

City of Cosmopolis
Regular Council Meeting
December 17, 2014

Mayor Vickie Raines presided.

Councilmembers Present: Debbi Moran, Frank Chestnut, Carl Sperring, Jonathan Fischer and Jim Ancich

CALL TO ORDER

Staff Present: Finance Director Cheryl Turner, Public Works Director Darrin Raines, Police Chief Casey Stratton, Fire Chief Jerry Schreck and Attorney Steve Hyde

It was moved by Councilmember Sperring and seconded by Councilmember Chestnut to approve the agenda with the addition of item B. under new business. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Moran and seconded by Councilmember Sperring to approve the consent agenda with Claims vouchers #20485-#20566 in the amount of \$140,217.60 and minutes from the 12/3/14 workshop, and 12/3/14 regular minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council of Governments – Councilmember Chestnut said they met at the Quinault Beach Casino. The 2015 budget was approved. They have now changed the meeting date to the 3rd Thursday each month and passed a Resolution for the work program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flood Authority – Mayor Raines said they will meet on 12-18-14.

GGH – Mayor Raines said they will meet on 12-18-14

CITY OFFICIAL

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Police Chief – Police Chief Stratton thanked the Mayor and wanted her to know how much the police dept. appreciated her for all she has done for them.

Public Works – Public Works Director Raines also thanked the Mayor.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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Mayor Raines reappointed Tony Lupo to the Civil Service and Mark Collett to the Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

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A. Authorize Mayor to sign Municipal Services Agreement with Greater Grays Harbor

It was moved by Councilmember Sperring and seconded by Councilmember Ancich to authorize the Mayor to sign the Municipal Services Agreement with Greater Grays Harbor. Motion was approved.

B. Authorized Mayor to hire Micheau & Young as public defender for the City

It was moved by Councilmember Chestnut and seconded by Councilmember Sperring to authorize Mayor to hire Micheau & Young as public defender for the City. Motion was approved.

Mayor Raines asked Attorney Hyde to read her letter of resignation. It reads as follows:

“With the intent of maintaining continuity in the City’s government and elected leadership, I am providing this letter of resignation. With many memories which include triumphs, challenges and notwithstanding a few disappointments, I resign as Mayor of the City of Cosmopolis in preparation to take office as District 3 Commissioner for Grays Harbor County on January 1, 2015. I thank the citizens of the City of Cosmopolis, City staff, past and present, as well as the elected officials for the honor of being their public servant these past fifteen years. Please consider this resignation effective immediately.”

Mayor Raines read a letter as follows:

“I want to say a few words, primarily to express my gratitude to the City staff for their tremendous support and camaraderie they have extended to me personally over the past twelve years as your Mayor. We have seen many things during the last decade and more, some of them really bright spots such as the completion of the downtown corridor beautification project, the addition of Peterbilt NW and the reopening of the pulp mill. We also had our share of gloomy periods, such as the mill closure, the breaching of Mill Creek Dam and let’s not forget the mold issues in the

Police department building and the culvert that failed on “C” Street. Through it all it has been my staff that has made my position more manageable-that doesn’t mean we didn’t have hurdles or weren’t skeptical on certain issues, but we stuck together like family does to jump the hurdles together. I will be forever grateful to my staff, their ability to work hard, to do what is right for our City, for their sense of humor, their enjoyment of practical jokes, and the willingness to stand together and work through those times when the light at the end of the tunnel was quite bleak. Thank you all so very much. I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge this particular City Council and what a pleasure it has been to work with them. They have shown a desire to be a cohesive group working with one another in the best interest of our citizens and community in which we live and serve. When an issue arises, we just say, “look at that”, then determine the best course of action to resolve the issue. We have truly made a great team and I thank each of you for your willingness to make a difference in Cosmopolis. Lastly, I would like to publically thank my family, my employer, Lindley Financial and my friends-each of you have been a source of comfort, support and in many ways have served as a confidant in relation to one City issue or another over the years. My deepest appreciation and gratitude goes to my wonderful husband and children; to Jerry for the unwavering support he has provided me when I would become consumed with solving City issues such as the mill closure, the City’s financial situation, and occasional personnel problem. Through it all, you have been my constant companion, number one fan and strongest supporter, I love you. Tomorrow is a new day and I know that this leadership will continue to progress forward as there is still much work to do. I won’t be far away, so when you implement those utility rate increases, reduce or increase City services, I will know that your decisions will be well thought out and enacted in the best interest of the citizens of Cosmopolis. Thank you.

Councilmember Chestnut moved to accept Mayor Raines resignation with our thanks. Councilmember Moran seconded. Motion was approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Chestnut presiding.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked Council if they were prepared to appoint a successor Mayor. Councilmember Sperring moved to nominate and appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Chestnut to serve as Mayor for the unexpired term. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion was approved.

Attorney Hyde gave Mayor Frank Chestnut his oath of office.

Mayor Chestnut asked Council to appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem. It was moved by Councilmember Moran to appoint Councilmember Sperring as Mayor Pro-Tem and seconded by Councilmember Ancich. Motion approved.

A workshop is scheduled for 5:30 on Monday, December 29th, 2014. There will also be a Special meeting scheduled for the same day. A workshop is set for January 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Police Dept. evidence room.

There is a vacancy on the City Council. Send letters of interest with qualifications to City Hall.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Cindy Grenier, 1200 Second St., has been having issues with pitbulls across the street. She has been told there have been numerous complaints about the dogs. She asked Attorney Hyde what needs to be done to deem these animals as vicious? Attorney Hyde said the City will do two things. We will file a petition to revoke his suspended sentence from the last episode and will be asking for substantial jail time. When that happens, part of that deal will involve the dogs.

Dru Garson of Greater Grays Harbor wanted to thank the Council for the City’s continued support.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor

**AUDIENCE
COMMENTS**

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COMMENTS**