

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the September 22, 2014 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: Lee Kessler, Earl Queen, Mike Davis and Ellen Rose. Councilmember Teter was absent.

Business from the floor:

1. Don Miller, Cowlitz View Court NW resident questioned why city council is considering increasing utility rates for 2015. He noted there are a lot of residents on 'fixed incomes' and increases are difficult for them to pay. Mayor Helenberg explained operating cost impacts, such as labor, power, chemicals and additional government regulations drive up costs. As an example, the mayor noted recent regulatory changes pertaining to the discharge permit for the Water Treatment Plant requiring possible infrastructure improvements and staff reporting requirements. Gene Frymire, former Castle Rock Mayor, noted that regulatory changes required the city to develop backwash ponds. Public Works Director Dave Vorse noted that NPDES regulations have recently changed, which may require the city to increase the pond size. Mayor Helenberg invited Mr. Miller to attend the budget workshop meeting on October 18th at 11:00 a.m. The workshop meeting will include discussions on 2015 budget impacts and discussion on possible rate increases.
2. Gene Frymire, advised of a sunken area of the street, near the corner of Leaming and Cowlitz Street West that needed to be repaired. Vorse stated he has discussed this with the Cowlitz Street West project inspector. It was their conclusion that some settling has occurred when Cowlitz Street was upgraded; however no further settling has been noted within the last five to six years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Stephanie Misner, chairperson for the Festival of Lights, stated the event is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Misner distributed a handout outlining the event. She requested council permission for the following:
 - Approval for the event; including a tree lighting ceremony, entertainment and Hometown Christmas Parade route.
 - Use of the Visitor (Welcome) Center
 - Approval to put five burn barrels in designated locations within the business district
 - Approval to use city right of way to erect event signage
 - Approval to plug in Christmas lights to city light posts from December 1st through 31st
 - Permission to close Cowlitz Street West; between 1st and 2nd Avenue to place a stage
 - Permission to erect a 30' Christmas tree in front of the post office and use city outlets for powering the lights.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the requests pending receipt of proof of insurance, including notation of the city as an additional insured on the policy. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'

2. Patricia McVay, distributed packets outlining her 'Castle Rock Rocks' initiative to stimulate additional business opportunities; especially for the downtown business core. Beginning September 30th, monthly questionnaires will be available in designated businesses to gain information from shoppers as to their needs and reasons from shopping local. Survey results will be input into a data base. A chance to win prizes is being offered to those who complete the survey. She invited councilmembers to a 'Big Event' scheduled for October 30th at 4 p.m. at Lacey Rha's Restaurant. McVay added that she will be meeting with mayors from surrounding cities and she plans to have monthly events. In addition, McVay stated she will provide city council with monthly updates.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS-

Dave Vorse, Public Works Director – informed councilmembers that he has researched cost comparisons between using a dive team to clean the intake or purchasing a raw water intake cleaning system as a capital project for 2015. At this time, he does not recommend purchasing an intake cleaning system.

Council and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

1. Councilmember Kessler reported he is still obtaining estimates for a server.
2. Councilmember Queen attended a 911 meeting with Police Chief Bob Heuer. Their initial cost estimate for dispatch services includes a dramatic increase for users. Queen stated additional budget meetings will be forthcoming.

Nancy Chennault – city representative to Cowlitz Economic Development Council (CEDC)

- Reported that CEDC met last week to set groundwork for economic development projects.

It was noted that Cowlitz County Health Department will be releasing their annual Community Report Card in May. CEDC is also working to develop a searchable data base for commercial and industrial properties within Cowlitz County.

- Reported that two of the three 'Music On The Mountain' event locations were moved due to inclement weather. These events were in conjunction with CEDC and the Forest Service.

- Castle Rock representatives will be leaving in a few weeks to attend the national America In Bloom Symposium in Philadelphia.

- The upcoming Harvest Festival will be focusing on tying in downtown businesses to the event.

- Reported that the task force assigned to evaluate options for the Exhibit Hall building has been meeting weekly. Work groups were formed to evaluate the following options; selling the building, development into a community building, and development for siting incubator businesses. Options will be presented for city council action in December.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Davis to approve the minutes to the September 8, 2014 regular council meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilmembers requested a workshop to discuss the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2015. A Special Meeting will be held on October 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the Welcome Center (former Exhibit Hall/Visitor Information Center), 145 Front Avenue.
2. Public Works Director Dave Vorse reported the Castle Rock Park Board Commissioners would like to recommend that city council designate the 'High Banks' area on the west side of the Cowlitz River as a leash free dog zone.

Vorse stated he has researched what it would require to develop a dog park in city limits. Research included contact with the city's risk insurance pool, Humane Society of Cowlitz Council and the City of Longview. The City of Longview stated it costs between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per year for upkeep of their dog park facility. This does not include the cost for fencing, or developing the area. Vorse noted the city does not have the funds to develop or maintain such a facility; however there is approximately 100 acres on the west side of the Cowlitz River that could be designated as a leash-free zone. This would require the city to amend their municipal code to allow for an exemption of the city's leash requirements. Vorse stated the High Banks area has natural borders to keep dogs from entering onto private property and signage could advise other users that the area is leash-free. Vorse stated dog owners are still responsible for the liability of maintaining control of their dogs. Patti McVay suggested users be required to have liability insurance covering any damage their dogs may create. Covington added the city currently has use agreements for this area with several canine groups holding AKC dog trials on that property; and asked if designating this same area as leash free would undermine the agreements. By consensus councilmembers asked the city attorney to do further research on the issue, including liabilities and management of the site.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Resolution No. 2014-13, a resolution designating the 1999 Ford police vehicle as surplus property, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye' Motion carried.
2. Mayor Helenberg stated the city has provided portable toilets for the Bike Park Blowout event; however promoters overlooked making this request to council prior to the event. Mayor Helenberg requested councilmembers consider paying the \$160 invoice from TPI for two standard portable units that were used for the event. Councilmember Davis made a motion, seconded by Kessler to approve payment to TPI as requested. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Paul Helenberg adjourned the regular meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington