

City of Cosmopolis

Regular Council Meeting
April 20, 2011

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided

Councilmembers Present: Jim Ancich, Carl Sperring, Karen Cox and Debbi Moran

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde, Public Works Director Darrin Raines, Fire Chief Al Burrows and Police Chief Casey Stratton

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Vickie L. Raines.

MEETING
CALLED TO
ORDER

It was moved by Carl Sperring and seconded by Karen Cox to excuse Frank Chestnut from the meeting.

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox to approve Agenda.

AGENDA
APPROVED

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting and vouchers from April 6th.

CONSENT
AGENDA
MINUTES
APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE

Public Works – The Public Works committee met April 1st to discuss some potential costs related to the Downtown corridor project that will have to be paid for out of our own funds. We discussed the problems with the trees that are creating problems with the sidewalks. Some of the concrete panels have been uplifted from the trees. These trees were supposed to be the type of trees that would not create problems. Darrin said they discussed putting in shrubs in Phases III and IV instead of the trees. Jim Ancich made a motion recommending that we eliminate the trees from Phases III and IV, Karen Cox seconded. Motion carried. Some type of shrub will be used to replace the trees. The Committee also discussed the water contract with Aberdeen. They did not come to any conclusion.

PUBLIC WORKS

Park and Rec – Debbi Moran said that she spoke with Stephanie Bridges about holding the Festival in the Park this year. Stephanie said that it is too late for this year. Mayor Raines asked if Stephanie was told that Vickie had done the solicitation letters to businesses requesting sponsorships and we have had offers of donations. Debbi said yes and Stephanie is still not interested for this year. Mayor Raines asked Debbi to request that Chairwoman Bridges submit a budget request to the Finance Director in September so we can try and get it in the budget for next year.

PARK AND REC

Chamber – refer to written report by Karen Cox.

EDC - Mayor Raines said that they have met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the possibility of combining the two groups. There has been no formal recommendation at this point.

Coastal Community Action – Mayor Raines reported that the wind farm is doing well and bringing in revenue for the agency. By fall the debt owing on the project will be paid off in full.

Grays Harbor Transit – Mayor Raines said that the agency was robbed and some vaults were stolen.

Legislative – Carl Sperring said that the biomass bill died in committee. They have a tentative budget and tomorrow the Governor will announce if they will go into overtime session.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS

CITY OFFICIALS

Police – Chief Stratton said he met with Robert Buchan, Cosmo Specialty Fiber, regarding security for the Governor's visit during Cosmo's open house on May 21st. Next week Chief Stratton will be meeting with the Governor's advance security team. Casey said they would be busy preparing for the next three weeks for her visit. Chief Stratton reported that they have been inundated with a bunch of theft cases lately. Most are small, like bicycles etc. They are working on some cases on individuals that were caught red-handed by

our Public Works Department. Mayor Raines said “that is cross training in its finest”.

Fire – Fire Chief Burrows reported that last Saturday the department had a live fire burn that went rather well. Chief Burrows thanked Councilman Sperring for being there with his camera, he took some nice pictures. It was a good training opportunity for everybody. Everything went really well, the home owner was also very happy. Mayor Raines thanked Chief Burrows for the advanced notice.

Public Works – Public Works Director Raines reported that we should have the final estimates for the Downtown Corridor project a week from Friday. We should have plan approval within a week and a half after that and should still be into construction by late June. There may be a need for a special meeting in June. We will be holding a public hearing for the 6 Year Arterial Street Plan. Darrin said that he is reviewing the sewer bill from Aberdeen that came in about \$20,000 more than last year. Darrin said that the Public Works Committee will also be meeting to discuss the Aberdeen Water Contract.

MAYOR’S REPORT

MAYOR

Mayor Raines said she has met with Todd from AdNets and Jerrod Loman about the web site. She said that she has one bid and is waiting on the second. Mayor Raines requested Council permission to move forward upon receiving the second bid at a level not to exceed \$4500. Debbi Moran motioned to allow Mayor Raines to move forward with the project, Carl Sperring seconded. Carl asked where the money would be coming from. Mayor Raines said we will not need all the money at once, but the amount we save in staff time and building usage for going to one meeting a month. Karen Cox asked if we advertised to get bids. Mayor Raines explained that we do not have to for this size of project, but we do phone solicitations. Motion. Carl Sperring and Jim Ancich oppose. Carl asked how much money we would save. Mayor Raines said that we would save several thousand over the course of the year. Darrin said that the Police Chief currently spends a lot of hours updating the web site and we do not have the ability to add the features we need, (permit applications etc.) Councilman Sperring would like to rescind his no vote. Debbi Moran motioned to reopen motion to grant approval for Mayor Raines to move forward on web page, Karen Cox seconded. Motion carried. Jim Ancich oppose.

Mayor Raines said that Cosmopolis does not have a representative seat on the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority, but Vickie was recently appointed as representative for the City of Montesano on this board. She attends the Flood Authority Meetings. Mayor Raines attended a meeting March 30th at which time it became apparent that the cities are not allowed a voice in the discussions and Commissioner Willis has control over the land practices and other things. We have a meeting tomorrow that will focus on trust between the municipalities and the Commissioners. The afternoon session will be used to discuss a multi county interlocal agreement with Lewis, Thurston and Grays Harbor County. Mayor Raines said it was important for her to take on this issue as she feels that if the tide had been different in 2008, Cosmopolis could have been in serious trouble. In addition we know that the twin cities (Chehalis and Centralia) project by the Corp of Engineers is to place levies and dikes along the corridor. They have gone further in writing to state that the levies and dikes in Lewis County on I-5 will not protect Grays Harbor County, but will actually be a detriment. This will cause the water to come down to our area faster and remain in our river beds longer causing more erosion. We have asked for discussions on retention. There was a special meeting held by the Commissioners earlier today and after giving opposition earlier in the week to not form a flood district in the County or enter into a multi-county agreement, two of the County Commissioners voted to approve a multi-county agreement with Thurston, Grays Harbor County and the Chehalis Tribe. Mayor Raines said by doing this the Commissioners have created a taxing district, whether they realize it or not, that provides for them to tax the citizens. Even though 90% of the damage from the 2008 storm occurred in Lewis County, Grays Harbor County would end up paying 53% of the cost. This does not have to go to the people for a vote. Commissioner Welch did not sign the agreement that was signed by Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Willis. Mayor Raines encouraged Council to read the articles in the paper and be prepared to offer comments. To date this group has expended 9.5 million dollars and have a fish study and consultant fees we do not know where else this money has gone.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1242 – Eliminating the Requirement for a Roll Call vote

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1242 in its entirety and On duly carried motion by Jim Ancich and seconded by Carl Sperring Ordinance No. 1242 eliminating the requirement for a roll call vote passed.

B. Ordinance No. 1243 – Surplus of City items

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1243 regarding surplus city items and On duly carried motion by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox No. 1243 declaring certain City items to be surplus was approved.

C. Letter to Cosmo Specialty Fibers re: Power Purchase Agreement

Mayor Raines explained Cosmo request regarding the generation, sale and purchase of electricity at the Cosmo Specialty Fiber mill. Cosmo will pay a 6% utility tax on the net (difference between purchased vs. sold) power purchased. We will bill Cosmo directly for the utility tax. City will be able to review reports from BPA regarding the sale and purchase of power. On duly carried motion by Carl Sperring and seconded by Debbi Moran agreement is approved. Councilman Jim Ancich removed himself from the vote to avoid any appearance of conflict.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

COUNCIL
COMMENTS

Councilman Debbi Moran apologized for missing the last meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor

