

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the September 23, 2013 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: Ray Teter, Glenn Pingree, Earl Queen, Mike Davis and Ellen Rose.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Helenberg thanked Representative Ed Orcutt for his support in securing street improvement funding for the city.

Public Works Director David Vorse summarized that when requesting voter support to form a Transportation Benefit District funded by a .2% tax increase, an application was submitted for a Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loan in the amount of \$504,000. This loan would provide the city with the ability to complete a large citywide residential street improvement project on street segments that have deteriorated to a level where they no longer qualify for funding. Voters supported these street improvements enough to generate a 60% approval for a sales tax increase during difficult economic times. The city received notification that this project would be included on the Public Works Board approved project list. The city also applied for, and received approval for a Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loan to fund replacement of most of the vulnerable water mains located in areas of the designated streets slated for surface improvements. However in an effort to balance the State budget, the Governor later withdrew PWTF loan money and our street project was cut. Mayor Helenberg then began working with Representative Orcutt to secure funds to allow the city to coordinate the proposed city-wide residential street improvement project. Vorse thanked Representative Orcutt and his staff for their diligence which resulted in the city obtaining Capital Program appropriations for this project.

Vorse also thanked Mayor Helenberg and Councilmembers for their time and support on behalf of this project.

Representative Orcutt noted out that a very well written request made this appeal easier. The request specified all the reasons why this was the absolute right thing to do. A new street surface must be torn up if underground infrastructure fails. This would not be a cost effective use of funds. It makes sense to complete underground and street surface improvements at the same time. Without a large tax base or industry, small cities are constantly struggling to maintain infrastructure. When presented with this well worded request, representatives on the Capital Budget Committee concurred. Representative Orcutt noted that he represents the same people as council and is very happy that we can work together to get this done!

Mayor Helenberg thanked Representative Orcutt and Public Works Director David Vorse for their work on this project. Vorse noted that he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller who wrote the request.

Mayor Helenberg adjourned regular session for a celebratory break at 7:37 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Helenberg resumed regular session at 7:53 p.m. and tabled the report on the partnership between the CARE Coalition, Castle Rock School District and Police Department, as Police Chief Bob Heuer is absent due to illness.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Engineer Mike Johnson

1. Updated that the concrete and asphalt has been poured on Front Avenue NW. Street lights are installed and should be operational this week. The street will be open for use once traffic signs are posted. Vorse clarified that vehicle access to the Red Canoe and Cowlitz River Dental Clinic was closed for one day while the street surface was poured.

In response to a question from Mayor Helenberg, Vorse clarified that he will conduct a preliminary punch list walk thru with Project Inspector Ken Harris on Wednesday. Councilmember Pingree recommends a post rainfall walk thru to identify low spots.

2. Johnson reports that bids for the Huntington Avenue North Sidewalk Project will be opened tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Bid tabulations will then be sent to the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for review. The engineer's cost estimate for this project is approximately \$150,000 and funding will require a 5% match. Since the next council meeting is not for three weeks, Johnson asked councilmembers to consider allowing the Mayor Pro-Tempore to give approval of the bid award. This will allow the project to continue in a timely manner.

Councilmember Davis made a motion, seconded by Rose to grant Mayor Pro Tempore Queen authority to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible bidder receiving TIB approval for the Huntington Avenue North Sidewalk / ADA Improvement Project, providing the bid does not exceed \$150,000. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Mayor Helenberg presented an Outstanding Performance Award from the Department of Ecology for excellent permit compliance throughout 2012 at the Castle Rock Wastewater Treatment Plant. Vorse specified that this is the third year this award was been received thanks to Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Paul Petersen.

Councilmembers

- Councilmember Teter reports that the Lil Squatch obstacle course at the Toutle River RV Resort raised over \$13,000 to benefit Cowlitz County schools. There was a great turnout and the kids had a good time.
- Councilmember Earl Queen reports that he and Police Chief Bob Heuer attended a Cowlitz 911 Committee Meeting. There was standing room only during discussions regarding implementation of the new 911 system.
- In response to a question from Councilmember Rose, Councilmember Teter specified that to date \$200 has been pledged towards the purchase of a basketball hoop; \$100 each from Mayor Helenberg and Councilmember Teter. Councilmember Rose pledged \$100 towards this purchase. Councilmember Teter stated that donations should be made to the finance office for this project.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, Pingree abstained, the rest Aye, motion passed.
2. Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington reports that the City's insurance agency, Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust, is changing from a fully insured benefit program to a self-insured program in accordance with RCW 48.62 and WAC 200-110. One of the requirements is that each entity member must approve, by resolution, an Interlocal Agreement authorizing participation in the self-insured program. In response to a question from Councilmember Davis, Covington noted that the only cost increase projected for 2014 is for LEOFF I retirees.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Pingree to approve Resolution 2013-07 authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust and the City of Castle Rock to provide health and welfare benefits through a self-insured benefit program. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington