

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the April 23, 2012 regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:32 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.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Mayor Helenberg presented Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington with an award for 25 years of dedicated service to the city. The mayor stated it is great to have employees with this level of service.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Bob Heuer

Heuer reports that the Police Department participated in the Every 15 Minutes Program at Castle Rock High School last week. This sobering portrayal provides a realistic representation of the effect of drunk driving.

Heuer detailed that he attended a Prescription Drug Abuse Conference a couple of weeks ago. The number one cause of death for people age 40 and below is drug related deaths due to an overdose of painkillers. Attendance was paid for by the city's Drug Free Community Grant.

Public Works Director David Vorse

Vorse reports that a special city council workshop meeting was held on April 10th to discuss financial options for street repairs. One possible source of funds is a Transportation Benefit District. Vorse contacted City of Longview Public Works Director Jeff Cameron, who suggests forming a committee to review options and provide a recommendation to council.

In response to a question from Councilmember Queen, Vorse clarified the options to raise funds are:

- Impose up to .2% sales and use tax with voter approval;
- Incorporate a car tab fee with voter approval;
- Enact an excess tax with voter approval;
- Secure a 1.5% loan or
- Bond which must be repaid.

Mayor Helenberg appointed David Vorse, Ryana Covington, Ellen Rose and Ray Teter to the street repair financing committee. The mayor suggested this committee consist of seven members and asked Vorse to consider citizens at large and/or business owners to complete the committee.

City Engineer Mike Johnson

Johnson detailed that approximately twenty people attended the Safe Routes to School Community Workshop meeting on April 11th. Many good comments were obtained and most were supportive of the project. Many of the suggestions made at this meeting have been adopted into the plan. Residents recommended researching ways to reduce speed and the amount of non-residential traffic. This project should be ready to request bids by May, for construction this summer.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington

Covington detailed a grant opportunity for a Farmers Market Promotion Program with applications due by May 21st. Covington directed this opportunity to the Community Development Alliance. Councilmembers Queen and Teter feel this is a great business opportunity.

Covington reviewed the March 2012 Cash and Investment Activity and First Quarter 2012 and 2011 Revenue Comparison Report. Due to multiple business closures and the west side annexation, most funds are maintaining previous levels.

Covington reviewed Water and Sewer Revenues and Expenses First Quarter Comparison for 2012 and 2011 which reveals a year-to-date loss of \$50,177. In response to a question from Councilmember Teter, Covington confirmed that historically this loss is reduced in the second quarter. Covington did not have the 2011 year end information available but believes that revenue did cover expenses at that time.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTSMayor Paul Helenberg

Mayor Helenberg reported on the success of the annual Spring Cleanup Day. There was a great turnout with 109 registered volunteers, with the actual number of volunteer is estimated closer to 130, counting those who did not formally register. Mayor Helenberg thanked Carolyn Kennington and Jim and Nancy Chennault along with businesses that provided numerous volunteers.

The Mayor announced that volunteer labor and donations will cover costs for the new landscaping in front of City Hall. Councilmember Rose will announce this civic accomplishment on the reader board at Mt. St. Helens Motel.

Mayor Helenberg reports encouraging development prospects. It appears that the Texaco Station and Rose Tree Restaurant may be under new ownership and soon reopening. In addition, the Hornstra property and one of Alan Veys' parcels have been sold to developers.

Student Representative Genevieve Grant

Grant noted that the City looks incredible and thanked Cleanup Day volunteers. She noted that it is great to see so many volunteers with a passion to improve our community.

Grant thanked Chief Heuer for continued participation in the Every 15 Minutes Program. This annual program has a huge impact on students.

Grant extended an invitation to attend the 2012 Castle Rock High School Graduation Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. on June 8th.

Community Economic Development Council (CEDC) Representative Nancy Chennault
Mayor Helenberg reviewed the report submitted by Chennault on the April 18, 2012 CEDC Board Meeting:

- Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments Transportation Planner Rosemary Siipola spoke about the latest updates in transportation infrastructure.
- Bianca Lemmons reported on the needs of the Aerospace Industry.
- Program Director Alice Dietz reported on her work with the US Forest Service (USFS) to utilize USFS facilities for community events. The process has begun to coordinate:
 - Mountain Biking options at Coldwater Lake;
 - 'Music on the Mountain' concerts at the Amphitheatre with views of the crater;
 - Views and Brews Lecture Series sponsored by Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. St. Helens Institute and CEDC at the Kelso Theater Pub with the first one on April 24th.
 - "It's a Blast" Volcano Science" on Saturday May 12th at the Johnston Ridge Observatory.
- The 'Regional Broker Tour' of industrial and commercial sites is scheduled for May 10th. Castle Rock will not be participating at this time.
- Thank you to Carolyn Kennington and the Chamber of Commerce for their support of the America In Bloom Project.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

2. Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012 Special Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

3. Covington detailed that the Police Department have completed renegotiating phone system and equipment charges with Cascade Networks. The final amount due is \$4,122.90. In response to a question from Councilmember Teter, Covington confirmed that this expense was included in the budget.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve payment to Cascade Networks in the amount of \$4,122.90 for outstanding charges. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Mayor Helenberg noted that Cascadia PM is negotiating a lease with Cascade Select Market for an electrical parking station.

5. Vorse reports that Lona Kirkwood, 216 Alder St NE, has submitted a request to remove the Hawthorne tree in the right-of-way on Kirby Avenue NE. This tree generates sucker shoots in her yard which are increasingly difficult to mow. Landscapers have specified that if they poison the shoots it may kill the tree. This tree has been determined to be a nuisance.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Davis to approve removal of the Hawthorne Tree in the right-of-way on Kirby Avenue NE, at the homeowners' expense.

Discussion: Vorse specified that this work must be done by a licensed, bonded contractor after obtaining a Right-of-Way Permit.

Vote: By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

6. City Engineer Mike Johnson reviewed the bids that were received for replacement of two digester aeration blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Bidder	Base Bid	Additive No. 1 VFD	Additive No. 2 Disassembly/Reassembly
Universal Blower Pac	\$67,088.60	No bid	\$1,969.08
Aerzen USA Corp	\$65,797.40	\$17,614.12	\$3,228.00

These blowers would replace the two blowers that are continually failing. The new blowers will have a higher pressure capability. Johnson noted that the new blowers are larger than the doorway and widening the doorway may be the most cost effective resolution. Johnson recommends approval of the base bid from Aerzen USA Corporation.

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the base bid option from Aerzen USA Corporation in the amount of \$65,797.40 for two aeration blowers.

Discussion: Mayor Helenberg clarified that the blowers would be paid for from the Regional Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. In response to a question from Councilmember Queen, Johnson specified that these hybrid blowers are better fitted for the operating conditions. In response to a question from Councilmember Davis, Johnson confirmed that the request for proposals was advertised and multiple vendors contacted.

Vote: By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

7. Vorse reports that the Riverfront Trail Enhancement Project is the next stage in trail development. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant application contains four components:
 1. The West Wetland Refuge includes development of 3 acres on the west side of the Cowlitz River into a wetlands area with a meandering gravel trail. This connection contains an outfall for hydraulic management, interpretive signage, a picnic shelter and benches to sit and enjoy the river & wildlife.
 2. The Exit 49 Trail Segment will provide a connecting link to the Riverfront Trail System. This trail segment will be highly visible from our uptown business district at I-5 Exit 49, with signage and a picnic shelter.
 3. The North Trailhead Improvement will add a restroom. Other elements include a picnic table and bench.
 4. Riverfront Trail Pump Track Station will add a 2 stall vaulted restroom and parking along the east Riverfront Trail. A local club is currently constructing a bicycle park using volunteer labor and recycled and donated materials.

Vorse noted that this grant requires a 50% match. A grant application could be submitted to WSDOT to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program to obtain the majority of this match. In response to a question from Councilmember Queen, Vorse clarified that the grant can be refused if matching funds are not obtained.

Councilmember Davis made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve Resolution 2012-03 authorizing submittal of a WWRP grant application to RCO, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

8. Covington reports that she has calculated the costs to investigate and process a medical marijuana collective garden land use application at \$750. In response to a question

from Councilmember Davis, Covington noted that the resolution includes a provision for an additional billing if actual costs exceed \$750.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve Resolution 2012-04, amending Resolution 2006-18 to include fees for the collective garden land use application, on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

9. Vorse clarified that June 2nd will be the Fourth Annual 'I Topped The Rock' event. The city has always sponsored this event by providing insurance coverage, use of personnel, posting signs and hanging banners. In response to a question from Councilmember Teter, Vorse detailed that although a sign policy has not been adopted, banners are hung at the school crossing and at Cowlitz St West for several annual events.

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Queen to sponsor the 'I Topped The Rock' event. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

10. Mayor Helenberg introduced Natalie St. John, the new Daily News correspondent, assigned to cover Castle Rock events.
11. Councilmember Davis requests that briars at the south entrance to the city be removed. Vorse clarified that spraying is the only affective method to kill briars.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Helenberg adjourned regular session at 8:35 p.m. for a 10 minute executive session to discussion personnel, with no action anticipated.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Helenberg resumed regular session at 8:48 p.m. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington