

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the March 12, 2012 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.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Helenberg presented CARE Coalition Coordinator and Castle Rock School District (CRSD) Prevention/Intervention Specialist Dianne Swanson with a "Kick Butts" Day Proclamation declaring March 21, 2012 "Kick Butts Day 2012". "Kick Butts Day" is an annual national initiative sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids that makes students leaders in the fight against youth tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Castle Rock Student Jacob Palmer provided statistics on the effects of second hand smoke.

Castle Rock Student Cameron Palmer provided statistics on smokers in Cowlitz County and their influence on youths.

Castle Rock Student Ayesha Preston spoke on behalf of efforts from Cowlitz County youths to stop tobacco use.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

1. Castle Rock School District Board of Directors Glen Paget spoke against the proposed mining in the Green River area. Beginning in 1978, the Cowlitz County Sheriffs' Posse, Mount Solo Saddle Club and the Thunder Mountain Back County Horseman spent two years building the Thunder Horse Camp at the mouth of Studebaker Creek. This camp was lost in the 1980 eruption.

In 1982, Mr. Paget served as a Kelso School District Representative to the Mt. St. Helens Monument during the process to develop an education plan. At that time, the U.S. Forest Service entered into an agreement with the horse clubs to protect the Mt. St. Helens Monument for educational purposes. This protection prohibited horseback riding within the Monument. In exchange the areas north and south of the Monument were reserved for recreational purposes. As a result of this agreement, the Kalama River Horse Camp and the Green River Horse Camp were established. In addition, these areas preserved for recreational use are vastly utilized by hunters. The U.S. Forest Service now claims no knowledge of this agreement.

Mr. Paget stated that he is neither an environmentalist nor a member of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force. However, he urges City Council to oppose test drilling and mining in

the Green River/Mt. Margaret area. The proposed mining activity will produce a constant 80 to 90 decibels of noise pollution. This activity will end recreational use of this area, including functionality of the Green River Horse Camp.

2. Diane Watenpaugh requests approval to hold an April Fool's Day 5K Walk/Run on the Riverfront Trail to benefit local cancer patient Madonna Underland. Public Works Director David Vorse explained the need for event liability insurance. This coverage can be obtained through organizational support or purchased following a risk assessment. In response to a question from Councilmember Teter, Vorse clarified that in January the Cowlitz Valley Runners must provide their insurance company with the year's list of sponsored events. Vorse suggests seeking a non-profit sponsor to provide liability coverage.

By consensus, council approves the April Fool's Day 'Cancer is a Joke' 5K Walk/Run on the condition that liability insurance is obtained and approved by the City's insurance carrier.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Attorney Frank Randolph

- Randolph summarized the Global Class Action Settlement Agreement approved by the U.S. District Court in favor of AT&T/New Cingular Wireless seeking the refund of \$2,586.52 in Local Utility Tax for data services and internet access between November 2005 and September 2010 collected by the City of Castle Rock. By brilliant advocacy, Randolph has negotiated a settlement and release of all City obligations for \$2,000.
- Randolph reports that Verizon Wireless has submitted an application to amend the zoning code to remove the 100 feet height limitation for cellular interchange towers. City Planner T.J. Keiran will work with Randolph to form an amendment that retains limitations to preserve aesthetics.

Public Works Director David Vorse

Vorse reports that the Sand & Misery Walk/Run went well last Saturday. The event was well attended with 386 participants. The proceeds went to the Boy Scouts of America and the North County Recreation Association. In response to a suggestion from Councilmember Pingree, Mayor Helenberg clarified that the boat launch remained open throughout the event. The only impediment to using the facility may have been short wait while runners crossed the access road.

City Planner T.J. Keiran

Keiran reports that the FEMA Open House to review and comment on the updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on April 9th at the Cowlitz County Expo Center. FIRM are used to identify flood prone areas for insurance rate and land development regulations. The only option for a city resident that does not agree with the FIRM designation of their property is to appeal through the city. Cowlitz County will notify residents through Public Service Announcements. Keiran requests direction for public notification.

In response to a question from Mayor Helenberg, Keiran detailed that approximately 100 city parcels are newly designated within a flood prone area. The City's website could be equipped with Geographic Information System tools that would enable a resident to assess the hazard to their property, although GIS will not identify newly listed parcels.

By council consensus, individual notices will be sent to Castle Rock properties newly identified within a flood prone area.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington

Covington reviewed the Cash and Investment Activity Report for 2011. In the General Fund, \$64,544 was used from the beginning fund balance due to Police Department, Criminal Justice and Planning Department budget amendments. Other funds that are using the beginning fund balance for grant reimbursement were reviewed.

Covington reviewed the December 2011 Revenue Report. 96.89% of anticipated tax revenues were received.

