

- 3598 Mayor Barbara Larsen called the 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: Khembar Yund, Greg Marcil, Ed Smith and Jeff Skeie. Councilmember Julie Bean was absent.
- 3635 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2006 Regular Council meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Yund abstained, the rest 'Aye', motion passed.
- 3654 Patrick Palmer, Chairman of Citizens Solutions for a Safe and Drug Free Cowlitz County, requests approval of Resolution 2006-16 supporting passage of a sales and use tax in Cowlitz County at the rate of 0.2% over a period of eight years for the purpose of providing funds to combat substance abuse in Cowlitz County. Washington State law (RCW 82.14.450) allows County Commissioner to place a measure on the ballot to increase the sales tax rate in the County. This law requires voter approval. At least one-third (33.3%) of the tax revenues must be used for criminal justice purposes and the ballot title must clearly state the purposes for which the tax will be used. The sales or use of motor vehicles are specifically exempt from this tax increase. All funds collected from a tax increase under this law are kept within the county/cities and are not shared with the State of Washington. Passage of this initiative will increase the sales tax from 7.7% to 7.9% for eight years.

Section 1 of the proposed tax is the Criminal Justice Program for 55% of the tax increase. This section will include financial assistance to cities for prosecution and jail costs for drug related crimes.

Section 2 of the proposed tax is the enhanced Drug and HOPE Court Program for 12% of the tax increase. This program will expand the capacity of Drug and HOPE Courts. HOPE Courts work to reunite families divided by substance abuse. This initiative will provide funding for more random drug test.

Section 3 of the proposed tax is the Treatment Program for 10% of the tax increase. This program will provide funds for those who voluntarily seek treatment before being charged with a criminal offense.

Kelly Smith, Foster Parent, spoke on Section 4 of the proposed tax which is the Education and Prevention Program for 20% of the tax increase. This program will fund proven existing and promising new programs in coordination and collaboration with schools and/or community based organizations that encourage youth involvement and behaviors that decrease the likelihood of substance abuse. A committee will be formed to review funding applications.

Section 5 of the proposed tax is the Accountability Program for 3% of the tax increase. Participating Cities and Cowlitz County will enter into an interlocal agreement that will create a framework for receiving and distributing funds, contracting with local entities for services, and providing for citizen input. A Citizens Oversight Committee will be formed to establish performance based program measures, monitor performance contracts, recommend programs and/or program modifications, report accomplishments, and provide input on changing community needs. This section will fund administrative support for program monitoring, contract management, and Citizens Oversight Committee.

J.D. Smith, Toutle resident, pointed out that this tax increase will fund additional police officers exclusively for drug enforcement and drug related crimes.

Gene Frymire, 304 Growlers Gulch, is concerned that each individual city may not make the decision to enter into an agreement to pool these funds for use towards one unified program.

Palmer reports that the City of Castle Rock's portion of this tax increase is approximately \$30,000 a year. This must be a joint effort to have any real impact on drug related crimes. With the interlocal agreements, applications for funding from small cities will have the same opportunity as more populated areas. Local police chiefs have been meeting and devised this plan for interlocal agreements to develop a special seven member task force that will be equally available to all areas within the county with a drug related strike force.

Police Chief Bob Heuer spoke in favor of supporting this resolution. The ability to combine forces will provide strength to address the drug related issues.

Councilmember Marcil is concerned that stiffer penalties must be developed to have a meaningful impact.

Wayne Nelson, Kelso Police Chief, described how the special task force would respond to all areas within the county. The task force will be split into two units with one commander overseeing both units. One unit will be responsible for drug related crimes in the Longview/Kelso area and the other unit responsible for drug related crimes in small cities and unincorporated areas within the county. In addition, there is now room in the jail to hold offenders accountable.

Tape 2 of 2

Side A

Voters will be asked to approve a plan where all communities' pool funds for countywide benefit.

Frymire is concerned that input from city councils will be hindered by the interlocal agreements. Nelson explained that the Citizens Oversight Committee will include a representative appointed by City Council.

In response to a question from Councilmember Skeie, Palmer stated that the Citizens Oversight Committee will include a government representative plus a citizen at large from each participating city. Nelson added that the intent is to develop a plan with equal representation for all communities.

Jack Cox, 620 Woodard Avenue, is concerned that support may be lacking if a plan is not developed prior to being brought before voters for approval.

In response to a question from Councilmember Marcil, Palmer stated that if cities do not agree to pool this resource then the division of funds will be divided by population, with 60% going to the county and the remaining 40% to cities.

Nelson reports that the Citizens Solutions for a Safe and Drug Free Cowlitz County is seeking support from each city for this plan, with the intention of entering into an interlocal agreement, prior to presenting the initiative to voters.

In response to a question from Frymire, City Attorney Tom O'Neill stated that endorsement of this resolution does not obligate the city but shows the intent to enter into an interlocal agreement to pool these funds.

- 1074 Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Yund to approve Resolution 2006-16 supporting passage of a Safe Streets Initiative proposed by the Citizens Solutions for a Safe and Drug Free Cowlitz County, imposing a sales and use tax in Cowlitz County at the rate of 0.2% over a period of eight years for the purpose of providing funds to make improvements in said county and the cities of Castle Rock, Kalama, Woodland, Kelso and Longview, in the administration of criminal justice, drug courts, substance abuse treatment and substance abuse prevention/education programs, on first reading.

During discussion: Councilmember Skeie is hesitant to impose a new tax. His main concern is if the interlocal agreements allow greater representation on the Oversight Committee from Longview/Kelso.

Vote on motion: By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- 1205 Carmen White, 424 Balcer Street, is in support of a petition from residents for completion of work on Balcer Street and Woodard Avenue. White stated that these streets have not been paved in 25 years. Balcer Street did not receive a new water line when one was installed on Woodard Avenue. Residents on Woodard Avenue and Balcer Street would like to see the stormwater project completed, a new water line installed on Balcer Street and these streets then paved.

John Jokela, 514 Balcer Street, feels that the current project will not relieve the stormwater problems in this area.

Renee Jokela, 514 Balcer Street, is concerned that shoulders and road cuts are not compacted and are not safe for bicycles or motorcycles.

Russ Reynolds, 435 Balcer Street, is disabled and has difficulty walking on these roads.

In response to a question from Jack Cox, 620 Woodard Avenue, Mayor Larsen explained that street conditions are reviewed each year to prioritize the streets in need of repair.

Public Works Director David Vorse reports that this area was designated as having serious drainage problems approximately five years ago. The North Street Stormwater Project was begun to resolve these stormwater issues. Due to budget restraints this project is being completed in phases. Phase 1A installed stormwater drainage on North Street up to Woodard Avenue for \$65,000. Phase 1B installed the stormwater line up to the middle of Woodard Avenue for \$50,000. This year Phase 2 completed the installation of the stormwater line on Woodard Avenue for \$35,000. The Public Works Department performed that work which would have otherwise cost approximately \$100,000. The final phase of the North Street Stormwater Project Phase 3 will install stormwater line on Northwood Court which would not affect Woodard Avenue or Balcer Street.

The water main on Balcer Street does not currently have problems. However, replacement of this main would increase fire flow capacity. The roadway on Woodard Avenue and Balcer Street is in need of repairs. Vorse recommends replacement of the water main on Balcer Street before working on the roadway. A small amount of funds are available for street repairs each year. This week the street cuts from the stormwater project will be repaved and potholes repaired which will improve conditions on Woodard Avenue and Balcer Street.

In response to a comment from Carmen White, Vorse stated that most street repairs completed this year was a result of the Washington State Pavement Preservation Program. This is a grant designed to preserve streets in good condition. Under this grant the state chose the streets for repair. The city had no input on that decision.

In response to a question from Jack Cox, Vorse explained that private property owners contributed to the repair of Jackson Street.

Jim and Connie Hall, 403 Balcer Street, invited council to their home for cookies so they could experience the condition of Woodard Avenue and Balcer Street.

Councilmember Smith reports that improvements are being made with the limited amount of funds available. Numerous streets are in need of repairs. For the last 50 years funding was never established to keep the roads in adequate condition. In addition, funding is not available to complete a large project such as the North

Street Stormwater Project in a single year. Street repairs may be completed sooner if residents would pool funds to assist with those repairs.

- 2319 Councilmember Marcil noted that there was no traffic control after the football game on Friday night.
- 2386 City Engineer Mike Johnson distributed an executive summary of the Water System Plan Update which has been submitted to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). This plan evaluates the water system and projects the population served over the next 20 years. Johnson outlined the positive aspects and deficiencies of the water system. It has been 20 years since the last upgrade of the water system. The plan includes recommendations for improving the system.

Tape 2 of 2

Side B

The primary improvements that are needed include water treatment plant improvements, miscellaneous water main replacements, a boost of pressure zone for the Carpenter Road area, an automated meter reading system and telemetry improvements. These improvements could be funded with a modest increase in water rates. Sewer expenses have been subsidized by water rates. Financial analysis suggest an annual increase of 2 ½ % to cover costs. A one time increase of 3% is suggested to begin funding for improvements.

In response to a question from Mayor Larsen, Johnson stated that it is not uncommon for sewer rates to be subsidized by water rates. However, every effort should be made to bring the water and sewer rates to the cost of service. Investment in infrastructure is necessary to remain functional.

Johnson reports that the Water System Plan must be updated every six years. The plan is required to address public health and safety as well as fire and distribution issues. Grouping of projects may assist when applying for funding.

The City currently has approximately a 20% unaccounted for water loss. DOH requires a water system to achieve a loss of 10% or less. This unaccounted for water loss must be reduced.

Vorse reports that this plan must be approved by council within the next month to be eligible for funding. The Water System Plan Update will be on the agenda for council approval at the next regular meeting.

- 3328 Vorse stated that an application for funding has been submitted to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Approval of the Water System Plan Update is required for this funding. The application scored high enough to receive funding. This is a \$1.8 million loan with ½% to

- 1% interest rate. This loan could complete a major portion of the water treatment plant upgrade.
- 3408 Vorse reports that construction is completed on the North Street Stormwater Project Phase 2. The road cuts will be paved this week and potholes repaired. Councilmember Marcil requests that Vorse obtain a cost estimate for a thin overlay. Vorse stated that the residents on Northwood Court formed an ULID to repave that street.
- 3604 Vorse reports that the final presentation for state funding of the Boat Launch Project will be given tomorrow.
- 3652 In response to a question from Jack Cox, Vorse explained that the stormwater project on Woodard Avenue is completed with only road repairs remaining.
- 3757 Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington proposed Budget Workshop meetings for October 9th at 6:00 p.m.; October 11th at 7:00 p.m. and October 16th at 7:00 p.m.
- 3842 Covington distributed a Budget Summary Report. The quarterly report will be distributed in October. City Attorney O'Neill reports that court costs are close to the budgeted amount.
- 3939 Covington stated that the statement for the voters pamphlet from the committee for and against the Library Levy is due tomorrow.
- 3991 Report of Meetings
Covington attended a CARE Coalition meeting, a Regional Information Forum, a Housing Committee meeting and a Chamber of Commerce meeting in the last two weeks. A Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments meeting will be held next week.
- 4055 Councilmember Skeie made a motion, seconded by Marcil to approve Resolution 2006-15 authorizing investment of City of Castle Rock, Washington monies in the local government investment pool, on second reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
- 4076 Mayor Larsen adjourned regular session at 9:10 p.m. for a 20 minute executive session to discuss personnel issues, with no anticipated action being taken.
- 3330 Mayor Larsen reconvened regular session at 9:35 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer