

Study Session
Selah City Council
June 14, 2011
3:30pm

The Mayor welcomed Yakima City Councilman Dave Edler and invited him to speak.

Mr. Edler spoke on why Yakima, Union Gap and Selah should make a concerted effort to entice the Bears to stay. He noted that the Yakima City Council supported a coordinated effort with Union Gap and Selah to allow the voters to decide whether to build a new stadium for the Bears. He cited various reasons for keeping the Bears in Yakima, such as the economic importance of a professional sports franchise, how a sports franchise is beneficial to a community, and that it generates publicity and awareness of the community in news venues. He expressed his desire to show the Bears and their owners just how much the community would like them to stay.

A question and answer period followed. Among the topics discussed were what would happen if the voters decided to have them stay, parking and concession stand issues, the League encouraging the Bears to change to the Vancouver market, building a multi-use facility, collection and repayment of monies collected with a Public Facilities District (PFD), and the possibility of using sales tax revenues. Concern was expressed over Selah citizens voting no but still being committed to it if Union Gap and Yakima voters were in favor, how monies that were to have been available to Selah from the previous PFD did not materialize. Discussion over the Public Facility needs for the Selah community, earmarking monies for various projects, and the need to have a multi-use facility rather than a single-sport facility concluded the session.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Edler for his presentation, and stated that the Council would discuss the issue and contact him with their decision.

The Study Session concluded at 3:55pm.

City of Selah
Council Minutes
June 14, 2011

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Keith Larson; Paul Overby; John Tierney; Kevin Jorgensen; Dave Smeback; John Gawlik; Allen Schmid

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Gary Hanna, Deputy Fire Chief; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner; Monica Lake, Executive Assistant

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Jorgensen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Doug Perkins led the opening prayer.

D. Agenda Changes **None**

E. Public Appearances **None**

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses **None**

G. Communications

1. Oral

Mayor Jones opened the Public Meeting. Seeing no one rise to speak, he then closed the Public Meeting.

2. Written

a. Letter from Charter Communications, Inc. re: Upcoming Changes

Mayor Jones spoke briefly about the expenses to Charter Communications that neither DirecTV nor Dish Network has to deal with.

H. Proclamations/Announcements **None**

I. Consent Agenda

Executive Assistant Lake read the Consent Agenda.

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting May 24, 2011
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll:
 - Payroll Checks Nos. 71152 – 71244 for a total of \$194,195.09
 - Claim Check No. 58318 for a total of \$ 568.05
 - Claim Checks Nos. 58319 – 58320 for a total of \$ 509.84
 - Claim Checks Nos. 58321 – 58425 for a total of \$186,537.42
- * 3. Resolution M – 2 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Pacific Power General Services Contract for the Electrical Service for the New Public Works Utility Maintenance Facility Amending Resolution #2155 Customer Paid Portion
- * 4. Resolution M – 3 Resolution Declaring Selah Police Department Radio Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposal
- * 5. Ordinance N – 1 Ordinance Amending the 2011 Budget for Miscellaneous Expenditures

Councilman Overby moved, and Councilman Schmid seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as read. By voice vote, approval of the Consent Agenda was unanimous.

J. Public Hearings

- 1. Public Hearing – 2012 to 2017 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program

Public Works Director Henne addressed J-1. He requested that the Public Hearing be held, but declined to comment further unless requested to do so.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one rise to speak, he then closed the Public Hearing.

- 2. Public Hearing – Selah Urban Growth Area Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2010-8 (Van Alstine)

Community Planner Davison addressed J-2. He presented the letter written by Mr. Van Alstine requesting a continuance to the September 13th Council meeting, noting that the letter states September 14th, a Wednesday, and it would instead be continued to the September 13th meeting.

Councilman Overby asked if there was a reason it couldn't be withdrawn and resubmitted for next year.

Community Planner Davison replied that there was no reason, but that Mr. Van Alstine is not in favor of withdrawing his application.

Mayor Jones said that he and Mr. Van Alstine had discussed the situation; the property owner had passed away, the heir to the estate resides in California, and the bank's approval process is taking longer than anticipated due to those circumstances. He had recommended to Mr. Van Alstine that he come back before the Council at a later date, once he owns the property.

Councilman Gawlik inquired if he was still in the acquisition stages.

Mayor Jones replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Schmid asked if anyone knew what was happening with the old church.

Mayor Jones said that he is doing some renovation on it, and was certain he had a building permit.

Councilman Tierney said he hoped he did.

City Supervisor Sweet commented that it would depend on what he was doing.

Public Works Director Henne said that he's not sure exactly what is being done, but it looks like he's putting some siding up.

Councilman Schmid remarked that it looked like they had gutted it out before hanging new doors.

Public Works Director Henne responded that Building and Code Enforcement Officer Brons has inspected the premises.

Mayor Jones suggested to Public Works Director Henne that he check with Building and Code Enforcement Officer Brons regarding permits.

Councilman Tierney asked what difference it would make whether the Council chose to act on this today or carry it over to September 13th.

Mayor Jones commented that Mr. Van Alstine would prefer to be in attendance to present his case.

Community Planner Davison responded that Mr. Van Alstine is in a quandary waiting on financing, and that the Council can set a date other than September 13th if they opt hear the matter sooner than that requested.

Councilman Tierney opined that it made no sense to hear the matter sooner.

Councilman Jorgensen remarked that he saw no harm in continuing the matter infinitely.

Councilman Jorgensen moved, and Councilman Gawlik seconded, to continue the Public Hearing to September 13, 2011. Roll was called: Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes; Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Gawlik – yes; Council Member Schmid - no. Motion carried with 6 voting aye and 1 voting nay.

K. New Business **None**

L. Old Business **None**

M. Resolutions

1. Resolution Adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for Secondary and Collector Arterial Streets within the City of Selah for the Years 2012 to 2017

Public Works Director Henne addressed M-1. He said that every year they make a list containing those transportation projects the City feels are immediate and necessary, and pursue them as funding becomes available.

Councilman Schmid commended Public Works Director Henne and his crew for the tremendous job done regarding the planning and implementation of street improvements over the last several years. He listed Crusher Canyon, Speyers Road, and Fremont Avenue as specific examples of improvements, and expressed his feeling that Public Works Director Henne doesn't always receive the credit he deserves for his efforts in securing monies for these projects.

Mayor Jones commented that they really worked hard on the list of projects.

Public Works Director Henne responded that this was the easiest one in approximately 20 years.

Mayor Jones mentioned seeing the President comment on the shovel ready programs.

Councilman Schmid moved, and Councilman Smeback seconded, to approve the Resolution Adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for Secondary and Collector Arterial Streets within the City of Selah for the Years 2012 to 2017. Roll was called: Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes; Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Gawlik – yes; Council Member Schmid - yes. By voice vote, approval was unanimous.

- * 2. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Pacific Power General Services Contract for the Electrical Service for the New Public Works Utility Maintenance Facility Amending Resolution #2155 Customer Paid Portion
- * 3. Resolution Declaring Selah Police Department Radio Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposal

N. Ordinances

- * 1. Ordinance Amending the 2011 Budget for Miscellaneous Expenditures
- 2. Ordinance Changing the Street Name of South Wenas Avenue to Jim Clements Way

Mayor Jones addressed Ordinance N-2. He talked about the difficulty for the Fire Department and Police Department, and the confusion to the general public, created by having two different streets named South Wenas. He noted the location of each South Wenas and asked City Supervisor Sweet if he should tell the story behind the funding.

City Supervisor Sweet agreed that he should tell most of it.

Mayor Jones said that he had a meeting to discuss Selah's needs with Alex Deccio and Jim Clements, which included this project. He commented that Senator Deccio agreed to present the project to the Senate to get funding, which resulted in a long, hard battle for approval. He said that he received a call from Alex saying that there was a problem; Jim is on the fence and we need him for leverage for the bill. He said that

Alex requested that he call Jim on the floor to talk about it. He stated that he called Jim on the floor and discussed the bill for approximately half an hour, with the end result being that he supported the bill and Selah received the funds for the project. He finished by saying that Jim Clements has done a lot for the City of Selah in the legislature and it is fitting that we name the new road for him.

Councilman Tierney moved, and Councilman Jorgensen seconded, to approve the Ordinance Changing the Street Name of South Wenas Avenue to Jim Clements Way. Roll was called: Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes; Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Gawlik – yes; Council Member Schmid - yes. By voice vote, approval was unanimous.

O. Communications

1. Oral

Mayor Jones opened the Public Meeting. Seeing no one rise to speak, he then closed the Public Meeting.

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones talked briefly about his participation in the Flag Day celebration held in Tieton, noting that ex-Mayor Norma Joiner put this celebration together six years ago to honor all the veterans. He stated that six years ago it was about 220 names to read off, but had grown to 563 names read off this year. He said that they also raise the flag and shoot the salute as a part of the celebration. He said that he's been watching the killdeer nest on the Public Works construction site.

Public Works Director Henne commented that they had wondered what the cones were doing there.

Mayor Jones responded that he had Jimmy place them around the nest to keep people from disturbing them.

2. Council Members

Councilman Tierney said that he expects to have the Walk of Honor prototype powder coated by the end of week, and he will then start taking it around to the various Veterans groups. He indicated his desire to sit down with Mayor Jones and City Supervisor Sweet to finalize the application and make suggestions for the initial 25-30 names to be honored. He commented that he is pleased that summer is here and that flags look great.

Councilman Larson had no report.

Councilman Jorgensen thanked Mayor Jones for organizing the Council retreat, noting that it was a lively and productive discussion, and also thanked Executive Assistant Lake for putting together the folders to remind the Council of the projects to work on.

Councilman Smeback echoed Councilman Jorgensen's comments on the Council retreat, adding that keeping the Council aware of those items ensures that they get taken care of.

Councilman Overby had no report.

Councilman Schmid had no report.

Councilman Gawlik had no report.

3. Boards

4. Departmental

Deputy Fire Chief Hanna had no report.

Community Planner Davison informed the Council that Selah's population is 7,305 currently, about 100 over the Bureau of Financial Management estimate done last year and 58 above the 2010 Census. He complimented Mayor Jones on his tie, and hoped the flags would stay up through Flag Day.

Councilman Tierney remarked that today is Flag Day.

Public Works Director Henne said that the 2011 Water Improvement Program was initially intended for improvements to both the Goodlander and North Reservoirs, but upon inspection it was discovered that the North Reservoir drain line was compromised and there is leakage to be dealt with. He stated that they opted to forego the proposed improvements to the Goodlander Reservoir this year to completely repair the North Reservoir, which will stay within the budget.

Councilman Gawlik inquired if they had identified where the problem area is located.

Public Works Director Henne responded in the negative.

Mayor Jones remarked that the South Speyers side is soft from water leakage, and that the new drain will go down from the north and dump off into North Park.

Public Works Director Henne said that it will be easier than the current one and cost less in utilities. He went on to say that the other issue is to determine where the water is leaking from; part of the improvements will involve pipe replacement and sealing of cracks in the reservoir.

Councilman Gawlik asked if they had observed any significant level changes in the reservoir.

Public Works Director Henne responded that it is hard to tell as the water level is constantly fluctuating. He said the crew has suspected some leakage was occurring; he was initially planning to pursue the project next year when there would be more revenue coming in, but due to the current conditions felt the need to address North Reservoir now. He went on to say that CW Clark will be putting up a temporary fence later this week in preparation for starting construction on the new Public Works facility.

Mayor Jones commented that there is a killdeer nest there, and to have the construction crew stay away from it.

Public Works Director Henne replied that he had seen the nest.

Mayor Jones said that he watches their progress daily.

Public Works Director Henne remarked that it wouldn't be too long before the babies were grown and out of the nest.

Councilman Smeback inquired if he'd had any conversations regarding the wells on Horizon and Lookout Point.

Public Works Director Henne responded that he has. He said that about twenty-five to thirty years ago they put a well in for approximately 30 lots up on Lookout Point, built on three or four lots, and then ran into problems getting septic permits. He continued by saying that the Department of Ecology is looking at rescinding the water rights down to just the existing homes, so the well owners are discussing the possibility of the City of Selah acquiring the well. He remarked that it could cost the City \$30,000 to \$40,000 to go through the process for a well that only produces two hundred gallons per minute, and they need to decide if it is worth the expense in the long run. He explained the process and commented that it is expensive. He went on to say that the expenses might not justify pursuing the acquisition. He said that he will be presenting this proposal to the Council at a later time for their decision. He observed that if the water rights are rescinded, the remaining lots will only be suitable for picnic sites.

Councilman Smeback expressed concern over the Department of Ecology's current trend to rescind water rights.

Public Works Director Henne responded that the courts ruled a few years back that City water rights cannot be rescinded by the Department of Ecology.

Councilman Smeback wondered if we purchased the water rights to that well, if we could move those shares around within the same aquifer.

Public Works Director Henne replied in the affirmative, but said that we would be acquiring a water system we know nothing about. He went on to say that when he was first employed by the City there were negotiations going on regarding that well, and that there is a large volume of letters and files pertaining to that. He said that the system is buried in basalt and has no bedding, although improvements were supposedly done at some point. He noted that we would have to add pressure tanks and a buried pump, and that the whole idea is for the City to take ownership. He said that he has also been discussing the acquisition of irrigation water rights in the Naches-Selah Irrigation District, as the developers build irrigation systems into the new developments that will tax the current water system at some point. He commented that they are amenable to the City acquiring those rights before the Department of Ecology has rescinded them. He observed that if you lose the water rights, you lose the sales; if you lose the sales, you lose the revenue. He commented further that he needs to talk to HLA, and that it will probably cost around \$4,000 just to analyze the problem.

Mayor Jones asked if the City lost the water rights to the well at Playland Park.

City Supervisor Sweet said that we lost the Paradise well.

Public Works Director Henne said they never did protect those rights; it was never used.

City Supervisor Sweet said we have all the well logs, but the well was never used.

Public Works Director Henne commented that when they drilled the hole, it got away from them and a telephone pole went down into it.

Mayor Jones asked for confirmation that those water rights went away.

Public Works Director Henne responded that he didn't think there were any protected.

City Supervisor Sweet said that they have been looking for something unique to place in Selah that would draw tourists in, and that he has previously mentioned basalt sculptures as an option. He remarked that Selah has a basalt carving artist living on Frosty Lane, and the gentleman has three items that he would like the Council to approve the purchase of. He described the three sculptures, noting that the perched eagle would be placed on a basalt pedestal in the middle of the roundabout at North Park, and the two eagles with outstretched wings would be located at Veterans' Park to honor the veterans and tie in with the Walk of Honor. He went on to say that these are fairly expensive but also unique, and that Jack McIntyre, the artist, has offered them to the City at half price to help support putting them into the community. He talked about how this would draw tourists into the community to view them, and noted that Mr. McIntyre will be at the Fall Festival with his chainsaw carving. He said that Mr. McIntyre is affiliated with several art groups that will be brought in at different times throughout the year for different types of media. He stated that the purchase price of the three items would be \$21,000 plus tax, and proposed that the funds for purchase be taken from Fund 301. He said this will start a movement towards art in the community, which does bring people to town. He noted that they looked at a number of things but none of them made sense. He asked the Council to peruse the flyer and give him their input.

Councilman Smeback asked if the basalt carvings could be incorporated into the standards to hold the banners.

City Supervisor Sweet responded that it could be a little risky when the banners are being changed. He said that the standards will be fairly large to withstand the wind and activity going through there, and he didn't think the basalt would withstand that.

Councilman Tierney commented that basalt is fairly soft.

Councilman Smeback said he was thinking of them as a separate piece sitting in front of the standards.

City Supervisor Sweet responded that some of the other carvings may work for that, but that the three eagle pieces would make a great appearance for the roundabout and Veterans' Park and will get us started on the program. He went on to say that Mr. McIntyre is working with a television company to film him and his partners working on some pieces, which will be good publicity for Selah.

Mayor Jones mentioned the dissention over what to place on the standards, commenting that he was fine with calling Selah the Home of the Vikings but wants the flexibility to change them with the seasons and events. He cited the standards on West Yakima avenue as a prime example of what he would like to have for Selah.

Councilman Overby commented that Leavenworth and Toppenish celebrate human history and culture, but that the basalt carvings would make Selah unique by tying in with natural history and items such as the mammoth dig in north Selah. He went on to say that basalt is the most common rock in Selah and that he feels that it is a perfect fit.

Councilman Schmid commented that he likes the idea of the eagles as we have an eagle population establishing themselves in the canyon.

Mayor Jones asked if he'd been down to the dry beds to see the osprey nest.

Consensus to purchase the three carvings was reached with five yes votes and two abstentions.

City Supervisor Sweet said that he will present this to the Lodging tax Advisory Committee at their next meeting.

Mayor Jones observed that he has seen many different things used by communities to draw people in, and feels that the basalt carvings are unique.

Councilman Schmid commented that Granger has done something similar with the dinosaurs.

Councilman Jorgensen asked who would place the standards.

City Supervisor Sweet responded that it would be funded by the City and brought before the Council at a later date.

Mayor Jones said that one set of standards would be placed approximately where Goodwill is located, and one set at the other end of town, with banners that could be hung to advertise events two weeks in advance.

Councilman Jorgensen commented that the Chamber had that on the City beautification list they did awhile back.

Councilman Tierney remarked that if you want to see a town utilizing hard work to draw people in, then you should visit Joseph, Oregon. He said it is phenomenal.

Councilman Schmid said that it is due to their founding fathers.

City Attorney Noe had no report.

Police Chief Dwarshuis had no report.

Q. Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

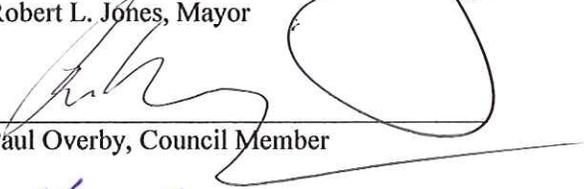
R. Adjournment

Council Member Larson moved, and Council Member Jorgensen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried with 6 voting aye and 1 voting nay.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.



Robert L. Jones, Mayor



Paul Overby, Council Member

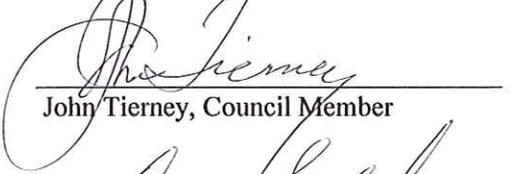


Kevin Jorgensen, Council Member



John Gawlik, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member



John Tierney, Council Member



Dave Smeback, Council Member



Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:



Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer