

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the January 23, 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.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business presented.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Helenberg presented Public Works Director David Vorse with an award for 30 years of dedicated service to the city. The mayor praised Vorse for the many positive projects that the city has had completed throughout this time.

Mayor Helenberg also presented Deputy Clerk II Joanne Purvis with an award for 20 years of dedicated service to the city. He thanked Purvis for her work in the finance office. Purvis noted that between these two awards, there was 50 years of combined service being recognized. The mayor stated it is great to have employees with this level of service.

OLD BUSINESS – moved forward in the agenda:

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Pingree to approve Ordinance No. 2012-01, an ordinance amending text in the C-2 zoning district to allow mini storage units as a principle use, subject to satisfying certain conditions, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

DEPARTMENT REPORTSCity Attorney Frank Randolph

Provided an update on Senate Bill 6265 (SB-6265). Randolph was hoping this bill would clarify the city's role relating to marijuana collective gardens. However this is not the case. In its current form, the bill precludes cities from excluding collective gardens and if the bill passes, the city would have to allow no more than one collective garden per dwelling, or per commercial building. In addition, state legislators are trying to provide for the creation of cooperatives; which do not restrict the number of members, allows up to 90 marijuana plants, 144 ounces of marijuana and if the county population is 200,000 or less the cooperatives would be prohibited unless voters approve to allow within the county. The city's current ordinance on collective gardens would be too restrictive if this legislation passes. Randolph stated Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Washington Association of Police and Sheriffs are opposed to the bill. He urged councilmembers to contact both AWC and their state representatives and senators to provide their input.

Chief Bob Heuer

Reported that no accidents occurred during the recent snow event last week.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse

- Submitted and discussed the annual Water Use Efficiency Plan Report, which defines actions to be taken to help get the city's water loss down to 10% and to also outline goals to encourage customers to use less water, on a per capita basis. This report is required by the State in order to retain the city's water rights. The initial plan was adopted in 2008/2009. Vorse outlined what has been accomplished to date and discussed future goals identified for implementation through 2012. As of 2011, the city has reduced water loss to 7.1%.

Librarian Vicki Selander

Reports that the Friends of the Library continue to work on fund raising projects to help keep the library open this year. In addition, approximately \$3000 in donations has been received by the Friends of the Library. Mayor Helenberg noted that he needs to meet with the librarian and Tom Quigley to discuss the library's current financial status. The mayor stated it appears there is only about two months of operating revenues remaining to support the library services; with current expenses averaging \$4800 per month.

Exhibit Hall Director Karen Johnson

Announced that the annual Quilt Show will begin February 1st and continue throughout the month.

Council Student Representative Genevieve Grant

Reported the High School just enforced their 'Help Time' which is mandatory for those students needing extra assistance, or missing assignments.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Paul Helenberg

No report

Councilmembers

- Councilmember Pingree attended the Brain Works Café meeting sponsored by Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson. Also attending were Chief Heuer and Police Chaplain White. This was a follow-up from meeting held June 2011. Current issues included funding and availability of mental health treatment, and issues regarding drug prevention for children. Pingree stated that recent state budget cuts to mental health funded programs have adversely affected treatment options and various groups may be coming to city council to seek support for funding alternatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Pingree to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

- City Attorney Frank Randolph provided a report on behalf of the mayor's committee assigned to research signage options on city property. Information obtained from Municipal Research and Service Center advised if the city permits sign, the city cannot control content. Therefore if the city permits individuals, or groups to have signage on city property basically the city would need to allow any sign to be placed. However if the community feels that establishing an area for community event signage is important, the city could consider partnering with a private agency, such as the Chamber of Commerce. The city could lease an area to the Chamber of Commerce and then they would have control over what is placed within that leased area. Otherwise the first amendment and Washington State constitution prohibit the city from controlling the content.

Mayor Helenberg also reviewed the city's sign ordinance, which allows the city to request removal of signs that have deteriorated.

The mayor requested Covington to contact the Chamber and ask if they would be interested in taking over control of community event signage by leasing city property for that purpose. In addition, the mayor requested the chamber also be requested to have the deteriorated sign at the north end of the city removed. Councilmember Rose suggested that the chamber could establish a charge to community groups wanting to erect community event signs; which might become a fund raiser for the chamber.

- Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Queen to adopt Resolution No. 2012-01, a resolution to obtain public financial assistance from USDA Rural Development, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
- Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve Ordinance No. 2012-02, an ordinance establishing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on Cowlitz Street West, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Helenberg stated that North County Recreation Association (NCRA) is requesting permission to sponsor a beer garden on city-owned boat launch property during the Sand And Misery event in March. Proceeds from the beer garden would be used to support North County Recreation projects. In answer to Councilmember Pingree's question, the mayor stated no formal application has been submitted to the State at this time. By consensus, councilmembers did not have any objections to NCRA's request as described.
- City Engineer Mike Johnson requested council accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant

digester re-coating project as complete, contingent on the engineer's review of the final top seal coat. Johnson stated all other aspects of the project have been completed.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Pingree to accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant digester re-coating project as complete, contingent on final review of the coating by the engineer. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- City Engineer Johnson stated last year the city completed the first phase of the sewer project by cleaning and inspecting 6,000 linear feet of sewer line at the west corner of town. Approximately 64,000 linear feet of sewer line remain to be cleaned and inspected; and initially the city intended to phase this work over an additional four year period. City staff has determined that it would be more cost effective to complete the remainder of this project in one final phase; saving costs on both bid solicitation, mobilization and contracted services. In addition, completing the remaining portion of this work in one final phase would allow for a more accurate summary of findings and recommendations. Johnson is requesting approval of Gray and Osborne Engineering Service Proposal in the amount of \$29,300 to prepare a plan, bid proposal and report for this project. Mayor Helenberg noted completion of this project also was a recommendation from the city's insurance carrier. In answer to Councilmember Pingree's question, Vorse stated this project cost has been included in the 2012 fiscal budget. Mayor Helenberg stated the city would need to complete this work every five years to meet recommendations set by the city's insurance carrier.

Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the engineering service proposal submitted by Gray and Osborne in the amount of \$29,300 as outlined in the proposal. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- Mayor Helenberg announced that the Community Development Team meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled due to snow conditions. It has been rescheduled for January 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Elementary School.

- Dave Gourde, citizen, felt that the dirt piles located at the south entry of the city is not very attractive and suggested the city could smooth out the area. Vorse stated the dirt had been piled to be used for the final phase of the south entry feature. Public Works will smooth the dirt pile, as requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer