tom O'Neill recommends that in the future

any agreement such as this should include the condition that any dispute will go through arbitration and have the authority given to arbitration to resolve the dispute. This agreement does not include that condition, however, it has already been negotiated by many entities over a long period of time and O'Neill does not want to delay approval any longer. Koreis states that the main purpose for this agreement is to provide credit for automatic aid to decrease homeowners insurance rates for those within the fire district.

- 795 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Bean to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement.

During discussion: Mayor Larsen noted that the year needs to be changed to 2005 on the document. Councilmember Skeie pointed out a typing mistake on page 2 of 15, number 4 - another party should be other party.

Vote on above motion with typing corrections: By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- 819 Public Works Director David Vorse reported that the wastewater treatment plant has been transferred to the new treatment process. Elements of the old system, which are no longer needed, will be demolished. Vorse stated the new system no longer requires the use of chlorine at the plant.

Councilmember Skeie expressed concern regarding the emission of odors during the demolition process. Vorse confirmed that as the "bugs" die when the trickling filter is turned off, odors may be released. Vorse noted that this project was completed on schedule.

- 862 Vorse reports that City Engineer Mike Johnson is recommending that the Woodard Avenue Stormwater Project be accepted as complete.
- 887 Councilmember Yund made a motion, seconded by Bean to accept the recommendation of the city engineer regarding the completion of the Woodard Avenue Stormwater Project and to direct the engineer to proceed with final closing of the contract. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
- 891 Vorse reported that a letter has been sent to the Washington State Department of Transportation regarding the I-5 Toutle Rest Area Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement. As of this date, a reply has not been received.
- 896 Councilmember Smith recommended that the trees along Huntington Avenue South be trimmed.

Council Report of Meetings

- 908 Councilmember Marcil attended a Boat Launch meeting. Marcil reports that the proposed boat launch is designed to be set at a 7% angle. The boat launch preliminary design includes a 100 foot loading platform. No cost estimates have been developed at this time. Vorse reports that numerous suggestions from potential users were received at that meeting.
- 936 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve Resolution 2005-01 adopting the City of Castle Rock Hazard Mitigation Plan, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- 952 Ordinance 2005-01 regarding utility deposits is tabled as council has not yet received any information on this ordinance.
- 954 Mayor Larsen appointed Nancy Murphy to the Planning Commission providing she meets residential requirements. By consensus, councilmembers concurred with the appointment.
- 972 Mayor Larsen adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer