

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the February 13, 2012 regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Ray Teter, Earl Queen, Mike Davis and Ellen Rose. Councilmember Pingree was absent.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Stephanie Stidham, 1059 Cowlitz View Ct, requests a utility adjustment for January. She stated the reason for the high usage is unknown. They have lived at this residence for two years and have never had a usage this high. A faulty toilet was fixed on December 6th which would not affect billing for January usage. Mayor Helenberg noted that an unknown reason for a high usage does not qualify as a basis for adjustment under Castle Rock Municipal Code.

In response to a question from Councilmember Queen, Public Works Director David Vorse noted that his personnel have checked the meter multiple times for leaks; with no leak detected. A new radio meter was installed on January 26th. Vorse added that due to the holidays, meters are read earlier in December, making the January billing cycle longer.

In response to a question from Councilmember Rose, Mayor Helenberg explained that in accordance with CRMC 13.06 the only basis for an adjustment of utility bills are:

1. A qualifying leak;
2. Malfunction of city owned equipment and
3. Suspected theft of service.

In response to a question from Councilmember Teter, Ms. Stidham confirmed that the meter now indicates normal usage.

In response to a question from Councilmember Davis, City Attorney Frank Randolph specified there is neither indication nor evidence of theft. Mr. Stidham stated most of his neighbors are elderly and he does not feel that theft was the issue.

In response to a question from Sean Stidham, Mayor Helenberg explained that city council amended the ordinance outlining the basis for adjusting utility billings because there were numerous on-going requests for adjustments of high usage where the reason was unknown.

Councilmembers thanked Mr. and Mrs. Stidham for attending the meeting, however council is unable to approve any adjustment based on municipal code.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Attorney Frank Randolph

- Randolph reviewed the Association of Washington Cities February 10th Legislative Newsletter regarding the 2013 budget \$5.1 billion shortfall. Significant cuts relating to state shared revenues, will adversely impact cities
- Medical marijuana collective and cooperative gardens legislation is still under review by the Senate.
- Randolph reports that Humane Society of Cowlitz County Executive Director Rick Johnson expressed concerns regarding a dangerous dog citation in Pierce County that resulted in a dismissal. Randolph has reviewed our city's Dangerous Dog Ordinance and determined it is not affected by this case.
- In response to a question from Mayor Helenberg, Randolph specified that I-502, the Marijuana Initiative, has been submitted to the Legislature for consideration. If the Legislature fails to take action, it will be sent to voters this fall as a Referendum. However, even if this Referendum legalizes marijuana in Washington State, it does not change federal law. The federal government could still arrest marijuana producers, processors, retailers and users.

Public Works Director David Vorse

Vorse reviewed the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2011 also known as the 'Consumer Confidence Report', which is distributed annually to every water customer. The city's drinking water continues to meet all Federal and State requirements with monitoring and testing for more than 222 constituents in 2011. Vorse explained the test result chart. In addition, the 2012 water and sewer rates and Water Use Efficiency Plan are also included within this report.

Librarian Vicki Selander

Selander reminded everyone to vote on the Library Levy measure.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Mayor Helenberg reviewed correspondence from Cowlitz County Commissioners Administrative Coordinator Stephanie Dunn. Commissioners are asking that two councilmembers, plus the Mayor, be appointed to represent the City at the upcoming Government Summit meetings. Councilmember Queen volunteered for this committee and Councilmember Pingree was appointed to fill the second position. If Councilmember Pingree is unable to attend, Councilmember Teter volunteered to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington reports that Councilmember Pingree has reviewed January invoices. Councilmember Pingree requested it be noted that he appreciates the effort to buy local. However, he would like to see uniforms, clothing and boots be purchased locally, if possible.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve payment of January invoices in the amount of \$426,385.28, as described in the January Fund Transaction Summary Report as adjustment number 213, check numbers 42201 through 42319 for general expenditures and check numbers 22770 through 22820 for payroll expenses. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

3. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve the Consulting Agreement between Nancy Chennault, Cowlitz County and the City of Castle Rock for implementation of segments to the city's Strategic Marketing Plan as identified in the contract, effective as of January 1, 2012. Funding through the Rural Development grant program. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

Genevieve Grant, Student Representative to The Council provided the following report on school activities:

- on February 3rd, a Cancer Benefit Dance was held at the High School. Four schools were invited to attend, with proceeds being donated for that cause.
- twenty two members of the Future Business Leaders (FBLA) qualified for State competition.
- Castle Rock High School wrestling team also had numerous members qualify for the State wrestling championship competition.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Queen to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-02, an ordinance establishing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on Cowlitz Street West, on second reading. Unanimous Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Director Vorse stated he is compiling a list of trees that need to be removed. He will have the list available at the next council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Boat Launch floats: Vorse stated bids for the floats are due this Wednesday.

Public Works employee advertised position: in answer to Councilmember Davis' question, Mayor Helenberg stated the public works position currently being advertised, replaces an existing open position vacated when an employee retired. Vorse stated the position is funded by the Street Fund (40%), Stormwater Management Fund (45%) and DOT Spoil Site Fund (15%). It is expected that the new employee obtain the required treatment plant certifications within two years of hire. Vorse stated that candidates already possessing a CDL will rank higher. Negotiations regarding training reimbursement costs are negotiable at time of hire, providing they are possible through the current adopted budgets. Costs over the adopted budget would need council approval prior to incurring the expense. Vorse hopes to fill the position by April 1st. Mayor Helenberg stated the position was not filled at the beginning of the year; it was delayed to reduce impacts to the General Fund. Currently the city does not have any employee paid from the Street Fund. Vorse noted that most of the Street Fund comes from gas tax shared revenues. Vorse stated the Street Fund will receive approximately \$14,000 from the General Fund, which is equal to, or less than received in 2011. Councilmember Davis stated he would like to meet later with the mayor regarding this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington