

0020 Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the following present: Councilmembers Greg Marcil, Earl Queen, Jack Reilly and Mike Mask. Public Works Director Dave Vorse and Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington also attended.

Councilmember Queen asked if the city has a fund for future development of a swimming pool. Councilmember Marcil stated there is such a fund, dedicated solely for that purpose. Currently there is approximately \$140,000 in that fund. Councilmember Marcil stated that many entities have closed their swimming pools due to maintenance and operating costs. Vorse stated when the city had a pool, it would cost about \$30,000 to operate the facility for a three month period.

The current fund originated from a voter-approved excess levy passed for the purpose of constructing a swimming pool. Vorse explained reasons for the closure of the swimming pool, adding that the Park Plan includes a pool in the long range proposals.

Park Department

Capital outlay items include:

- bark chips for Coldwater Park; \$2,100

Vorse stated that it has been three years since the bark chips were added at the park. These are special chips that allow for ADA access to the play structures. Councilmember Queen noted that the school just recently removed all of their bark chips around the play structures and replaced it with pea gravel. Vorse stated he would check with our insurance risk manager, since they were the ones that advised of the specific ground cover.

- Front Avenue North Lions Memorial Volunteer Park- paint the picnic structure and repair four planter boxes; \$1,000.

Vorse stated it would cost approximately \$200 to paint the structure, however the replacement of the planter boxes will be about \$175 each.

Councilmembers noted that the park was given to the city this year, however no deed has been provided to the city. Councilmembers suggested that volunteers could do the painting. Councilmember Queen stated there is a possibility that volunteers could construct planter boxes at a lower cost.

Projects:

- Community Garden; well, water line and tank; \$2,000

Vorse described what is required to develop a Community Garden. Development of such a project would provide a place for residents to plant seasonal gardens and

could also be used as a part of the school's horticultural curriculum.

Vorse stated he spoke with school officials and they stated there is a possibility of using the old soccer field behind the Elementary School. Vorse also contacted Jeff Edgel, who offered to install the well, if labor could be donated. In addition, a housing development placed their extra soil on that site.

Vorse stated it is not his intent to manage this project, but to assist other agencies and volunteers with developing and soliciting volunteers to get the site started. The proposed funds would pay for pump parts and tanks.

Covington noted that the land is owned by the school district, but it is located outside of city limits. She also noted that a Community Garden is listed as a recommended project in the city's Community Action Plan.

Councilmembers discussed various options for donated labor and materials and discussed possible stakeholders that could be interested in managing the site.

By consensus, Councilmembers supported the concept, but recommends securing donated labor and materials instead of using city funds for the project.

- DNR land appraisal; \$7,000

Vorse explained the project, which began in 2007. The city would like to trade land with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to add to the acreage already owned by the city on the west side of the Cowlitz River. DNR requires a survey to be conducted by a specialized surveyor. The city was awarded a grant from Cowlitz County in the amount of \$14,000 to fund the survey. The surveyor then began the work last year and so far the city has expended \$7,000 toward the project. Unfortunately, the surveyor has not yet completed the project and the city cannot be reimbursed by the county until the survey is filed. Vorse described the process that he has followed in an attempt to get the survey completed.

Vorse stated that when the city's consultants completed our Business and Marketing Plan, they earmarked development of that area as a recreational vehicle park as one of the quickest short term business developments for the city. The site is easily assessable to the city business area, sports complex, the new boat launch, fairgrounds, motorcycle track and riverfront trail. For this reason, it is important to be able to obtain the land from DNR. Vorse stated he has also contacted the county to see if an extension of the grant is possible.

Council priorities for this department were:

#1 DNR Land survey

#2 bark chips for Coldwater Park – Vorse will check with the insurance risk manager to see if chips are still required.

#3 Lions Pride Volunteer Park – paint structures and repair planter boxes.

In answer to Councilmember Queen's question, Vorse stated there are approximately 200,000 cubic yards still on the Dredge Spoil site available for sale. He stated that after the spoils are sold, the area will be developed into a park. Councilmember Queen stated he would like to see the area opened up for fishing. Councilmembers discussed issues related to why access has been limited and possible options for solutions.

Side - B

4804 Vorse stated he was not against opening up the site, he just needs to provide a means for reducing or eliminating illegal dumping on the sites.

Street Fund

Covington distributed updated budgetary fund reports to include the increase in liability insurance rates.

Capital Outlay requests:

- portable radios; 2 at \$375 each; total of \$750

Vorse stated these are replacement of existing radios and he explained the types of projects which require two radios. Vorse stated a radio is stored at City Hall for use by the meter reader. If funds are short, it would be possible to reduce the purchase request to only one radio. Vorse considers these a safety issue, not a frill.

- pressure washer; \$650

These are used for washing signs, buildings and other projects. Currently the city rents a washer when one is needed.

In answer to Councilmember Vorse's request, Covington stated that the Street Fund budget requests, as presented, would require an interfund transfer of \$97,883 from General Fund.

- Truck tool box; \$300 this will be deleted from the budget and included as an expense in the Public Works Vehicle Replacement Fund 2009 proposed budget.

Projects:

- Safe Route To School Grant; \$317,200.

In answer to Councilmember Queen's question, Vorse stated the city has applied for a grant to improve sidewalks in certain areas adjacent to the Elementary School. If the city is awarded the grant, the engineer will complete a project scope to remedy access and other issues.

- Roake Avenue SE street overlay (C Street to the Elementary School); \$35,000

Council Prioritized as follows:

Safe Route To School grant project (if grant is awarded to the city)

#1 Portable radios (2)

#2 Roake Avenue overlay

#3 Pressure Washer – not to be included for funding consideration.

Councilmember Mask stated it would appear doubtful that the Roake Avenue overlay can be funded with the projected shortfall in General Fund, however he requested it be prioritized in case alternative funds become available.

- 6104 Covington advised that the Park Department will also include a \$5,000 grant from Cowlitz County. Earlier this year the city council agreed to assist the Castle Rock Fairgrounds by serving as sponsor for a grant awarded by Cowlitz County Park Board to restore the historic log cabin located at the fairgrounds.

Arterial Street Fund

- 6145 Councilmember Mask suggested that the city could log the trees located on the city's namesake 'The Rock' to help the city with their financial shortfalls. He was told by a local logger that there was approximately \$1 million dollars worth of timber on that site. Mayor Larsen and Vorse stated that The Rock was deeded to the city, with the agreement that the trees will never be logged. Mask felt the city could still designate the area as a park and be able to remove the logs. Vorse provided a short history of the site.

Projects:

- Cowlitz Street West reconstruction; \$630,000. Funded by grants, with the exception of a \$50,000 loan from Cowlitz County. This project includes design, engineering and Phase 1 construction. Vorse stated the city still will be trying to complete the first part of the project which will include creating an alternative parking area behind the Exhibit Hall. Vorse stated the city is in the process of soliciting bids for that work.

- Crack seal Huntington Avenue South (from The Rock to Exit 48); \$3,000
This project was included for funding in this current fiscal year. However other projects prohibited the completion of this project.

- Entry Feature; \$60,000

Vorse stated the Park Board has been working on possibly designs for the city's entry sign near Lions Pride Park. This will be the final phase of this project. Vorse showed a painting done by local artist, Linda Henson which depicts the proposed design as discussed by the Park Board.

In answer to Mr. Vorse's question, Covington stated that the proposed Arterial Street Fund budget would require an interfund transfer from General Fund in the amount of \$76,100.

Vorse suggested various funding sources to help finance this project, including the use of volunteer labor forces. He cautioned that this is just an estimation of costs. If councilmembers want a firmer estimate, the city engineer would need to

provide that.

In answer to Councilmember Reilly's question, the city did have landscaping at the north entrance. Vorse stated he would like to be able to finish the south entrance before evaluating any further improvements at the north entry.

Councilmembers agreed that this project probably will not receive funding in the next fiscal year. Councilmembers made many recommendations for seeking donations to support the cost of this project. By consensus, councilmembers asked Vorse to include this as an agenda item at the next regular council meeting.

Council prioritized projects as:

#1 Cowlitz Street West

#2 Crack seal Huntington Avenue South

#3 Entry feature

In answer to Covington's question, Councilmembers Mask and Marcil stated to leave the entry feature project in the budget at this time. This will allow further discussion when final budgetary reductions are made.

8857 Real Estate Excise Tax Fund (REET)

Covington explained proceeds from this fund need to be used for capital projects. This fiscal year, councilmembers earmarked the entire revenue source to support the Street Fund projects.

Covington stated the proposed Street Fund budget for 2009 includes a transfer from the REET Fund in the amount of \$8,000. If council chooses not to use the REET proceeds for the Street Fund, council would need to re-evaluate revenue sources to support Street Fund projects.

Councilmember Mask suggested that the REET proceeds remain within it's fund and be used for emergency street repairs only. This way the proceeds can accumulate to allow for funding of a larger project.

Tape 2 of 2

Side - A

0008 Vorse stated councilmembers could also consider transferring an amount needed to complete the crack seal project funded in Arterial Street.

Councilmembers Reilly and Queen agree that it would be logical to invest the REET fund to complete the crack seal project in 2009. Vorse agreed that it would be logical to transfer only a portion of the REET funds, and this would still leave still leave a portion if tax proceeds in the REET fund.

In answer to Councilmember Mask's question, Covington stated revenue proceeds are dependent on real estate sales in our community. Mask suggested the

proceeds be left in the REET Fund and if there are available resources, a budget amendment could be done next year to transfer REET funds to the Arterial Street overlay project. Councilmember Reilly agreed with this recommendation.

0574 Councilmember Queen asked Vorse to display the entry feature depiction at City Hall so that residents will be aware of the project and the need for donations.

0715 The next budget workshop meeting will be October 20th at 6 p.m. Councilmember Marcil stated he would be unable to attend that meeting.

0743 Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Barbara Larsen

Clerk-Treasurer