

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the February 27, 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**

Gene Frymire, Growlers Gulch Road, Castle Rock, stated that recent newspaper articles have reported a renewed interest for mining near the Mount Saint Helens Monument area. He noted the newspapers also have reported that the city has taken a stance opposing mining operations in that area. Frymire asked what the basis was for the city's opposition. Councilmember Teter responded that the drainage systems in the area proposed for mining flow into the Cowlitz River; which is within the city's watershed area. City Clerk Ryana Covington noted that many years ago, city council reviewed presentations on the mining application proposed at that time. As a result, city council chose to take action opposing that proposal. She noted that the present city council has not had the opportunity to review the current mining proposal. Mr. Frymire felt that the current project would have little effect on the city and he asked councilmembers to consider review of the current proposal.

**RECOGNITION OF APPRECIATION:**

Mayor Helenberg presented Cowlitz Chaplain Steve White with a plaque in appreciation for his service to the community and congratulating him on his recent retirement from the chaplaincy. The mayor stated Chaplain White will be missed in the law enforcement and firefighter community. Since Chaplain White is a resident of Castle Rock, the mayor looks forward to working with him on other projects. Chaplain White stated he feels privileged and honored to have served the police department and the city.

Police Chief Bob Heuer also recognized Chaplain White for his service to the police department. He noted the positive impact and support provided to the officers during his tenure as chaplain.

**MEDAL OF VALOR RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Helenberg presented Chief Heuer with a Medal of Valor award for his brave actions on October 2010, to save the life of a person suffering a medical emergency. He praised Heuer for an exceptional job done. Chief Heuer stated this is the second time that he has been awarded a Medal of Valor. He stated a police officer tries to keep themselves physically and mentally prepared in order to be ready to take action, when needed. He felt that courage comes from the unexpected and cited events in Washington State and Oregon when officers have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Chief Heuer presented Officer Branden McNew with a Medal of Valor award for exceptional bravery in rescuing a handcuffed prisoner from drowning in the Cowlitz River on November

2010. After being arrested, the prisoner fled custody and jumped over a steep bank in an attempt to avoid being taken to jail.

#### LIFESAVING AWARD:

Chief Heuer presented Officer Charlie Worley and Sergeant Scott Neves with Lifesaving Awards for their actions in performing CPR on a heart attack subject, April 2011. Chief Heuer added that he has worked with Sergeant Neves for twenty years and has witnessed numerous other outstanding cases where he was involved.

Chief Heuer presented Officer McNew with a Lifesaving Award for his assistance in delivering a baby, October 2011.

Mayor Helenberg thanked all of the officers, cadets and reserves for the outstanding service they provide to the city. He stated everyone involved in the city is part of a family and he cares about all of them.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

##### City Attorney Frank Randolph

Reported that Senate Bill 6265 (SB-6265) did not pass and now the issue will be sent to the voters. No impact should be felt by the city; however other cities that chose to impose moratoriums will possibly need to review actions.

##### Chief Bob Heuer

Reported there was an attempted armed robbery last week. The chief explained actions taken. The suspect was not apprehended and his department is currently following leads regarding the case.

##### Librarian Vicki Selander

Report the library levy has passed. She feels that more donations will be made to help with finances for this fiscal year. Mayor Helenberg stated he would be meeting with the Friends of the Library members in the near future.

##### Exhibit Hall Director Karen Johnson

A craft and bake sale will be held March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Exhibit Hall. She will provide visitor statistics at the next council meeting.

##### Councilmembers

Councilmember Pingree attended the community economic development meeting. He was unable to attend the CARE Coalition meeting.

##### Council Student Representative Genevieve Grant

Reported the girl's basketball team will be attending State competition. In addition, today

was the first day for spring sports.

#### Mayor Helenberg

Announced that Nancy Chennault is working with High School students to develop spring and summer baskets for display through the downtown area.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, Councilmember Pingree abstained, with the remaining councilmembers voting Aye. Motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Public Works Director Dave Vorse presented pictures of trees where there has been a request for removal. Vorse provided the following outline:

Request by the Army Corps of Engineer: During the annual inspection, the Corps identified three trees denoted as unacceptable based on their rating system. These trees have been identified as a potential hazard to the levee system. Locations of the trees are – Riverfront Trail at Warren and Dike Street; Riverfront Trail at 539 C Street SW and Riverfront Trail at 114 Cherry Street NW. The city is currently working with the landowners at Cherry Street and C Street so there has not been a consensus on removal at this time. However if the city does not work toward the Corps' recommendations, the Corps could refuse to respond or provide financial assistance in an emergency event. Funding for removal of those trees would be through the Stormwater Fund.

Resident at 441 Front Avenue NW has requested removal of a black walnut tree, located in city right-of-way. Vorse stated damage to the tree has made it a potential hazard and therefore should be removed. Cost estimate to remove the tree is \$675. The city currently has allocated an annual budget of \$1,000 in the Arterial Street Fund for tree removal. Councilmember Queen suggested a local tree faller who would do the work in exchange for the wood. Vorse stated the city requires work to be completed by a licensed and bonded faller.

Landowner at 239 Second Avenue SW has requested the Elm tree be either trimmed or removed. The landowner complained of debris from the tree and voiced concern over two limbs growing toward his house. The cost to either trim the tree, or to remove the tree is \$400. Vorse stated a tree expert has examined the tree and found that it is healthy and not diseased. The landowner has offered to pay \$200 toward the cost for removal. Vorse stated the city currently has allocated an annual budget of \$400 in the Street Fund for tree removal. Mayor Helenberg disagreed about setting precedence for allowing removal of trees deemed as healthy. If the city spends any money, it should be to trim only. Councilmember Teter voiced concern that the city could be liable if one of

the branches were to damage the house. Mayor Helenberg answered that the city would only be liable if an arborist deems the tree to be dead or dying and the city fails to take action. Councilmember Pingree suggested an additional three Cherry trees needing removal at Lions Pride Volunteer Park. Mayor Helenberg stated he is against cutting healthy trees, especially with the efforts being made to beautify the city.

Councilmember Pingree asked this issue be tabled until better cost estimates are provided. Vorse explained that the city must pursue a process to obtain at least three bids and those individuals must be licensed and bonded.

Councilmembers Teter, Rose and Davis stated if the city needs to prune the tree at Second Avenue, they would support removal; since the cost estimate was the same for either service. Vorse stated the city is not required to take any action on the tree at Second Avenue.

Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Davis to proceed with working toward removal of the four trees and to not take any action on the tree at 239 Second Avenue SW. By roll call vote, Councilmember Queen voted Nay and Councilmembers Teter, Davis, Pingree and Rose voted 'Aye'. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Councilmembers reviewed the result of the bids for the Al Helenberg Boat Launch Phase 2 project as follows:

Bidder	Base Bid (Boarding Float)	Additive #1 (Transient Float)	Additive #2 (Dock)	Total: Base plus additives
Triple S Excavation LLC Castle Rock, WA	\$180,768.49	\$126,967.49	\$41,638.78	\$39,374.76
Topper Industries, Inc Woodland, WA	\$130,432.72	\$89,475.86	\$19,983.47	\$239,892.05
Shoreside Construction Bellingham, WA	\$91,726.25	\$73,168.00	\$38,305.60	\$203,199.85
Public Works Estimate				\$215,000

Vorse noted that Shoreside Construction was the low bidder. In answer to Councilmember Queen's question, Vorse stated it is more cost efficient for the city to install the fenders.

Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Queen to award the bid to Shoreside Construction, Bellingham, WA, in the amount of \$203,199.85 for the base bid and both additives.

Discussion: In the future, Councilmember Teter would like to see that a reference check is made on the contractors prior to requesting award. He noted that sometimes the low bidder is not always the best. Vorse stated this is the same contractor who worked on the initial float system.

By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- Covington stated historically the city has paid for the planning commission members to attend the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments annual meeting. This provides an opportunity for the planning commission to meet other planners. This year the cost is \$18 per person. Covington stated this was included as a travel expense in the 2012 budget.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Pingree to approve pay for planning commission members to attend the annual meeting, as requested. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'

- Mayor Helenberg reminded councilmembers of the workshop training on March 15<sup>th</sup> regarding bullying and harassment. The training will be provided by Association of Washington Cities at no cost to the city. The location will be at the Women's Club building and begin at 1:00 p.m. Councilmember Pingree stated he will not be able to attend due to a conflict with his work schedule.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

---

Mayor Paul Helenberg

---

Clerk-Treasurer