

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**

**Presentation by Timberland Regional Library**

Mayor Raines introduced Sherry Patterson, Cosmopolis School Principal, Judy Lohr, Cosmopolis School Board member, and Dave Palmer, Cosmopolis School Board member. Mayor Raines drew attention to a couple of drawings that show what a combined library, school and public might look like. This would be a joint venture with the Timberland Regional Library, Cosmopolis School and the City. The City would be responsible for paying for the improvements to the structure to get it up and running. Michael Crose introduced his staff Gwen Culp, IT Director and Jeff Finegardner, Communications Manager. Michael Crose, Director of Timberland Regional Library gave a presentation to the Council and citizens about the possibility of partnering with Cosmopolis School, the City and Timberland Library to create a community library. Todd & Associates worked with these entities to develop a facility space needs program and conducted an on-site visit to assess the existing conditions of the school. This concept would utilize the existing library and two additional class rooms. This area would have a separate entrance and patrons would not have access to the rest of the school. The total space would encompass 4,469 sq ft. . Timberland would be responsible for manning the library after school hours when it would be open to the general public. The school would pay for the maintenance and upkeep. The estimated cost to the City would be about \$600,000. Mayor Raines thanked Michael for his presentation and said that the City would take up this topic at their retreat after the first of the year.

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Karen Cox to approve the Agenda with the deletion of item D. Resolution 2011-08 and E. Resolution 2011-09 Water and Sewer rate increases and adding item D. Resolution 2011-08 Re GH County Property Tax Levy Shift and item E. Municipal Services Agreement

**AGENDA  
APPROVED**

It was moved by Carl Sperring and seconded by Debbi Moran to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of the November 16, 201 and vouchers 17398 through 17432 in the amount of \$20,881.15.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Raines told Council that if they had any specific committees they would like to serve on next year to please E Mail her with their requests by the end of the year. We also need to elect a Mayor Pro Tem.

**COMMITTEE**

**Greater GH Inc (formerly GH Chamber and EDC)** – Mayor Raines reported that the new organization will have their first meeting the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Mayor Raines is the municipality representative for the new group.

**GH Transit** – Mayor Raines said they meet next Monday to discuss budget. She also will be stepping down as small cities representative. Mayor Michael Bruce will take on that chore for the next year.

**Legislative** – Carl Sperring reported that the County is talking about doing a levy shift to balance the budget. This will cost citizens in the City about \$11 per \$100,000 house. They also are talking

about putting a sales tax increase on the ballot for February. The State is making cuts in all agencies, but there does not seem to be any urgency, like reported, in getting this done.

### **CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**Finance** – Finance Director Welch said that we will be having our exit conference for our recent audit of 2008-2010 sometime the week of the 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a teleconference and we will notify Council when we get exact date and time. No findings. Mayor Raines said in our 120 year history we have never had a finding, this is quite an accomplishment.

**Police** – Chief Stratton said Officer Nelson had his surgery on his thumb and is out for the next 6 weeks. The reserve academy is going well. Mayor Raines and her daughter Haley enacted scenes for the domestic violence training. Shelley Stratton and Casey also got into the act. The academy is ½ over.

**Fire** – Al Burrows said we still haven't heard anything about the grant for the fire truck. The new tower siren should be working tomorrow.

**Public Works** – Public Works Director said that the Downtown Corridor Project is done. They did a final walk through and addressed an electrical issue. Darrin wanted to thank Rognlin's for going above and beyond on this project. They have been a real pleasure to work with and did a great job. Darrin and HDR Engineering will be meeting Friday with the "Surf Board" to discuss options for Mill Creek Park Dam. They work on projects to remove fish barriers. The lights on the Lions Park Trail have been out due to vandals stealing the wire. We hope to have the new wire installed and working this week with secure lids for the J boxes, bolted or welded down.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Raines said our last meeting of the year December 21<sup>st</sup> will be our annual open house. Everyone is invited to attend and share in refreshments. Mayor Raines will be working on committee assignments and urges anyone interested in serving on any committee to contact her. Mayor Raines announced the opening of a new business by Corey and Kelly Daniels, Western Peterbilt, where Daniels Trucks used to be. There will be a grand opening in January. We are very excited to have this new business in town. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the Downtown Corridor Project went great. Well over 100 people attended, including Anthony Chavez, Weyerhaeuser. Anthony was instrumental in us getting the \$70,000 grant from Weyerhaeuser for matching funds that contributed to the engineering, so this was very special that he was able to attend. Mayor Raines said that she especially wanted to thank her staff, most particularly the Public Works crew. They kept traffic flowing during the construction phase and generally help keep things running smoothly. She also thanked City Hall staff for assisting in getting things ready for the ceremony. She noted that Public Works Director Darrin Raines has been here since the beginning of Phase I, so this must be a pretty sweet moment of celebration to see this completed. Senator Brian Hatfield, Representative Blake and Sara Crumb, Norm Dick's administrative assistant were also in attendance. Mayor Raines congratulated Councilman Frank Chestnut on his retirement. Frank said that his wife also retired last week.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Ordinance No. 1254 – 2011 Budget Amendment Mill Creek Dam Planning**

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1254 amending the budget and on duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Carl Sperring Ordinance No. 1254 carried.

**CITY  
OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

**B. Ordinance No. 1255 – 2012 Budget**

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1255 adopting the 2012 budget in its entirety and on duly carried motion by Carl Sperring and seconded by Karen Cox Ordinance No. 1255 carried.

**C. Authorize Mayor to sign Second Addendum of Interlocal Agreement**

Mayor Raines explained that the Chehalis Flood Authority voted to admit Napavine and Cosmopolis as members. On duly carried motion by Debbi Moran and seconded by Jim Ancich, Mayor Raines is authorized to sign Addendum of Interlocal Agreement.

**D. Resolution 2011-08 – Resolution protesting Grays Harbor County Property Tax Levy Shift.**

Attorney Hyde read Resolution 2011-08 in its entirety. Mayor Raines said that she attended the County Commissioners meeting Monday, Kathy Hoder and Jim Cook from the City of Aberdeen were also in attendance. Mayor Raines said former Montesano Mayor Dick Stone asked why Cities should pay for services that don't take place in our Cities and have our property taxes go up while taxes in rural county taxes go down. Commissioner Wilson said that he had researched several areas where cities get benefits from County services. He also pointed out sidewalk money that helped the City improve our project. This money does not however; come from property taxes but from sales tax money that is earmarked for economic development. He also said they provide jail service to us, but did not mention that we pay for every prisoner that is taken to the County jail. Mayor Raines told the Commissioners that when the mill shut down we lost 60% of our general fund revenue. We saw the impact of the huge cuts that we had to make to balance our budget, but we did what we had to do. Mayor Raines commented at the meeting that she thought this was a done deal and they weren't going to discuss it which the commissioners did not. As soon as the public comment period was over they voted unanimously to approve the levy shift. Mayor Raines said that in today's Daily World there was an article about the City of Elma passing a resolution protesting this levy shift and thought it would be appropriate for the City of Cosmopolis to do the same, if the Council so desires. Mayor Raines said that she did not feel the commissioners make themselves accessible or available to the public before making these kinds of decisions. On duly carried motion by Carl Sperring and seconded by Debbi Moran, Resolution 2011-08 passed.

**E. Municipal Services Agreement**

On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Carl Sperring Mayor Raines is authorized to sign the municipal services agreement with Greater Grays Harbor Inc. (formerly EDC and Grays Harbor Chamber). Mayor Raines explained that our dues will be \$2500 a year, down from \$3000.

**Council Comments:**

Frank Chestnut said that Mayor Durney has addressed the structure of the County Charter and has discussed getting a group together that would be interested on working on this effort. Frank said that he would be interested in this project and asked Mayor Raines to convey this to Mayor Durney.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance DirectorAttest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



**MAYOR**

**NEW BUSINESS**









