

**City of Cosmopolis**  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 15, 2012

Mayor Vickie L. Raines presided

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

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Police Chief, Casey Stratton, Fire Chief Al Burrows 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.

On duly carried motion by Debbi Moran and seconded by Carl Sperring, Jim Ancich is excused.

Mayor Raines acknowledged County Commissioner Terri Willis and thanked her for coming to our Council meeting.

Mayor Raines set a public hearing for September 19, 2012, regarding public input on moratorium on Medical Marijuana dispensaries. Attorney Hyde explained that the State is working on clarifying the law as it stands now and reconciling it with Federal law. He is recommending Council to pass the ordinance regarding this tonight and ask for public input on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He said that we have had an inquiry into opening a dispensary or medical device store in Cosmopolis.

It was moved by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Debbi Moran the Agenda was approved.

It was moved by Debbi Moran and seconded by Frank Chestnut to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of July 18, 2012 meeting and Claims Vouchers 18078 through 18143 in the amount of \$ 96,701.79.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Park** – Debbi Moran reported that the Park Board met. They need volunteers from Council to man information booth at Festival. Debbi requested a list of people or businesses that are sponsoring the Festival. Mayor Raines said that so far Cosmo Specialty Fiber, Stafford Creek, Grays Harbor Radio, Jodesha Radio and Five Star Motors (Rich Hartman). The Board has set September 15<sup>th</sup> as City Clean-up.

**Public Safety** – Carl Sperring reported that the Mayor’s and Fire Chiefs will meet August 20<sup>th</sup> to continue discussion of consolidating services or equipment and on August 28<sup>th</sup> this group will again meet with the firefighters. A member of the RFA from Lewis County is going to be asked to come to this meeting to discuss the pros and cons of their consolidation.

**Coastal Community Action** – Mayor Raines reported that the Snap (Student Needs Assistance) program is in full force. If you have children or grandchildren in need of school supplies, CAP has them available. Mayor Raines said COG held their annual elections Ken Albert, Sterling Bank – Chair, Vickie L. Raines – Vice Chair and Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County Treasurer – Secretary/Treasurer.

**Council of Government** – Frank Chestnut reported that they met to discuss budget. They are proposing an increase of 12% dues for 2013 (about \$800 for City) and 4% 2014 (\$300). They have not asked for an increase for four years. Mayor Raines and Darrin said that we have received assistance in obtaining \$1.5 million in the last two years and Darrin just received another \$1200 in free assistance by the use of their GPS system. We also used this to map our hydrants. Ms. Cummings, Director, said that she would be glad to attend and explain the need for increased dues.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**Finance Director** – Finance Director Welch reported that the Auditor’s office is still here. They have been here for the past two weeks. Mayor Raines said they are doing a single item audit for the Downtown Corridor. If you receive \$500,000 in federal grant monies in one

Call to order

Approval of agenda

Consent agenda

Committee Reports

City Official Reports

calendar year, an automatic audit is triggered. Attorney Hyde said that the Auditor ends up getting into a lot more than the single item.

**Police** – Chief Stratton said that they are in the process of updating their Vision Statement. Casey said that he attended the Chief’s lunch. Sgt. Joe Strong gave a total station demonstration on mapping software for crime and accident scenes. Also at the lunch was representative from WASPC. They briefly looked at CJCT to see what is being proposed by the State, like making officers pay for essential training. The Police Department had the radar units recertified in all vehicles. They had to replace one as it was no longer functional. Fortunately the Police Department had a spare that they were able to use to replace it. Casey announced that Grays Harbor County Sheriff Mike Whelan is retiring October 1.

**Public Works** – Public Works Director Raines said that at the last meeting he discussed applying for TIB monies. If successful we would need \$30,000 to \$40,000 matching funds. He spoke with the Finance Director and this would be the same \$40,000 that we could be using for repairs. He recommends that we put any funds we have towards maintenance instead of new projects. While it would be nice to do another project, the longer we postpone the maintenance, the costlier it will become. Carl said that he thought it would be best for the City to postpone applying for TIB funds this year. Frank asked why Carl wanted to wait. Carl said that he thinks we need to maintain what we have. Karen asked if we have a better chance if we apply now or later. Darrin said that it does not matter. An alternate source of funds is STP, but the projects have to be shovel ready. Darrin said that we have sent out several letters to homeowners regarding the condition of their properties. We have received about 7 responses. He said that he will have a list of properties to be considered for abatement. On duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Karen approval is given for Public Works Director to move forward with abatement on certain properties with up to \$2,000 in funds allowed. Mayor Raines discussed some issues with trees and hopes we have come up with a resolution.

**Fire** – Chief Burrows said that two firemen are resigning for personal reasons. We have one fireman who is going to academy. The fire department has given out four new applications.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Raines said as Chair of the Flood Authority, Commissioner Valenzuela and herself received a letter from Governor Gregoire talking about the work that has gone through. Commissioner Willis also sits on that Board. They will meet tomorrow and will be looking at their work projects put out by Legislature in House Bill 2020. They have received approval by the Flood Authority and the Chehalis Confederated Tribes for the levee work in Adna, phase I of the airport levee as well as critter pads. They will also be discussing a levee project in Bucoda. Mayor Raines said she was appointed to an AdHoc group by the Governor. They held their first meeting last week where they discussed some projects, one project on the Satsop and one around Mary’s River Lumber also the Wishkah River as well as some dikes and levees between Cosmopolis and Aberdeen. The Grays Harbor Conservation District has not received a lot of input from people in the lower basin so Councilman Chestnut will be working with Jay Gordon to sit in on some of those meetings to provide some feedback. Mayor Raines said that we are seeing an increase in Facebook. There will be a meeting the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to discuss the County Jail Contract.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Ordinance No. 1261 – Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

Attorney Hyde read Ordinance No. 1261 in its entirety and on duly carried motion by Frank Chestnut and seconded by Karen Cox Ordinance No. 1261 passed. Carl Sperring abstained as he did not like the timing.

Carl asked why we pass an ordinance prior to the Public Hearing. Attorney Hyde said that he felt the need to expedite the process due to the interest expressed in locating a store in Cosmopolis. Karen said that she thought we had already done this. Attorney Hyde said we did, but the time expired.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Karen Cox thanked Darrin and his crew for some clean-up they did in the Paisley area. She also thanked Mark Wenningham, Hunter Raines and Justin Cox for helping.

Mayors

New  
Business

Council  
comments

Carl Sperring thanked Chief Stratton for one of his officers who stopped by his house about 10:30 last week. Carl had accidentally left his garage open and the officer just wanted to make sure everything was ok.

Frank Chestnut briefly objected to Mayor Raines asking a councilperson to quantify their vote.

Darrin reported that the crew will be flushing hydrants next week. If the water becomes discolored, let it run till it clears up.

Mayor Raines thanked Commissioner Willis for attending.

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Finance Director

Attest:

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Mayor

