Covington reviewed the 2011 Fourth Quarter Utility Comparison. Sewer expenditures exceeded revenue through each quarter for a fourth quarter Water/Sewer Operating net loss of (\$133,544.95). It is anticipated that the 2012 rate increase will resolve this shortfall. Rates that reward conservation have reduced the average usage amounts by 50%.

Covington reviewed the Cash and Investment Activity Report for January 2012. The Street Fund shortage has been reimbursed.

Librarian Vicki Selander

Selander reports that last week the Friends of the Library deposited \$6,000 in donations funds, with another \$2,000 received since. These donations will enable the Library to stay open a few months longer.

Exhibit Hall Director Karen Johnson

Johnson reviewed Exhibit Hall Visitor Counts for 2009 through 2011. The yearly totals are 1396 visitors in 2009, 1249 visitors in 2010 and 2581 visitors in 2011. These totals include event attendance. Mayor Helenberg pointed out that attendance has doubled in the last year. Councilmember Pingree noted the shortage of available parking last weekend due to the Craft Show attendance of 285. Mayor Helenberg commented on the great job that Johnson has been doing. Covington added that both the Craft Sale and the Sand & Misery Run brought numerous visitors to Castle Rock last weekend.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Paul Helenberg

- Mayor Helenberg attended the first meeting of the Port of Longview Strategic Marketing Planning Committee. This committee is comprised of 13 community and business representatives, including Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments Director Steve Harvey. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by June.
- Mayor Helenberg reports that he and Councilmembers Teter and Queen, Planner Keiran and Clerk-Treasurer Covington met this afternoon with Ascot Resources Exploratory Drillers. Ascot hopes to drill 63 exploratory holes 1500 feet deep over a six month period beginning next September to ascertain mineral deposit concentrations in the Mt. Margaret/Green River/Goat Mountain vicinity. While the proposed drilling is outside the National Monument boundaries it is in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. If sufficient concentrations are found, mineral rights could then be sold. Approval from the U.S. Forest Service is required. It is too preliminary to support or oppose a potential mining operation.

Councilmember Teter feels that a mining operation poses numerous safety concerns without a direct benefit to the City. Although a bond would be required, history indicates that this can be insufficient to resolve environmental damage. Human error, miscalculations and accidents occur. Councilmember Rose questioned how drilling can take place at this elevation during winter months. Mayor Helenberg noted that an environmental and economic balance must be achieved.

Councilmembers

Councilmembers Pingree and Rose along with Community Economic Development Council (CEDC) Representative Nancy Chennault attend Castle Rock Community Development Alliance meeting today.

Councilmember Pingree reports that he will not be able to attend the Government Summit meeting. In addition to Mayor Helenberg, Councilmembers Queen and Teter will attend.

Councilmember Rose feels that the Sand & Misery Run was a great event that brought customers to the city's motels and restaurants.

Community Economic Development Representative Nancy Chennault

- Chennault detailed that the CEDC in partnership with the Mt. St. Helens Monument Tourism Council are sponsoring an event on March 24th and 25th. This partnership to increase tourism activities along Spirit Lake Memorial Highway will begin with wine tasting at the Blue Heron Inn followed by an illusionist performance at the Mt. St. Helens Visitors Center.
- Chennault reports that the Castle Rock Community Development Alliance has formed five action teams with accomplishable goals as part of the Strategic Marketing Plan Implementation. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19th at the Elementary School at 6:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Pingree to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington reports that Councilmember Teter has reviewed February Invoices. Councilmember Pingree appreciates the effort to buy local.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve payment of February invoices in the amount of \$329,755.44, as described in the February 2012 Fund Transaction Summary Report. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

3. Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the Agreement of Settlement and Release between New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC and the City of Castle Rock in the amount of \$2,000. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Vorse reports that the engineer has been working to establish the best location for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk path. At the beginning of the year, an interlocal agreement was submitted to Cowlitz County for a street overlay. This agreement enables the city to gain the economy scale by partnering with Cowlitz County for overlay expenses. \$20,000 has been budgeted from the REET Fund for an overlay project. The remaining portion of Roake Avenue SE could receive an overlay for this amount. Councilmember Pingree pointed out the poor condition of the 100 block of Allen Avenue SE.

Vorse reports that Cowlitz County will be applying a chip seal on Pleasant Hill Road and Bond Road. The cost for Cowlitz County to apply the chip seal on the city's portion of these roads is \$45,000. The cost for the city's portion of Pleasant Hill Road (.3444 miles) without shoulder work is \$12,500. The REET Fund has \$17,482.

Mayor Helenberg noted that a reliable source of funding is needed to maintain city streets. The city may need to ask taxpayers for street repair funding to slow street deterioration. A neighborhood LID could also be a source of funding. Vorse specified that student drop off at the Elementary School is the primary source of traffic on Roake Avenue SE. Vorse recommends overlaying the last section of Roake Avenue SE in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School Project. City Engineer Mike Johnson pointed out that a public meeting will be held to notify residents of SRTS project specifications.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington