

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided

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

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde, and Public Works Director Darrin Raines

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

**MEETING  
CALLED TO  
ORDER**

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Frank Chestnut to excuse Chief Stratton and Chief Burrows. (Chief Stratton came in late)

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox to approve the Agenda with the addition of item B. under New business Authorize HDR Plan.

**AGENDA  
APPROVED**

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Frank Chestnut to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of the July 11, 2011 special meeting, July 20<sup>th</sup> workshop and meeting and vouchers 17123 through 17161 in the amount of \$163,673.41

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMITTEE**

**Park & Rec** – Debbi Moran said that they met 7-28 to discuss the future of the Festival and the Summer Rec Program. They would like to come up with recommendations for maintenance and equipment needed for the parks. The committee would like to solicit donations for Summer Rec. Mayor Raines said that in the past we received donations from Grays Harbor County and the Kelsey Foundation. They also discussed the possibility of adding to our holiday banners. Mayor Raines said that the new streets standards for the Downtown Corridor will be wired to put up lighted decorations. We also will be retrofitting the ones on the South side of the street so they can be lit. The Park Advisory Board would like to come up with a list of priorities for our parks.

**Public Works** – Jim Ancich and Frank Chestnut said they discussed a refund for Glenn Anderson for overpayment of LID. He paid for two and only has one. Attorney Hyde said that this was also approved by a previous Council, but we did not have the funds to pay him with.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**CITY  
OFFICIALS**

**Police** – Chief Stratton said Heath will be released to come back to work on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Matt Nelson, the new hire, will also be starting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Chief Stratton said that he is happy to have Matt on board and feels he will be a great addition to our staff. There has been discussion about temporarily dropping the speed limit in the construction zone to 25mph. We have had some close calls with the construction crew.

**Public Works** – Darrin Raines said that he and Fire Chief Al Burrows are working on a grant for a new fire truck through FEMA. The team working on the acquisition of a future truck looked at all options of funding and decided that now is not a good time to ask the citizen's for additional tax revenue. There are a lot of people out of work and property owners are still paying for the fire hall and the new high school. We need to have a 5% match, which is no problem as we have the

money still in the Fire Equipment Fund. Public Works Director Raines said that the Downtown Corridor Project is going well. He wanted to thank the businesses, Cosmo, Maxi and Maxi Burger for working with us on coordinating times for work on the ingress and egress to their businesses. We have some minor change orders for the project

1 – Different site conditions require an additional 2 to 2 ½ days – approximately \$14,000, but Darrin is requesting up to \$25,000 just in case they run into more problems.

2 – Bridge approach and curb alignment require hand cutting

On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Karen Cox above changes are approved.

Darrin said there will also be a no cost change order to suspend the 90 day finish deadline adding another 30 days to cover the extra time it will take to get the lighting. On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Carl Sperring the above change is approved.

Darrin reported that the Planning Commission held a public hearing to discuss updating the Capital Improvements Plan. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the addition of Engineer and Planning for Mill Creek Dam/Park and also add construction of an approved project to the Capital Improvements Plan. On duly carried motion by Jim Ancich and seconded by Frank Chestnut the Council approved the recommended additions to the Capital Improvements Plan.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Raines said the Flood Authority will meet in Rochester tomorrow, followed by EDC meeting in the evening and Grays Harbor Chamber on Friday. Mayor Raines expressed her appreciation for the staff for the extra work on the Downtown Corridor project. We have had lots of compliments. We will have some sort of ribbon cutting ceremony sometime probably late September. We will post notices for date and time. Mayor Raines offered condolences on behalf of the Council and herself and the rest of the City for the passing of Dawn Andrews, a former member of our elected officials family. Dawn also served on the Council from 2000 to 2004. She also served on the Civil Service Board and did a tremendous amount of community service work in her short life. Dawn's mother works as a deputy clerk here at City Hall. Mayor Raines extended our condolences to Dawn's husband Dale and her family. We also acknowledged Dawn with the lowering of the flags. Dawn was quite a character who will be greatly missed. We can still see her sitting at the end of the table with her dog. She was a very intellectual person who could give amazing reports on things and meetings she attended. She will be missed.

**MAYOR**

Frank Chestnut reported on the Council of Government meeting. He said they did take action on a surplus policy and they also had discussion on energy savings performance contracting. Mayor Bruce also sent Frank home with a "Dock of the Bay" poster announcing the event in Westport on the weekend of September 11th.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Ordinance No. 1250 – Grass Height**

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1250 in its entirety. Carl Sperring made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1250 regulating grass height. Frank Chestnut seconded. Discussion: Frank Chestnut asked if we would place a lien on the property if owners did not comply with the ordinance. Attorney Hyde said that yes we would. Karen Cox asked for clarification \$50 first day offense, \$100 second day offense and \$200 third day offense. Attorney Hyde said that we could do it that way. Attorney Hyde thought that code enforcement would probably use discretion on this issue sending notice and allowing 30 days to fix violation. Jim Ancich pointed out that there is no 30 day notice in ordinance, but two weeks and then abatement procedures go into effect. Carl Sperring pointed out that there are only a half dozen places that are in violation right now. Karen Cox said "what about the elderly lady that is not able to mow her lawn and cannot afford to hire it done. We can just give her all these fines?" Carl said that we

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

have hay fields out there that are not acceptable to him. Mayor Raines asked where they were. Carl said First, Second and Third Streets all had properties that would be in violation. Mayor Raines said the property on First Street would not be included in this ordinance. Mayor Raines said she was concerned that we would have the building official out there with a ruler and does not feel that this is an overly enforceable ordinance. There are times when our own cemetery is higher than eight inches. Darrin said that our parks are higher than that right now. Frank Chestnut said that he thinks that there needs to be a perception out there in the public that there is going to be a tolerated height. Mayor Raines asked if the Planning Commission reviewed this ordinance. The Planning Commission included this issue in a public hearing last September and did not feel that we should be measuring grass height. We already have provisions in the nuisance ordinance to address fire hazard and habitat for vermin. Darrin said that in the past we have address these issues through the abatement process. He is also concerned about senior citizens who do not have the means to take care of this issue. We also have the City owned properties that we do not have the budget to maintain at the proposed level. Jim Ancich asked why this did not include business. He also was concerned about the limit of eight inches and feels that this is a little too stringent. If a person does not have the money for a mower or gas or to hire someone to take care of the yard; they certainly are not going to have the money to pay the fines. Carl Sperring said he makes a motion to amend. No second. Carl said that the general appearance of our town has gone downhill; it used to be "spiffy". Mayor Raines asked if there were any more discussion hearing none. Carl Sperring – yes, Frank Chestnut – yes, Debbi Moran – yes, Karen Cox – no, Jim Ancich – no.  
Ordinance No. 1250 regulating grass height passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Grays Harbor County Redistricting**

Mayor Raines said that Grays Harbor County is working on redistricting to distribute the population equally between the three districts. We are currently in district 2 with Mike Wilson representing us as our county commissioner. County, Vern Spatz, said that we all have to fit within our districts within the ideal guidelines of our population. There are three proposed options, none of which keep Cosmopolis within District 2. One option has us go with District 3 with Hoquiam, Quinault and Ocean Shores. The other two options have us go to District 1 with East County. Mayor Raines would prefer Option 1 which would put us with Hoquiam, Ocean Shores as we are a port city community versus and agriculture community as East County is. The County is going to come up with some other options. Mayor Raines asked if the Council had an opinion on this. Mayor Raines said they wanted continuity and non discriminatory politically. Mayor Bruce, City of Westport, said they also wanted it to be contiguous. Mayor Bruce said that these districts need to be as close in size as possible, but the State does not say if it has to be within 100 people or 50 or 9. Mayor Raines said they are going to have another public meeting when the new options are done and asked if there were any comments the Council would like to send back to the Commissioners. Carl said that he would like to see something that made some sense. Jim concurred. Mayor Bruce said his council is going to pass a resolution requesting that they stay contiguous with Cosmopolis and Grayland. He recommended that the City of Cosmopolis also pass a resolution stating what we want. Mayor Raines and Attorney Hyde will come up with a resolution for the next meeting indicating that we wish to stay contiguous with our surrounding area such as Aberdeen and the South Beach area.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

**B. HDR Agreement**

On duly carried motion by Carl Sperring and seconded by Frank Chestnut, Mayor Raines is authorized to sign an agreement with HDR for \$11,960 to complete tasks 1-4 in the Mill Creek Dam Planning Study.

**Council Comments:**

Frank Chestnut asked if anyone had any complaints from citizens about noisy barking dogs. His neighborhood seems to have a large number of noisy barking dogs.

**Audience Comments:**

Mayor Raines clarified that ordinance 1250 regulating grass height was passed as written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**MAYOR**

**NEW BUSINESS**









