

**City of Cosmopolis**  
Regular Council Meeting  
January 24, 2012

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, Police Chief, Casey Stratton and Public Works Director Darrin Raines

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

It was moved by Carl Sperring and seconded by Frank Chestnut to approve the Agenda.

It was moved by Carl Sperring and seconded by Jim Ancich to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of January 24, 2012 and Claims Vouchers 17617 through 17646 in the amount of \$216,466.38.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**E 9-1-1** – Mayor Raines reported that E 9-1-1 received \$110,887 more sales tax revenue than was budgeted for. \$90,000 to \$100,000 of this will be used for this year’s budget. The board approved the radio contract with the County.

**Legislative** – Carl Sperring reported that there are 3,761 bills out there right now ranging from gay marriage to the legalization of marijuana. The list also contains one that takes the power of the cities to collect B & O tax and issue business licenses and putting this in the hands of the Department of Revenue. They will charge the cities a slight fee (1%) for providing this unasked for service to the cities. We do not know what they will say we have to charge for business licenses or how long we have to wait to find out who is doing business in our town. We also would not be able to collect B & O on services that the State exempts but the cities currently do not. Frank asked if this was going to pass. Finance Director Welch said there is an Action Committee meeting tomorrow during which they are going to try to get this bill thrown out or at least amended dramatically. Mayor Raines said they were having a Mayor’s meeting tomorrow and this would be a topic of discussion. Governor Gregoire said that small cities were all excited about this, even though we have not heard from her. If this passes, it could have devastating consequences for the City.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**Police** – Matt Nelson still is not back to work. The Reserve academy has 13 graduates, one from Cosmopolis. Casey gave kudos to Officers Nelson, Tarnowski and Layman for the time they put in to make the academy a success. Previous graduates have gone on to become full time officers in other departments including Jason Caps who was hired by the City of Aberdeen.

**Fire** – Steve Davis said that Chief Burrows apologizes for not being here, he was called in to work. Steve said the Fire Department wanted to thank Darrin and his crew during the snow storm. They did a great job of keeping the streets clear for emergency vehicles.

**Public Works** – Darrin thanked his crew for working their tails off during the snow storm. They worked day and night shifts. The equipment held together and they tried to respond to citizens’ requests to clear driveways where the snow plow had piled up snow. They did not however; plow the cul de sacs because they did not have any place to put the snow. Darrin said that him and Jim Ancich have been looking at used dump trucks and cannot find any decent ones at a reasonable price. They looked at the State Purchasing pool and they have a new 5 yard International for \$138,000 and a Peterbuilt for \$136,900. These are 2008 trucks but are brand new so the cost is reduced about \$25,000 to \$30,000. They have two ten yard trucks for \$148,000 and \$179,000. We could lease purchase these for a 5 year contract. The current truck is 7 years old and the salt is starting to eat away at it.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Raines thanked Darrin and his crew for their hard work during the snow storm. She had numerous contacts complimenting the crew and only two people who were not happy. She explained to them that the City cannot fix everything and thinks they did a fabulous job. She reiterated what Mayor Durney said about “essential personnel” coming in to work. He said that he feels that “all his staff are essential”. Steve Davis said there is an issue with the access in the trailer park as the owner does not plow it. We maybe need to come up with a plan to address this issue.

Mayor Raines reappointed the following people  
Tony Lupo – Civil Service  
Gary Bonfield – Board of Adjustment

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

AGENDA APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES APPROVED

COMMITTEE

CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Ken Cummings – Planning Commission

Bob Phillips – Civil Service

Ken Cummings – Civil Service

Stephanie Bridges – Park Advisory

Mike Wagenblast – Park Advisory

On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Carl Sperring Mayor Raines appointments are approved by Council.

Mayor Raines said they discussed the Wild Olympics proposal at the Council retreat. She said that she has taken a position of opposing the proposal until our Congressman and Senator can provide a panel of people to actually come and hold an open forum where we can ask questions and debate the issue. She does not feel that we have enough information to support such a project at this time.

Mayor Raines made this public to the Daily World today when they phoned her about it. Mayor Raines said they also discussed at the retreat the Freeholder election for the County. She will be taking to their Mayor’s meeting in the morning, Frank Chestnut’s name as an individual who is willing to serve on that committee.

Mayor Raines said that we sent out request for proposal for our defense attorney contract. It has been quite a while since we have reviewed. There was a substantial increase request from our current defense attorney. Attorney Hyde said we have had the same attorney for about 25 years. Mayor Raines said that her request to the Council would be to confirm John Gibson. John is also the indigent defense attorney for the City of Aberdeen. The amount of the contract would be \$650 a month, we currently pay \$750 a month with a request for an increase. Debbi Moran made a motion to approve the contract with John Gibson for indigent defense, Karen Cox seconded. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Raines called for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem for 2012. Debbi Moran nominated Carl Sperring. Karen Cox nominated Jim Ancich. Frank motioned that nominations be closed. Debbi Moran motioned to elect Carl Sperring Mayor Pro Tem for 2012, Frank Chestnut seconded. Motion carried. Call for motion to nominate Jim Ancich, no motion.

**B. Resolution 2012-01 Water Rate increase**

Darrin explained that we need to increase the water rates to accommodate Aberdeen’s water rate increase and to try to build reserves that have been depleted in recent years. If we have a large leak we do not have the resources to cover it. We anticipate another increase from Aberdeen, probably in July for 10%. Our water plan calls for 3 ½ % for six years but we deferred this due to the economy and the economic hardship for our citizens. We have done all we can to cut costs to the department including cutting 2 ½ personnel. Attorney Hyde read Resolution 2012-01 increasing water rates in its entirety and on duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Debbi Moran Resolution 2012-01 passed.

**C. Resolution 2012-02 Sewer Rate Increase**

Darrin explained that the cost increase for sewer is mainly to cover the increase from Aberdeen. Last year’s bill was an 18% increase over the previous year. Attorney Hyde read Resolution 2012-02 in its entirety. Mayor Raines asked Public Works Director Raines if we have looked at other systems. Darrin said that we are constantly monitoring the costs involved in our own system. Our own system would probably cost between 4 to 5 million dollars. We also would have to take on extra personnel to man the system. Mayor Raines said that we have to look at something, this is very frustrating. Darrin said that we could have Michael Olden, Gibbs and Olson Engineering firm come and talk with the Council. We will try to set this up for March. On duly carried motion by Debbi Moran and seconded by Frank Chestnut Resolution 2012-02 increasing sewer rates passed.

**Council Comments:**

Frank Chestnut wanted to give the public works crew a big “atta boy” for their work during the snow storm.

Debbi Moran thanked Darrin for digging her car out.

Frank asked if the collective Mayors are going to oppose the Wild Olympics. Mayor Raines said Hoquiam City Attorney Steve Johnson, is actually drafting a letter of opposition for the Mayor’s to sign and also requesting a forum for discussion.

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Finance Director

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL  
COMMENTS



**MAYOR**

**NEW BUSINESS**







