

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

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

**MEETING  
CALLED TO  
ORDER**

Mayor Raines excused Chief Stratton and Chief Burrows.

Mayor Raines said the Deana Otterstetter from DAO Photography is present to take pictures for our web site.

Mayor Raines introduced LeRoy Tipton, Grays Harbor Chamber CEO, who is present to discuss the merger of Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce and Grays Harbor Economic Development. LeRoy said that Tim Gibbs, CEO EDC, was not able to attend as he was at a business meeting in Seattle. LeRoy started by thanking Mayor Raines for being a strong and positive voice for our community. LeRoy said Mayor Raines has spoken often and eloquently in support of Cosmopolis and all of Grays Harbor.

LeRoy said that during these tougher economic times everyone is looking to streamline their organizations and provide better service for our community. They started meeting in April to discuss joining these two organizations and the transition team anticipates the new organization will be in place January 01, 2012. LeRoy said Mayor Raines is actually serving on both the transition and the team in charge of organizational structure. LeRoy said that 50 years ago Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and Hoquiam Chamber of Commerce merged to become a more efficient organization. We are in the process of doing this again so that we are not duplicating services and we can be the first choice for business and industry seeking marketplace information and resources in our community.

Mayor Raines said that the two agencies currently have 52 board members. This number will be reduced to 15 and will consist of one Mayor, one County member, one Port member, one PUD member, one Grays Harbor College member, six private sector members and four appointed members from and sector that could include industrial, retail, health care, Tribal and or Labor representation. LeRoy said that this is a very positive step for the community. They will remain a 501 (c) under the Chamber's articles of incorporation and they are using the Economic Development's bylaws and policies. The name of the new organization will be "Greater Grays Harbor Inc."

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox to approve the Agenda with the addition of items under New Business C. Civil Service Appointment D. Cascade Land Conservancy Letter of Support E. Grass Ordinance

**AGENDA  
APPROVED**

It was moved by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Carl Sperring to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and special meeting, August 9<sup>th</sup> and vouchers 17192 through 17227 in the amount of \$92,904.56

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Park & Rec** – Debbi Moran said that they met August 30<sup>th</sup>. They are focusing on improvements to the Franklin Park; possibly adding small picnic tables and large tires. They discussed the bridge at Mill Creek. Mayor Raines said that we are working on plans for that at this time. The next meeting will be September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

**COMMITTEE**

**Public Safety** – Karen Cox said that some of the Council, firefighters and staff saw a new fire truck that was brought to the fire hall to demo what is available. Darrin and Al Burrows submitted a grant for a new truck. This requires a 5% match.

**Council of Government** – Frank said that they got permission to enter a memo of understanding with GAO for the energy savings bank. Frank would like to invite Vickie Cummings to the next meeting to speak about this and other projects. If anyone has any questions they could ask them at this time.

**E 9-1-1** – They met to discuss the 2012 budget. Our rates were to increase by \$1900 but the board will be taking out of other operating funds to cover so our fee will remain the same as 2011.

**Legislative** - Carl reported that the Governor is thinking about calling special session to discuss increased revenue shortfalls.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**Public Works** – Darrin Raines said the Downtown Corridor project is going well. The stamped concrete will be started Friday. We are excited about this. If all goes well, Lakeside will be paving Tuesday and then the concrete sidewalks will be poured. Rognlin’s has been doing a great job and we are still well under budget.

**CITY  
OFFICIALS**

The city crew has been doing maintenance projects; the roof at the H Street Pump Station and replacing walls and siding at the Mill Creek pump station. They saved about \$10,000 by doing this work in-house. They have been very busy and doing a great job.

Mayor Raines said that when the Downtown Corridor Project is complete, we will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony. She would like to have the Lion’s Club bring the hamburger wagon and have refreshments. This is a pretty big deal, the completion of many years of planning and work. We have been fortunate to have Rognlin’s doing the work and keeping it local. They have been doing a great job.

Carl said that the crew at Rognlin’s have been working really hard. They are very courteous and keep the traffic flowing.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Raines signed a proclamation designating September “Life Insurance Awareness” month.

**MAYOR**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Authorize Mayor to sign Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Aberdeen**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Mayor Raines said that our Ambulance Availability fee for Aberdeen Fire Department will be \$61,184 (the same as last year). Aberdeen also agreed to continue to let us make quarterly payments. On duly carried

motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Jim Ancich, Mayor Raines is authorized to sign the EMS agreement with Aberdeen. Debbi Moran and Carl Sperring voted no.

**B. Resolution 2011-01 – Redistricting of Internal Boundaries**

Mayor Raines explained that all four maps do not meet the criteria for geographically contiguous representation. Attorney Hyde read Resolution 2011-06 rejecting the Grays Harbor County Commissioner’s Alternatives 1,2,3 & 4 which would remove the City of Cosmopolis from district 2 beginning in 2012; also rejecting any other option that would not include Grayland, Westport, South Aberdeen and Cosmopolis in “geographically contiguous” representation.

**C. Civil Service Appointment**

Mayor Raines said that she received three letters of interest to fill the vacant position on our Civil Service Board; Kay Richey, Dick Keller and Ken Cummings. She asked Council to approve the appointment of Ken Cummings to the Civil Service Board. On duly carried motion by Carl Sperring and seconded by Jim Ancich Council approves appointment of Ken Cummings to Civil Service Board.

**D. Cascade Land Conservancy**

Mayor Raines said that Jim Eddy spoke earlier in the meeting requesting a letter of support for the Olympic Peninsula Consortium’s Cascade Land Conservancy’s application for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

Frank questioned the second paragraph regarding natural resource management needed for livable and sustainable communities. He does not want to see government taking or over managing any more private lands. Jim Eddy said that this is not the intent of the group. On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Debbi Moran the Council authorizes letter of support for the Cascade Land Conservancy grant application. Jim Ancich voted no.

**E. Grass Ordinance**

Frank Chestnut said that he was contacted by 12 people about the grass height ordinance. Six people were for it and six opposed. Most of them said they were concerned; however, about the trend they see in the maintenance of properties in the town. Mayor Raines said that she vetoed the ordinance for a couple of reasons.

- The ordinance applied to residences only, not business or commercial
- The Council also did not appropriate any budget to pay for enforcement

She also said we had not scheduled a workshop before bringing this ordinance to Council for a vote. The Planning Commission looked at this and did not support it. The City of Auburn is the only other City that addresses grass height in this manner. Attorney Hyde confirmed that Auburn was the model for our ordinance. Darrin said that our current nuisance ordinance addresses a lot of the issues that are a concern to citizens. The Planning Commission and Council put in a lot of work on this ordinance and had a lot of public input. Mayor Raines asked Jim Ancich and Carl Sperring to review the nuisance ordinance and come back with a recommendation and we will have a workshop on it.

**Council Comments:**

Carl Sperring asked if the wind project was affected recently when BPA temporarily cut off purchasing the wind power. Mayor Raines said that as far as she knew they were not.

The web site is waiting on the pictures, the content is almost done. Mayor Raines will send cd with pictures to him.

**Audience Comments:**

Rebecca Harris, E Street, said she appreciates the Council supporting the ambulance service. She would also like access information like what resources are available. She has been having a problem with raccoons. Mayor Raines said that next month we will be working on the 2012 budget. One of the items that has been removed in recent years is animal control. We will be discussing funding viability options on this and many other programs.

Winnie Moulton, Stanford Drive, said that she is against the grass ordinance. She said we have worse problems like the large debris (from logging and land clearing) that are on Altenau. Darrin said that one of the piles caught on fire and had to be broken apart so the fire department could put it out.

Al Somerville asked that something be done about the speeding on Stanford Drive that starts about 3:30 in the afternoon.

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Finance Director

Attest:

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Mayor

**MAYOR**

**NEW BUSINESS**









