

CITY OF ILWACO

City Council

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cassinelli called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. He thanked American Legion Post 48 and Chuck Schussman for providing an American flag and pole in the Community Meeting Room, and Peggy Mills for her help in securing their support. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Jensen, Chin, Marshall, Greene and Forner, and Mayor Cassinelli.

APPROVAL OF MODIFIED AGENDA

Greene moved and Marshall seconded a motion to modify the agenda in order to hear “Presentations” immediately after “Reports” and prior to the public comment period. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Forner, seconded by Marshall and unanimously approved with the exception of Greene, who abstained from voting as he was not present at the last Council meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

The Mayor thanked the Police and Fire Chief and volunteer fire force for their help with the Loyalty Days Parade and related activities. Police Chief Flint Wright’s monthly report for April 2010 was included in the Councilors’ packets. Planning Commissioner Don Parsons reported that a contract for development permit applicants is being drafted to recoup the expenses of processing development applications and will be submitted for City Council review and approval. The Planning Commission is also working on a new schedule of planning fees and proposes to move the fee schedule from ordinance to resolution status to ease fee schedule changes—further research is needed. He cautioned that the Council should be wary of increasing fees to the extent that it drives business away from Ilwaco. They are also working on hearing examiner code language and on the Comprehensive Plan analysis. An individual has applied for the open position on the Planning Commission and a recommendation has been submitted.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Forner reported that the Fire Department provided 41 rides to children on Saturday during Loyalty Days, and that he also attended the Loyalty Days banquet.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cassinelli reported that the Washington State Department of Ecology has recognized the Ilwaco Waste Water Treatment Plan for an Outstanding Performance Award for the third year in a row, and he commended Warren Hazen and his crew for their efforts. He said the Loyalty Days Children's Parade was great this year, and that the 3rd place Mayor's trophy was awarded to Mr. MURF and the Ilwaco Fire Department.

PRESENTATIONS

Skip Rand, Rural Development Specialist with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, opened his presentation by stating that City Council wants to establish the most fair and equitable water/sewer rates, and has asked him to do a study to determine what those rates should be. He said that the support he has received thus far from the administration and staff in providing data has been outstanding. Una Boyle, Executive Director of the Peninsula Visitors Bureau, presented the Visitors Center's annual report for 2009, and provided City Council with copies of various publicity pieces. Mayor Cassinelli thanked Una and her staff and volunteers for doing a great job. Mica Russell, Director of the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), outlined the history of the organization and provided details on the services it provides. In answer to questions, Russell stated that CREST can assist with comprehensive plan and water shed reviews, as well as grant writing to find funds to support such reviews. They also provide routine city planning department support. Their fee is \$60 per hour to member cities, such as Ilwaco.

COMMENTS OF CITIZEN AND GUESTS

Don Berger asked that the Planning Commission to address land use issues around airports in the Comprehensive Plan. Gail Moore complimented the presenters on their use of projector and screen and suggested that the City could present some of the material in Council packets in such a way. Mayor Cassinelli explained that the City currently does not have funding to buy projection equipment, but when it is available, will use the equipment in the manner Moore suggests.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1 EMS Proclamation: Mayor Cassinelli read the Emergency Medical Services Week proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Duane Mullins, Chief of Operations of MEDIX Ambulance. Mullins presented a plaque on behalf of MEDIX Ambulance to the City thanking Ilwaco for its support.

DISCUSSION

#1 WSDOT Airspace Lease –Fire Hall Canopy Overhangs: Discussion points included the proximity of the overhang to the State right of way, the equitability of charging the City of Ilwaco for airspace when other entities and businesses appear not to be paying airspace leases and quid pro quo for equipment storage space. The consensus of the Council was to contact WSDOT staff for further information.

#2 Steed House: After considerable discussion, the consensus of all Council members except Gary Forner was to sell the Steed house and land as a package if data shows that such a sale would be the most beneficial to the City. Forner expressed the opinion that only the house should be sold for removal and that the property should be retained for the future use of the Fire Department. Additional research is necessary to determine the optimum time to list the property for sale and other details before such a proposal is placed before the City Council for a final vote.

#3 Insurance Coverage—Properties Not Listed in Original Bid: Mayor Cassinelli stated that although the City Council authorized him to increase the insurance premium by up to \$3,000 to cover property not listed on the City’s new insurance policy, the actual amount needed is \$15,000. Discussion points included questioning why some property listed on the previous policy was not included on the new policy, why the waste water and water treatment plants were not listed on the last policy if in fact they were not, what hazards a property is being insured against (e.g. probably not necessary to insure a cement water tank against fire), and what the effectiveness of the \$15 million maximum payout if the Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment Plants were damaged. A Council workshop with the insurance representative will be scheduled to discuss coverage.

#4 Establish a Payment Plan for Overdue Water/Sewer Bills: Councilor Greene said research is ongoing and that a draft payment plan will be readied for discussion at the next Council meeting.

#5 Council Member Committees and Assignments: Following a discussion as to the role of Council Committees, including making recommendations to City Council, not making decisions, being legislators rather than “shadow” staff, carrying out specific tasks, etc., a consensus was reached that a Council workshop be scheduled on June 14, 2010, to discuss the responsibilities of each committee. Mayor Cassinelli asked Council members to draft a list of committee tasks based on their 2009 committee assignments and forward them to the City Clerk by June 7, 2010, so that they can be compiled and placed in the Council Packets. Councilor Chin was asked to assist with listing tasks for the Marketing Committee and Jensen for the Emergency Services Committee.

6 Fire Truck Claim: Councilor Jensen reported that additional information and documentation as to the value of the fire trucks was requested by the insurance company. The value for the 1971 Seagrave truck is \$74,373.00, and the information on the ‘81 GMC air truck has yet to be compiled. Mayor Cassinelli read a portion of an email for Attorney Rycewitz outlining the additional information needed. He asked Forner and Jensen to attend an 11:00 a.m. phone conference the next day with Rycewitz, as Councilor Jensen will be out of town. He also

reminded Council members that they can review the correspondence with the attorneys if they wish, but cautioned that the information cannot be made public because of the ongoing lawsuit.

Councilor Marshall commented on the correspondence in the Council Packet regarding the Planning Commission's review of development permit application fees by way of stating that the City does not want to discourage people from doing business in Ilwaco because of high expenses.

Councilor Greene moved and Marshall seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Cassinelli adjourned the meeting 8:53 p.m.

Mike Cassinelli, Mayor

PJ Kezele, Deputy City Clerk