

City of Selah
Council Minutes
September 23, 2008

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

A. Call to Order Mayor Pro Tem Larson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Summer Derrey, Kevin Jorgensen, Keith Larson, Paul Overby, Herb Schmidt, John Tierney

Members Excused: Denise Nichols

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Lieutenant; Gary Hanna, Deputy Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner, Jeff Hagler, Parks & Recreation Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Derrey led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Rex Van Beek led the group in prayer.

Mayor Pro Tem Larson explained to the students in the audience that he is the Mayor Pro Tem presiding in the Mayor's absence.

D. Agenda Changes

E. Public Appearances

Bill Harris, representing GYGSA, addressed the Council. He said he is happy to be in partnership with the City at Carlon Park. He said this year they had thirty-three teams in the league: fourteen 10U teams, eleven 12U teams and eight 14U teams. He said GYGSA has already hosted seven tournaments this year including the 16U ASA tournament which included thirty-two teams from around the state. He noted that on October 11-12 they will host the Pumpkin Classic, and this year they hosted the 2A WIAA tournament and have been awarded that for two more years. He said if they continue to do what they have in this past year, they should be able to ensure tournament activity for many more years. He said the V&C reports that they have involved 157 teams, 108 of which are from out of town.

He noted that over the year this involvement has brought \$623,376 to the area. He stated that when the "mouse trap" is completed across the street from the field, Selah may be able to retain more of those dollars. He reported that on October 4 the UW Fastpitch team will play a double-header with Boise State, and on Sunday October 5 they will be putting on a clinic. He praised Parks Director Jeff Hagler

and Recreation Coordinator Danny Speer and the Parks maintenance crew, noting that GYGSA would not be as successful without their work to keep Carlon in top condition. He thanked the City for their partnership.

Mayor Pro Tem Larson thanked Bill Harris for his report and all of his hard work. He moved on to Communications.

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

2. Written

- a. Letter from Ken and Leann Jones Regarding Speed Bumps for Alley off East Fremont

Public Works Director Joe Henne said he has spoken with Mrs. Jones regarding the Jones' letter to the City regarding speed bumps. He said people are getting frustrated with traffic slow-down with construction. He said Public Works will pave sometime in the next few months. He said he thinks the traffic light to be installed at the intersection of Fremont and North Wenas will solve the problem. He said he has already had people asking if the City will plow the alley-ways they are currently paving. He said he is leaning toward not putting down speed bumps in the alley.

Councilwoman Derrey said rose bushes are blocking visibility, but that she loves flowers.

- b. Charter Communications Broadcast DTV Guide for Governmental Officials

H. Proclamations

1. Proclamation October 5-11, 2008 as Fire Prevention Week

The Mayor Pro Tem asked Deputy Chief Gary Hanna to read the Proclamation designating October 5 - 11, 2008 as Fire Prevention Week.

Deputy Chief Hanna read the Proclamation.

I. Consent Agenda

Councilman Schmidt moved the addition of item M-2 to the Consent Agenda. Councilman Overby moved the addition of item M-1, but withdrew his motion when Councilman Tierney said he wanted to talk about M-1. Councilman Overby seconded Councilman Schmidt's motion. By voice vote M-2 was added to the Consent Agenda

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

The Mayor Pro Tem read the Consent Agenda as amended.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Study Session & Council Meeting August 26, 2008

- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Payroll Checks Nos. 64301 – 64373 for a total of \$116,559.56, Claims Checks Nos. 52582 – 52583 for a total of \$3,806.93 and Claims Checks Nos. 52584 – 52658 for a total of \$164,223.67.
- * 3. Item M-2 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a Contract with Pacific Power To Provide Electrical Services for Lighting for Valhalla Heights Subdivision
- * 4. Item M-3 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a Letter Appointing Connie Webb, General Manager at the Comfort Suites, To Represent the City of Selah on the Yakima County Tourism Promotion Area Hotel/Motel Commission To Fill the Seat Vacated by Roseanne Mecca

Councilman Overby moved approval of the Consent Agenda as read. Councilman Tierney seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Overby– yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes. Support was unanimous.

K. New Business

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

- 1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a 2009 Fire Communication Services Contract with the Cities of Yakima and Union Gap, and Yakima County Fire Protection Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 14

Councilman Tierney said the Council just had a study session about duplication of services. He said he doesn't object to this agreement, but hopes we can pressure Yakima County and the City of Yakima 911 to quit duplicating services. He said each has own 911 system, and they don't talk to each other. He said most counties have only one system whereas ours is convoluted and delayed. He said it is a waste of money.

Police Lieutenant Stacy Dwarshuis said there is a consortium currently working on unifying the system.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet said Mayor Jones sits on the 911 Board, and suggested Councilman Tierney bring this topic up at next meeting, so the Mayor can bring the Council up to date.

Councilman Tierney said with Federal funds available through Emergency Management, we are missing the boat.

Councilman Tierney moved and Councilman Schmidt seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a 2009 Fire Communication Services Contract with the Cities of Yakima and Union Gap, and Yakima County Fire Protection Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 14. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Overby– yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen – yes. Support was unanimous.

- * 2. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a Contract with Pacific Power To Provide Electrical Services for Lighting for Valhalla Heights Subdivision
- * 3. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem To Sign a Letter Appointing Connie Webb, General Manager at the Comfort Suites, To Represent the City of Selah on the Yakima County Tourism Promotion Area Hotel/Motel Commission To Fill the Seat Vacated by Roseanne Mecca

N. Ordinances

O. Communications

- 1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

- 1. Mayor
- 2. Council Members
- 3. Boards
- 4. Departmental

Deputy Fire Chief Gary Hanna reported that Fire Department personnel will be in the schools for fire prevention week. He noted, other than that, they are working on the budget.

Public Works Director Joe Henne reported that East Fremont is going well. He stated he met with DOT and Columbia Asphalt today to coordinate moving the traffic control light at the west end of East Fremont, probably on a Sunday in order to reduce traffic delays. He said Monday they will begin the alley paving process. He said he will be working at the Transaction Committee and DRIVE fair booth on Saturday. In response to a question from Councilwoman Derrey, he said the Transaction Committee will meet tomorrow afternoon.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler thanked Bill Harris for his and his wife Laura's hard work on youth softball. He said the Youth Center is going well, and that ties in with CSC efforts talked about in the Study Session. He reported on Saturday they started the soccer program with 990 kids, and it will run four nights a week.

Councilman Schmidt reported that the Selah Kiwanis is sponsoring a program called Man-to-Man (you must be over 21 to participate) a week after the Diva program is put on for the women. It will be held November 6 at the Civic Center.

Councilwoman Derry reported that she attended a C.A.N. meeting. She urged seniors in the audience to work out their community service hours helping with graffiti removal. She urged them to give her a buzz.

Mayor Pro Tem Larson recognized School Superintendent Debra Howard who had just joined the group after attending a teachers' meeting. He said he has no report, but there's lots of activity going on in Selah. He noted he hears good things about Code Enforcement Officer Roy Brons.

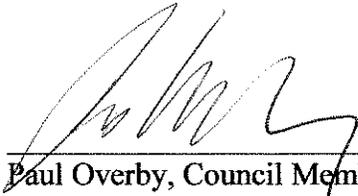
Q. Executive Session

No Executive Session was scheduled.

R. Adjournment

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

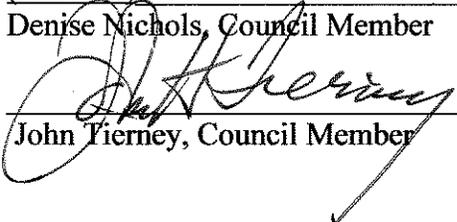
The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.



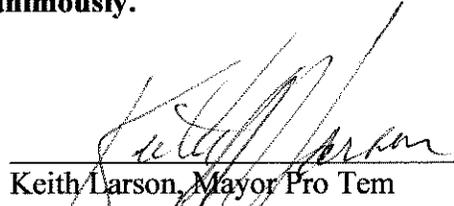
Paul Overby, Council Member

(Excused)

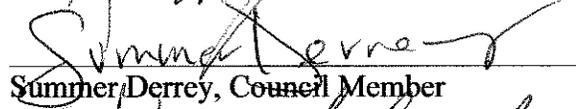
Denise Nichols, Council Member



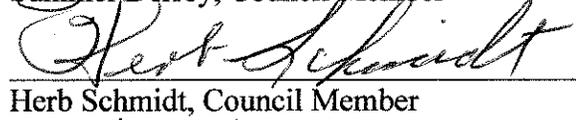
John Tierney, Council Member



Keith Larson, Mayor Pro Tem



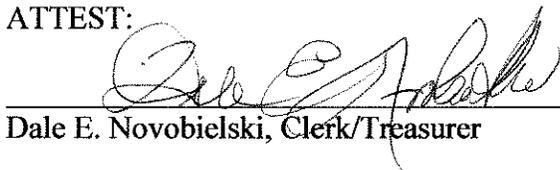
Summer Derrey, Council Member



Herb Schmidt, Council Member



Kevin Jorgensen, Council Member

ATTEST:


Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

Selah City Council
Study Session
3:00pm
September 23, 2008

Mayor Pro Tem Keith Larson called the Study Session to order.

John Cooper, Executive Director of the Yakima Valley Visitor & Convention Bureau, introduced himself to the Council. He reported that travel and tourism generate \$23,000,000 to Yakima County and local cities. He described a variety of outreach methods included in this year's leisure marketing campaigns. These include Micro-websites, E-blasts to data bases of approximately 20,000 regional travel subscribers, print advertising in the *Seattle Times* and *Seattle P.I.* Thursday travel sections and *Wine Press Northwest*, as well as online promotion on SpokesmanReview.com, custom maps, VCB Calendar of Events and the Visitor Information Center. He passed around a handout showing the addition of a navigation bar, which allows prospective visitors to view one page for each community that is part of their partnership. He showed examples of micro-websites. He stated recent popular activities have included women's getaways. In sports marketing, Rich has put together a fact sheet noting tournaments that are coming to Selah. The V&C is also initiating a campaign to bring more travel writers to this area. He noted in August they launched branding initiative activities aimed at positioning the region based on perceptions of the area. In conclusion, he asked Selah to join them again in their Visitor Guide. He gave examples of what a Selah page might look like. He said a full page of advertising normally sells for \$3900, but they offer a full page to partners at \$2000. He reviewed distribution of that brochure.

Councilwoman Summer Derrey noted we would want new pictures, but she thinks it is a fabulous idea. She asked if the Selah Chamber has a website.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet said he will bring the Council a proposal for advertising at a later date.

Mr. Cooper said he could make photographers available to communities who wish to participate.

Councilman Overby asked how many inquiries they have had.

Mr. Cooper responded they have 20,000 inquiries per year, a combination of physical and email, and have had 17,000 visitors.

Councilman Schmidt said the Visitors Center had 270 people one day in August.

The City Supervisor asked about hits the City of Selah has had.

Kirsten Danielson responded that Selah has not had many.

John Cooper noted they'll be getting the new ad efforts up and running in the next few weeks. He said they want to keep the exchange going, and they're looking for fresh information.

Councilman Tierney asked if they will be doing their design seasonally, noting the fall colors on the sample layout.

Mr. Cooper and Ms. Danielson thanked the Council for their time and attention.

The Study Session concluded at 3:17pm.

Selah City Council
Study Session
3:30pm
September 23, 2008

The Study Session began at 3:18pm.

County Commissioner Mike Leita greeted the Council and Staff. He said that he and Carol Holden are here with the Council today to discuss Citizens for Safe Yakima Valley Communities (CSC). He explained that he's the Chair, and Carol is Executive Director. He noted the second page of their handout headlines Yakima County crime impacting communities valley-wide.

Carol Holden pointed out that sheet 3 shows total crimes high in Yakima County, but slide 4 shows Yakima violent crime looks lower, and slide 5 shows property crimes are high, indicating poverty and hardship.

Commissioner Leita referred to page 7, saying that in 2006, 300 citizens got together for an open forum, representatives of a diverse community from all parts of Yakima County. They were asked what they view as problems and causes of those problems. He said this started as a grassroots effort, and that he knows throwing more money at the problem is not working. He stated when Representative Charles Ross asked what the problems are, some people answered, "We don't have any problems." He noted the City of Seattle has committed \$9 million toward battling crime. He said the core value of their group is to be inclusive, to empower and enable people and organizations, and to multiply and coordinate current resources.

Ms. Holden said 1200 people attended Yakima Night Out this summer, and Councilwoman Derrey collected \$300 in the dunk tank and also put fireman hats on kids. She said they would love to have Selah's endorsement and support for their efforts. She called attention to the Anti-gang initiative. She said there is a legislative communication team. Referring to Page 16, she noted that the youth jobs program is headed up by Esther Huey. Their Career and Job Day provided opportunities to screen and interview youth and send them out for placement. She noted this program provides an opportunity to mentor young people.

Councilwoman Derry stated they collaborated through the Yakima school district, and Parks & Rec hired about twenty young people.

Carol Holden said this gave youth an opportunity to express their own needs and come up with their own solutions. One thing they asked for was better sex education.

Commissioner Leita referred to page 19, noting 70% of jail population is directly related to drugs, and a large percentage of those are related to meth. He said addicts will do anything to get meth, and that means crime. He said there's a "Shock and Awe"

message coming to Yakima County. He noted page 20 deals with gang related activities. He said there has been lots of focus on suppression, but it's important to build efforts toward intervention and prevention. He said we can't simply buy more guns and bullets and put up more jails, and he expressed his belief that CSC is the linking mechanism that will help us avoid duplication of efforts. Referring to page 22, he noted accomplishments in the recent legislative session, allowing cities to prosecute vehicle thefts in municipal courts and dedicating 14 Juvenile Justice Department beds for graffiti offenders. He praised the passage of HB 2712 creating the Gang Task Force and HB 1030 Police Eluding as well as the efforts of Representative Hastings and Senator Murray to secure \$700,000 in Criminal Justice funding for the City of Yakima.

Carole Holden moved on to page 27 which illustrates a reduction in crime in Yakima County from 2006 to 2007. She stated community effort can make this a lasting change. She said she wants people to be able to start every day looking forward to the day to come. She noted page 30 shows things you can do in your community. She expressed her hope that Selah will continue efforts of graffiti abatement and block watch.

Commissioner Leita stated that he and Ms. Holden are here to inform the Selah City Council and to make a request. He said the City of Yakima and Yakima County have each committed \$20,000 to CSC, and his hope is that Selah would make a similar contribution. He noted there are lots of ways to be engaged, for example, the forty-seven member board is always looking for new members and new ways to embrace the diversity. He expressed his belief in greater efficiency through linkage. He said communities need to come together to squeeze these crime issues.

Councilman Tierney asked if the Tribe is involved.

Commissioner Leita said they're approaching them.

Carol Holden passed around sheets on the "Jobs for Kids" program, saying it costs about \$650 to place a student in a four-week job experience. She said her first job experience was through JTPA with the Library in Selah.

Mayor Pro Tem Larson asked how far reaching this program is.

Commissioner Leita said it is reaching out to all communities in Yakima County and tentatively to the entire State of Washington. He noted we're low on state funding to fight crime.

Mayor Pro Tem Larson said it is important that all communities work together to keep criminals from having a place to hide. He asked what is projected as the annual budget for CSC.

Councilman Tierney said he has talked to law enforcement officials, and they can't afford to dedicate personnel. He asked what CSC is doing to help cities face that challenge.

Commissioner Leita said pre-legislation reveals the soft underbelly of crime, not just in Yakima.

Councilman Tierney said it requires an intense traffic law enforcement effort.

Councilman Schmidt asked when board meetings are held.

Carol Holden responded that they are held the first Thursday of each month.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet asked if their only money is from Yakima County and the City of Yakima.

Carol Holden responded that they also have received grants and donations.

Commissioner Leita urged the Council to consider participation in CSC as a priority. He urged them not to lose sight that this is a volunteer organization. The Commissioner and Ms. Holden thanked the Council for their time.

The Study Session concluded at 3:53pm.