

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the June 25, 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;

Ed Smith, Castle Rock resident, complimented the city council, staff and volunteers on recent beautification efforts throughout the city. However he noted that a couple of large garbage cans on Front Street are not an appropriate view for the public. These cans have been in that location for a couple of years and he hopes the city can work with the business owner to relocate these receptacles to a more appropriate area. Mr. Smith also feels there is an overabundance of signs on right-of-way. He is aware that the city council is attempting to resolve when signage can be placed on city right-of-way and he would be in favor of banning all signage until city council has reached a solution. He also noted that people are posting notices on the new light posts along the new trail. Mr. Smith cautioned the city council that if this issue is not addressed now; it will become a greater problem in the future. He does not feel that signage is appropriate at the city's entryways and wants the entire trail system to be off-limits for signage such as garage sales and other personal issues.

PRESENTATION;

John Keatley introduced Vincente Molinos and Leslie Bell, board members for the non-profit corporation entitled; 'No Lines In Populated Area' (NLPA) to provide a presentation on the negative economic impacts of the proposed Bonneville Power (BPA) line route upgrade. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided to councilmembers.

Mr. Molinos stated he became interested in the project after researching human health issues attributed to long-term exposure to the magnetic power fields associated with the power lines. Molinos stated their organization has proposed an alternative route which would avoid higher populated areas. BPA dismissed this proposal citing the cost to build the lines and provided an alternative East Route in the Castle Rock area. Molinos stated the East Route proposal will negatively impact the assessed land values and will restrict development of viable sites located within the city's Urban Growth Area.

Mr. Molinos provided a diagram locating the system's weak points. He noted the main bottleneck for electric transmission is located south of Longview; and he feels it would have been logical for BPA to address this issue. The second point is that most of the power that BPA needs will be going to California and to Oregon. Lastly, there are no substations in the plan to take electric loads to either Clark or Cowlitz County. BPA proposed routes should not be allowed to create a significant burden to Cowlitz and Clark County residents; especially since they will not directly benefit from the project.

In a study conducted by NLPA in 2007, shows a doubling risk of leukemia to exposures exceeding 4 mgauss. BPA's 1996 environmental information show that 100 feet from a 500 kw line, the exposure level is 12 mgauss. BPA stated there are no confirmed links to cancer in relation to exposure to the lines.

NLPA conducted a two-year study of economic impacts to determine how the asset base of the county is reduced when taking into account the loss of building expansion and value creation. In this study, resale values of properties in close proximity of the lines were excluded because of the many variations used to determine that value. Molinos showed a graph comparing assessed values and property taxes for built lands in Lexington (also includes north Vancouver and Camas), Castle Rock, industrial timberlands and public timberlands and also the estimated future values of those areas over the next twenty years. The timberland areas mostly are within the NLPA proposed alternative route. Based on the NLPA study, the estimated taxable value for BPA's proposed East Route would decrease \$7 million dollars per year and the reduced taxable value in 2030 would be \$17 million dollars per year. For the segment within Castle Rock, the value would decrease \$4 million dollars per year and increase to \$10 million dollars per year by 2030. Mr. Molinos stated the economic impact from BPA's proposed routes are between two to three times the impacts of the route supported by NLPA.

The No Lines In Populated Areas strongly encourage BPA to take a non-populated route. The options they would support are:

- a new easterly route if the original segments defined as 11, 29, 34 and 35 are moved significantly east using forested lands and crossing the Columbia at Bonneville dam.
- a variation of the Castle Rock-Wilsonville option through Oregon by stating the line at Allston. Allston has space for an additional breaker bay and expansion area.

Mr. Molinos said BPA would make a one-time financial investment that would fluctuate up to \$30 million dollars to do the route as recommended by NLPA. His organization feels that upgrades to the system should be paid by the users, not adversely impact areas that do not gain from the new lines. He asked councilmembers to review the material provided and if they support the noted concerns, council could consider taking formal action.

Mayor Helenberg stated the BPA proposed line does cut through a portion of the city's growth management area and the city has requested BPA to reconsider. As of this date, BPA has not supported the city's request.

Mike Manchester, Delameter Road resident stated his property is located nearby the existing power lines. Based on the number of people contracting cancer issues, they are convinced that the lines adversely affect the health of nearby residents.

Mayor Helenberg suggested the city consider taking a formal stance on the BPA proposed

lines by passing a resolution on the issue.

In answer to Councilmember Teter's question, Mr. Molinos stated most of the studies regarding health effects have been on smaller lines (230 kv) and not on the larger 500 kv lines. Studies that have been conducted in Europe suggest that the exposure should be limited to no more than 3-4 mgauss. In 1993, California passed a regulation for prudent enforcement, which prohibits schools from being built within 300 feet from the line. California also has identified exposures of 12 mgauss to be associated with miscarriages. In Lexington, there are homes that have been built less than 25' from the transmission lines.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Helenberg opened the hearing at 8:15 p.m. to take testimony on the city's Six Year Transportation Plan for 2013-2018. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated this plan is required annually to allow the city to qualify for federal and state street funding opportunities.

Side B

Councilmember reviewed the proposed list. Vorse noted the listed projects have not significantly changed from the previous plan; however cost estimates have been adjusted accordingly. In addition, the plan includes SR504 sidewalk project and the Roake Avenue SE sidewalk project. Neither of those are arterial streets, but do qualify for federal funding and are required to be included on the city's plan.

The Huntington Avenue overlay was last completed twenty years ago and has been included on the list, in case funding becomes available for another overlay.

Councilmember Davis asked why the PH-10 bridge was not included on the list. Vorse answered this was a designated State route and the driving surfaces are maintained by State of Washington Department of Transportation. Vorse noted that the city's plan does include a future pedestrian walkway over the Cowlitz River, which would be encouraged if the State ever replaces the PH-10 bridge.

There being no public comment, Mayor Helenberg closed the Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m. and resumed regular session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Bob Heuer

- Reported his department is investigating vandalism to the Riverfront Trail lights. Ground wire from the lamp poles were stripped; from the area of The Rock, northerly to the skate park. Vorse added that between 1300' to 2200' of wire was taken. Repairs will require the existing wire to be taken out and reinstalled with ground wire; at a cost of several thousand dollars. Heuer stated he does not have a firm date for the vandalism, but they are looking at

ways to locate possible witnesses to the incident. Vorse stated this is the first time anything such as this has happened. Any lights that he feels is unsafe will be turned off and he is researching options for a locking system to deter future similar vandalism.

- Met with other area police chiefs to discuss the impact of HB1183, relating to the sales of hard alcohol in area stores. Longview has experienced an increase in shoplifts, but our city has not had any adverse impacts.

Public Works Director David Vorse

- Reported the Street Committee is recommending the city consider formation of a Transportation Benefit District to create a funding source for street maintenance within the city limits. State-shared revenues for street maintenance have dropped \$11,000 from fiscal year 2007 to 2011. As a result, operations/maintenance costs have been reduced.

Vorse summarized voter-approved and non-voter approved funding options available through a Transportation Benefit District which include:

- Impose up to .2% sales and use tax which requires voter approval;
- Incorporate a car tab fee – which does not require voter approval;
- Vehicle toll;
- Impose a parking fee in the commercial district.

Vorse distributed an outline of the committee's recommendation to form a Transportation Benefit District and to request voter-approval for a .2% sales and use tax.

The benefits of this funding are:

- would generate funding for residential street improvements which little funding is available.
- provide an estimated annual street revenue of approximately \$57,000
- cost would be shared by all users, not just residents.
- could be paired with a Public Works Trust Fund loan to all 17 to 23 street sections to be completed at one time, using the additional sales/use tax to repay the loan.
- also provide for sustainable funding to maintain streets.

Disadvantages:

- would increase the sales tax rate in Castle Rock
- could adversely affect businesses that deal in large volumes;
- PWTF loan would need to be repaid; loan is for 15 year term;
- voter approved sales tax increase limited only for a 10 year period.

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Pingree to form a Transportation Benefit District and have a resolution available at the next meeting to allow the sales tax increase to be placed on the General Election ballot. Discussion: Councilmember Teter noted this is another example of the importance to purchase locally. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- Vorse reported that the International World Harmony Runners were in Castle Rock last Thursday. Ten runners representing numerous different countries received four welcome baskets and were treated to an ice cream social, hosted at the Senior Center. The World Harmony Runners are celebrating their 25th anniversary for this event.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington

Reviewed the May 2012 Cash and Investment Activity report. All funds are solvent. Staff continues to monitor funding for the Library, Exhibit Hall and the grant-related projects.

Exhibit Hall Director Karen Johnson

Provided an update on the upcoming Arts and Vines Event scheduled for July 28th through 30th. Eighteen artists and four wineries will be presenting at various locations. A map is available to the sites, and transportation is also available. A reception will be held this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Exhibit Hall.

COUNCIL AND AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Announced that a Special Meeting will be held July 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Castle Rock Skate Park to tour the newly developed pump track and to see a demonstration of its use. The regular council meeting will be held at its regular location.

Student Representative Genevieve Grant

Distributed a letter to city councilmembers and staff thanking them for the opportunity to serve as the city's first student representative to the city council. Ms. Grant graduated this year and this will be her final meeting. Mayor Helenberg hopes to have a new student representative appointed when school begins later this year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Vic Verhassaelt, owner of ABT Development requests release of the maintenance bond and all obligations regarding maintenance and repair of all infrastructure relating to the Lois Dye subdivision. This issue was tabled from the June 11, 2012 regular meeting. Vorse stated that staff is recommending retaining the performance bond for an additional two years and rescinding requirement of the maintenance bond. Mr. Verhassaelt asked if the performance bond could be renewable on an annual basis for a period of the next two years.

Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Pingree to accept Vic Verhassaelt's request on the maintenance bond and to retain the performance bond with annual renewals

for each year to allow completion of the sidewalks. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye.'

Mr. Verhassaelt requested a letter from the city reflecting this action.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Vorse explained that Resolution No. 2012-05 adopts the solid waste management plan. The proposed plan includes a provision to allow Cowlitz County to purchase and use the Weyerhaeuser landfill as a site for municipal garbage.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Teter to adopt Resolution No. 2012-05, a resolution adopting the 2011 Cowlitz County Solid Waste Management Plan and Moderate Hazardous Waste Management Plan, on first reading.

Discussion: The plan would allow the county to use the Weyerhaeuser site for a landfill. If the purchase is not completed by the County, the solid waste is to be transported east of the mountains. Councilmember Teter noted the sale is contingent on completion of environmental review. Councilmember Pingree stated in 2002, a county commissioner was speaking in favor of privatization of solid waste business. Pingree does not agree that the Weyerhaeuser site on Headquarters Road should be used for solid waste disposal. He stated that privatization has already taken place and use of the Weyerhaeuser site does not guarantee that rates will remain low. Vorse stated that Waste Control does not contract with either the city or county and could still send the solid waste to another facility. Cowlitz County is mandated to have a plan for management of solid waste streams; it does not require use of the Weyerhaeuser site. Councilmember Queen stated the county will haul their waste wherever they want to. Vorse stated that the city is also mandated by the State to adopt a solid waste management plan or to partner with the county's plan. Castle Rock does not have funds to develop their own solid waste plan.

Vote on the motion; unanimous 'Aye'.

2. Councilmember Pingree made a motion, seconded by Teter to approve the leak adjustment request submitted by Sean Monaghan, Michner Street SW in the amount of \$108.97 in accordance with CRMC 13.06.130. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
3. Mayor Helenberg requested that staff follow-up with legal counsel in relation to the street vacation request submitted by Mr. Gourde.
4. Councilmember Teter made a motion, seconded by Pingree to adopt Resolution No. 2012-06, a resolution adopting the city's Six-Year Transportation Plan (2013-2018), on first reading. By roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington