

City of Selah
Council Minutes
May 12, 2009

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

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 3:59pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Summer Derrey, Kevin Jorgensen, Keith Larson, Denise Nichols, Paul Overby; Dave Smeback, John Tierney

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner; Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

C. Pledge of Allegiance

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

D. Agenda Changes

E. Public Appearances

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

2. Written

a. Letter from Chuck Bodeen, Head Fastpitch Coach, Yakima Valley Community College

b. Letter from Randy Lee, Director of Operation, Washington Group Charter Communications

c. Basin Disposal Recycling Report – 1st Quarter 2009

Mayor Jones moved to the Consent Agenda.

H. Proclamations/Announcements

I. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Nichols moved to add M-1 to Consent Agenda. Councilman Larson seconded. By voice vote, support was unanimous.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda as amended.

Councilman Larson moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilman Overby seconded. By voice vote, the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

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

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Study Session & Council Meeting April 28, 2009
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll:
 - Claims Checks Nos. 54019 – 54019 for a total of \$ 1,165.58
 - Claims Checks Nos. 54020 – 54113 for a total of \$ 510,213.86
 - Payroll Checks Nos. 65830 – 65943 for a total of \$ 183,138.52
- * 3. Item M – 1 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Letter Appointing Donna Garner To Represent the City of Selah on the Yakima County Tourism Promotion Area Hotel/Motel Commission
- * 4. Item N - 1 Ordinance Amending the 2009 Budget for an ARRA Federal Grant

J. Public Hearings

K. New Business

- 1. Purchase of a FlashCam-880K – Motion Activated Camera System

City Supervisor Frank Sweet addressed item K - 1. He thanked Council Member Tierney and Chief Dwarshuis for sharing information regarding motion cameras. He said he contacted the City of Auburn who responded their camera is working very well, and it has helped to reduce graffiti. He said the ability to put a recording into this camera is one of its unique facets. He said it can capture the image of a license plate at 250 feet in the dark. He said his proposal is to buy a dummy case which can be substituted for the camera when you move it. He said if this works as well as anticipated, he will likely come back for an additional one. He said the funding would come out of .3 money.

Councilman Tierney asked if we can position it high enough to be out of reach.

The Public Works Director said that can be accomplished easily.

Councilwoman Derrey asked about the camera's resolution.

Police Chief Dwarshuis said it has an LED strobe that can read a license plate at 250 feet.

Mayor Jones asked about a clock.

Police Chief Dwarshuis said it will transmit image, time, and date to a laptop. He said he thinks it is a great way to spend the .3 money.

Councilman Larson asked if it generates still pictures.

Chief Dwarshuis responded positively. He said there is an additional fee for sending it straight to a laptop.

Councilman Tierney moved approval of the Purchase of a FlashCam-880K – Motion Activated Camera System. Councilman Overby seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes. Support was unanimous.

2. Purchase & Installation of a Double-Sided Electronic Message Sign on North Wenas at Carlon Park

City Supervisor Frank Sweet addressed item K - 2. He said this sign would complete Carlon Park. He noted the major sports activities associated with Carlon Park, softball, baseball, tennis and skateboarding, are featured at the top of the sign and the reader-board could advertise current activities. He said the sign would go on existing sign post, and they would rework existing pole to coordinate with the sign. He said Julie from Dwinell is here to answer technical questions. He said this sign is designed to be an identifying sign for the Park. He noted this is not a welcome sign, and it is not taking up anyone's plan for a welcome sign. He noted the projected cost is \$28,369.00, which would be charged to Fund 301, which is projected to have a balance of about \$340,000 by the end of 2009. He noted that it is exempt from bid laws. He recommended approval.

Councilman Smeback asked if the City Supervisor is open to other ideas. He said he likes the sports park part of it, but would like to see reader-board portion of this at Civic Center. The City Supervisor said his understanding is that the Lions are working to put a new reader-board up at the Civic Center.

Councilman Tierney said from the standpoint of public safety, there was a substantial increase in traffic accidents near the Tacoma Dome, noting they tripled as a result of the reader-board installed there. He said drivers would be distracted.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler pointed out that the Carlon Park site is along a straight strip of North Wenas.

Mayor Jones said there are no turn-off's there, but a blue spruce tree does need to be removed. He recommended "Jimmy the Butcher."

Councilman Tierney said \$28,000 is a lot to talk about, particularly in these economic times.

Councilwoman Derrey suggested businesses out there should help support that sign.

Councilwoman Nichols said two weeks ago, the concern was logo versus no logo. She asked if this item went to the Parks Commission and if it received their approval. She asked why this sign doesn't exhibit the City's logo.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet explained that this is not a welcome sign, it is an identification sign for the Park.

Councilwoman Nichols said some of the dialogue dealt with the City of Selah getting recognition that this is the City of Selah. She said there is no recognition here. That was an issue with the other sign.

Mayor Jones said everything associated with that Park is on that sign. This is totally different; it shows what is happening at that facility at anytime of the week.

Councilwoman Nichols said she wishes it would have gone through the Parks Commission to get their input on the design of the sign. She expressed concern about numbers of things that crop up in relation to Carlon Park that are not budgeted for that have come before the Council within the last twelve months asking for support for that Park. She said some of them have been great improvements, such as the parking lot paving and netting. She said she sees that more as needs versus wants. She said her concern is that whether there is there a capital improvement list/plan for this Park that this sign should be part of when we're talking about this much in tax dollars. She said she's wondering if Jeff Hagler and the Parks Board have had a chance to look at it. She said she 's a little troubled that every three months the Council gets a project coming back, and somebody wants something for this Park. She said she thinks that even though they might be really nice things, that in these economic times, that's not a good way to do budgets. She said each year department heads have a chance to propose a list of capital improvements, and she would like to see a systematic approach to the budgeting rather than all of a sudden coming to us every three or four months requesting a hunk of money to go into the Park. She said these expenditures just seem kind of sporadic.

Councilman Larson agreed, noting this is the first we've heard of it. He said he likes the idea of an identification sign for the Park and had no objection to the artwork. He said he too is troubled by not being included in the planning for this expenditure.

Councilwoman Nichols said the City has a Parks Board for a reason. She said she would feel more comfortable if it came from that group.

Councilman Jorgensen said there is a Parks Board meeting June 1, and they could consider it there.

Councilman Overby agreed with sending it to the Parks Board. He said he agreed with Councilwoman Nichols that there seemed to be a lot of acrimony about having the City logo on the sign, and he would have a hard time approving a sign for a City-owned park that doesn't have our logo on it with a straight face. He praised the artwork, but said that putting the two signs side-by-side it's pretty hard to come up with a convincing argument. He said having it go back to the Parks Board would give a little more time to think about it.

The City Supervisor said that's not a problem; there's no timeline; there's no urgency.

Councilman Larson asked if these expenditures for Carlon will end soon. He noted it's frustrating.

The City Supervisor said it's important to remember that this is a whole new area. If we'd been in this longer, we'd be more able to plan ahead. He said it is possible to accumulate these requests through the year and feed them into the budget process.

Councilman Larson said he has been surprised at the way Carlon Park has taken off, and that makes you think that you don't want to cut corners.

City Supervisor Sweet said when these tournaments come in, they sometimes point up unanticipated areas for concern.

Councilman Larson said he thought the paving of the parking lot came up because we were having a big tournament.

Mayor Jones asked Allen Schmid if he would like to address this issue.

Allen Schmid, 1410 W. Cherry, addressed the Council, saying he will take some of the blame for bringing this up to the Council. He said this was his idea. He said that Carlon is one of the premier facilities in the State of Washington. He said it is a jewel that continues to grow. He noted that he understands the budget process, and he agrees with a lot of the discussion. He said the parking lot was paved because the State of Washington was bringing in the state tournament and required it as a condition of the tournament placement. He noted the City generates revenue through bringing these tournaments. He said we spent \$30,000 on netting this year, \$15,000 of which came from GYGSA. He said GYGSA puts money into the Park every year. He said the sign is what we need to advertise Carlon, McGonagle, baseball games, and it can be used by the community to advertise anything that's going on. By way of explaining why he did not include a logo, he said, "I felt it was the Carlon Park Sports Complex and what that facility itself is." He said tournaments need to get those things up on a reader-board to let people know what's happening. He said both the Credit Union and Helms have reader-boards, but he can't answer if they'll cause accidents, but he doesn't think they will. In response to going to Dwinells, he said that Dwinells' owner donated all of the signs at Carlon, he lives in our community, his kids go to schools in our community, and he also plans to throw in \$945 for planetarium warranty upgrade for the year. He said Carlon Park brought in a \$1.4 economic benefit to the Upper Valley area last year and will bring in even more than that this year. He said he humbly stands before the Council to ask that we go ahead with this sign.

Councilwoman Nichols said that she appreciates Mr. Schmid's passion and recognizes it, but she just wants to follow procedure. She said she's not passionate about having a logo. She urged him to work with the Parks Commission to flush (sic) some things out on this.

Councilman Larson said no one could disagree about the Park's value to the community. He said it's nice to make those financial commitments during the budget process.

Mayor Jones suggested he could refer this back to the Parks Board.

The City Supervisor suggested the Council defeat it and refer it to the Parks board.

Mayor Jones said he hopes the Council is not gun-shy about the logo. He said this sign doesn't carry the school colors or the City colors. It gives a visual on all of the things that happen at that Park.

Councilman Larson said while he likes the City's logo, he doesn't think it needs to be on everything in the City, but it does belong on the welcome sign.

Councilwoman Derrey expressed her view that the design looks like "cheap clip art and a really bad color scheme." She said we ought to be able to spend a couple hundred dollars on a good graphic artist to get a couple of "cool concepts." She repeated her statement for the minutes.

Allen Schmid said there are no logos at any of our City parks.

Mayor Jones suggested the Council deny this and send it to the Parks Board.

Councilman Larson suggested we get ideas together and present them to the budget committee. He suggested a brainstorming session among all who have projects to recommend.

Councilman Smeback suggested we check to see if electricity is up to snuff at the proposed site of the sign.

Councilwoman Nichols moved To Deny the Purchase & Installation of a Double-Sided Electronic Message Sign on North Wenas at Carlon Park and to refer it to the Parks Board with direction to come back to the Council with a recommendation and suggestions for what a sign might look like. Councilman Larson seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes. Support was unanimous.

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

- * 1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Letter Appointing Donna Garner To Represent the City of Selah on the Yakima County Tourism Promotion Area Hotel/Motel Commission

N. Ordinances

- * 1. Ordinance Amending the 2009 Budget for an ARRA Federal Grant

O. Communications

1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

- 1. Mayor
- 2. Council Members
- 3. Boards
- 4. Departmental
 - a. Building Permit/Code Enforcement Report – 1st Quarter 2009
 - b. Planning Commission Minutes December 2, 2008 – Approved
 - c. Transit Reports – March and April, 2009

Community Planner Dennis Davison reported that the Planning Commission considered the 503 Southern Avenue Short Plat and sent it to City Supervisor recommending approval of the plat. He said the environmental review is completed, and we've advised everyone living within 600 feet of that property of their right to appeal. He said to his knowledge, there has been no appeal received as of yet.

Public Works Director Joe Henne said he did mention during the budget process that he wanted to buy a used dump truck, and he has been looking for one since that time. He said he did find one from the State for about \$30,000 which has a \$15,000 stainless steel tender. He said it is plumbed for a plow, and he has an extra one. He said Lonnie Walker and the trustees have spent a lot of time preparing Wixson

Park for Community Days. He reported that the pool has been patched and painted, and they will fill the pool next Thursday and have it ready by the 23rd.

Mayor Jones said he's been after Joe to get a dump truck, because we have to rent one every time we buy gravel. He encouraged the Council to consider that purchase.

Councilman Jorgensen said the winter potential is huge.

Councilman Tierney asked if we have the funds to do this.

Mr. Henne responded that he has \$350,000 in his equipment reserve fund. He said it is an excellent buy for 107,000 miles.

The City Supervisor said Mr. Henne will bring back to Council with details.

Mr. Henne said it will be in the next Council packet.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler reported the new Parks Activity Guide is out, and his Department is getting ready for the summer swim season.

Police Chief Stacy Dwarshuis said they are gearing up for Community Days. He reported he has two officers down, one who had surgery and another who hurt an ankle in a chase.

Mayor Jones asked the Chief if he could get a ride in the parade.

Fire Chief Jerry Davis reported that his Department did get a FEMA grant, so he'll be coming back to Council with a request soon. He reported that Deputy Chief Hanna ruptured tendon in his arm and had surgery this week. He will be on light duty for a while.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet said Community Days is ready to go. He said Council Members have a good packet of pool information for the Council Retreat coming up next week.

Councilwoman Nichols asked Chief Davis if we have citizens' emergency training.

He said we do not.

She asked if Yakima provided that training.

The Chief said he did not know.

Councilwoman Derrey said she was looking forward to some hobo stew.

Councilman Overby reported that he, the Mayor and Councilman Tierney met with the Chamber Economic Development Committee last week where they discussed the sign issue. He said they had a "meeting of the minds" and had a good conversation about that. He said there will probably be some different kind of proposal by the end of this month. He said whatever changes were made needed to go back before the constituent groups.

Mayor Jones reported they are moving the Office of Emergency Management from the basement up into records department area at the Courthouse. He noted it's taken nine years to get that facility moved. He said he and Chief Davis attended an Emergency Medical Services meeting not long ago.

Chief Davis said most of that discussion was regarding the need to send more ambulances and fewer fire trucks perhaps go to one provider ambulance service. He said they need to help the lower valley where they have thirty or forty minute waits for ambulance response.

Mayor Jones said the biggest problem is they are getting calls for everything. He said the new Director has been in office close to a year. He said their meeting with the Economic Development Committee went well. He said he has had both pros and cons on the sign including one lady who said put it at the high school since it is a high school sign. He said they still need to consider the location, because drivers won't be able to see it where they propose to put it. He said he asked Jack McClain what he thought, and he doesn't want it there by his property.

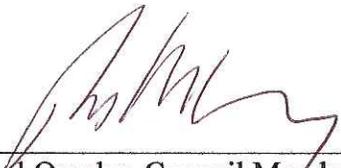
Q. Executive Session

No Executive Session was scheduled.

R. Adjournment

Council Member Larson moved, and Council Member Overby seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.



Paul Overby, Council Member



Denise Nichols, Council Member

John Tierney, Council Member



Dave Smeback, Council Member



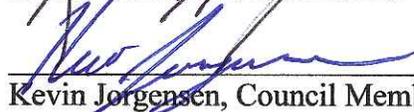
Robert L. Jones, Mayor



Summer Derrey, Council Member



Keith Larson, Council Member



Kevin Jorgensen, Council Member

ATTEST:



Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer