

City of Selah
Council Minutes
April 22, 2008

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, Keith Larson, Denise Nichols, Herb Schmidt, John Tierney

Members Excused: Brian Harris, Paul Overby

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Lieutenant; 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 Doug Perkins led the group in prayer.

D. Agenda Changes

Mayor Jones noted the addition of Item K-1 to the Agenda.

E. Public Appearances

- a. Selah Police Department
- b. Community Pride Award – Brian Vance

Mayor Jones called on Brian Vance to receive the Community Pride Award. He said it makes him extremely proud to recognize Brian for his academic achievement. The Mayor noted Brian was awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for the video he made regarding the methamphetamine problem in our state and nation, adding that not one of us remains untouched by this problem. He read the award as he presented it and asked Brian to tell those assembled a little about his efforts.

Brian Vance said his brother was doing an internship with the Attorney General's office, and every day he came home and shared a little about the kind of work that he was doing, and it became obvious that everything they were doing was connected with drugs in some way. He said the more he looked into it, the more he realized that it was methamphetamine. He said the more he thought, the more he wondered, "What is there that I could do as one high school student to make a difference." He said he turned to his

knowledge of video work to try to educate his friends and peers. He thanked his parents and his teacher Mrs. Hendrix for their support. The audience and Council applauded him. Mayor Jones congratulated Brian's father.

Mayor Jones called on Pauli Martin, noting she has been with the Police Department for 25 years. He said she started as animal control officer, then worked in the office, and then became a patrol officer. He read the plaque as he presented it to her, praising her for her exemplary service.

Lieutenant Stacy Dwarshuis introduced Jack O'Dell who, along with Officer Jerald Smith, serves as advisor to the Explorers Post 511. He read the following statement:

On June 4, 2007, explorers Gonzalez and Escalera were headed into Selah driving down Harrison Road. On the side of the road near Zirkle Fruit, they observed a small child on the side of this busy highway. Explorers Gonzalez and Escalera made contact with the child who was wearing a diaper, T-shirt and boots. The child could not talk and tell the explorers where he lived. The Explorers attempted to find his home without success. Explorers Gonzalez and Escalera brought the child to the Police Department. The child did not want the Explorers to leave, so they stayed with him until his mother was located and the two were reunited. Their conduct is a tribute to the type of quality individuals that the Explorer Program has in it, not only here in Selah, but nation-wide. Their conduct brought to a point the traditions of the Explorer Program and bestowed honor upon themselves, the Police Department and the City of Selah. He presented each Explorer with a plaque and congratulated them.

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

a. Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee

Bill Jenkin addressed the Council in regard to the results of the survey conducted by the Chamber Economic Development Committee. He addressed question #7 What types of businesses would you like to see in Selah? He said the committee noted lack of entertainment and lack of restaurants. In regard to #10 regarding a theme, the response was yes, we need something that promotes Selah. He noted there is more work to be done, but they did talk about "Swim, Run, Fish and Swing." He reported they met with Council Members Brian Harris and Paul Overby. Regarding question #11 what is Selah's greatest strength? He stated respondents praised the community and rural character. #12 greatest weakness? He noted the run down appearance, particularly on South 1st Street. He noted other concerns were traffic and government. #16 significant factors that have contributed to your success? Respondents cited word of mouth and local support as bringing success, keeping the money in Selah. #17 regarding ways to improve the central business district, brought suggestions of store fronts, and banners and flags. He noted banners and flags draw the eye's attention away from eyesores. #18 Economic Development Committee focus should be to attract new businesses & work with existing businesses, developing a theme and youth sports is a great start. Others suggested more green space along S. 1st Street. "Off to a good start" is a very encouraging to the committee.

Councilman John Tierney asked how many respondents.

Mr. Jenkins responded that there have been 24-5, and they are ongoing.

Mayor Jones congratulated the committee on a good job. He noted we ought to integrate water into our theme, predicting that water is going to be a major issue in coming years. He noted he always wanted a green belt on the east side of South 1st, but there's a problem with getting water there.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet said he will schedule a meeting with the Council's Economic Development Committee and the Chamber Business Committee to go over these results and discuss possibilities for City improvement.

Mayor Jones moved to Written Correspondence.

2. Written

a. Letter to Officer Truler from Ian Selby, Selah Skateboarder

Mayor Jones read the letter from Ian Selby:

Dear Officer Thruler (sic)

I'd like to take this opportunity to say that I am very sorry for insulting you and calling you an obscene name last October. I was upset because your were confiscating my skateboard, which is very important to me. I overreacted and said some things I shouldn't have said. I regret having done that and I hope you will accept my apology. Sincerely, Ian Selby

b. Letter from Patrick Knittle re. Eagle Scout Project

Mayor Jones read the letter from Patrick Knittle:

Dear Mayor Jones and City Council Members:

Thank you for allowing me to make My Eagle Scout project presentation to you last Tuesday. This was my first public request for funding, and while I was nervous, your friendliness put me more at ease.

I will take your advice and contact the Southwest Rotary, the Kiwanis, and Yakima County for assistance. I am please to report that since I met with you, The Home Depot has contributed \$75.

The residents of Selah will benefit from my improvements at Harlan Landing, and I appreciate any assistance you or the city can give me. Thank you again. Sincerely, Patrick Knittle

In addition, the Mayor read a letter to Jeff Hagler from YVC fastpitch coach Chuck Bodeen:

Dear Jeff,

On behalf of Yakima Valley Community College and my fastpitch team I want to thank you for all you did to help make this past weekends NWAACC Tournament a huge success. Many coaches mentioned to me how much they appreciated the bottles of water, apples, fruit bars and coffee mugs. They also said the fields were excellent and the maintenance staff was great to work with.

Your efforts helped make this the best Crossover Tournament that I have been part of in my three years as the YVCC coach.

I believe we have an excellent chance of getting the tournament back in Selah, and if we do, you and your staff are strong contributing factors in that decision.

Thank you again for all you did. Please pass on my thanks to all of your staff too! Sincerely, Chuck Bodeen

H. Proclamations/Announcements

I. Consent Agenda

Mayor Jones moved to the Consent Agenda. He read the Consent Agenda.

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

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Study Session & Council Meeting April 8, 2008
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Payroll 8 Checks Nos. 63189 – 63323 for a total of \$146,097.13 and Claim Checks Nos. 51619 – 51705 for a total of \$176,379.63.

Councilman Schmidt moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Nichols seconded. By voice vote, Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

J. Public Hearings

K. New Business

- 1. Selah Skate Park Association Request for Funding

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler addressed item K-1 regarding the request for funding from Selah Skatepark Association. He noted the figures have changed slightly since the original estimate did not include provision for prevailing wage, so he'd like to add \$1,300 for that. He noted there are other additions like fencing, irrigation, etc. so he'd like to increase the request to \$20,000, and that would include a handicap accessible walkway.

Allen Schmid, 1410 West Cherry, addressed the Council regarding the timeline for construction. He noted it is a tight schedule to coordinate with other things being done in the area. He said first they must remove sprinkler heads that would be under the slab, and that is proposed to be done by Park Maintenance personnel. May 1 or 2 are the dates for sod removal; Job Corps will bring in a crew, and the City will provide a truck and bring that sod to Veterans Park. He reported Popoff Construction will pour and finish the slab on May 14. He stated volunteers will be doing stuff in between. He noted at that point, they'll let it set two weeks, and then, with the help of the Mayor and Russell Crane, they'll place apparatus at the park first of June. He noted, in the meantime, they'll get those cleaned up and ready to be set. He stated later they'll pour the slab for the picnic table and benches. They plan a June 21 Grand Opening, synchronized with June 1 National Skateboard Day, and some people from out of the area have stated an interest in helping us celebrate the opening. He stated they are making a Plaza skatepark, a cement slab with apparatus where skaters can do their tricks. He said that with the money requested, they can put together a good, family park. He said they have lots of volunteers, and several companies have given them a good price. He described it as a win-win-win situation.

Selah Skateboard Association President, Ginger Tyler said she had nothing to say, except they have more and more support. She said they have more volunteers than they know what to do with.

Tom Durrett, 191 Saxon Lane, said this is phase 1 and there are more pieces they want to secure.

Allen Schmid asked Junior President, Jose Rocha if he had something to show the Council.

Jose thanked the Mayor and Council. He showed a collection jar.

Ginger Tyler said Jose was the one who originally approached her for permission to put the collection jars out and has taken responsibility for picking them up and bring proceed back to her. He stated so far the jars have netted \$200.

Mayor Jones congratulated the group on a great job and praised their volunteer spirit.

Frank Sweet stated the funding would come out of the General Fund should the Council approve it today, and then he will come back with the budget adjustment. He explained the request is for a "top end" of \$20,000.

Councilman John Tierney asked whether the \$20,000 is in addition to funds raised by the Skateboard group.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler responded affirmatively.

Councilman Larson moved to approve up to \$20,000 to fund the Selah Skatepark request. Councilwoman Summer Derrey seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes. Support was unanimous.

Mr. Schmid thanked the Council for their support.

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

N. Ordinances

1. Ordinance Amending the 2008 Budget for Miscellaneous Expenditures

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski presented the budget adjustment Ordinance, noting it includes a few items. He reviewed the overview sheet attached to the Ordinance. Fiscal Impact for Fund 001 General Fund was \$24,255 and for Fund 170 Equipment Reserve was \$4,926.

Councilwoman Nichols moved approval of the Ordinance Amending the 2008 Budget for Miscellaneous Expenditures. Councilman Larson seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Communications

1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor

2. Council Members

3. Boards

4. Departmental

a. Planning Commission Minutes – March 4, 2008 - Approved

b. Planning Commission Minutes – April 7, 2008 - Approved

c. 1st Quarter Report on Solid Waste – Basin Disposal, Inc.

City Supervisor Sweet reported for Chief Davis (who had taken an emergency call) reported on the acquisition of the new truck from Ogden, Utah. He stated they were able to acquire the truck for no cost beyond that of their trip down to get it.

Mayor Jones said he thinks Chief Davis learned a lot from his predecessor Chief Soden.

Councilman Herb Schmidt reported that he received a call at home Sunday to go up to 10th Street to look at a "waterfall." He said when he arrived he could see gravel all down 10th. He reported that a neighbor said the Fire Department was immediately there, and there was really nothing much he could do. The next morning you couldn't even tell the waterline break had happened. He gave tribute to the Mayor and both Fire and Public Works.

Mayor Jones stated having Warren Peters and Ty Jones there to take charge made all the difference.

Councilman Schmidt reminded the Council again about Community Days and the Kiwanis pancake feed.

Councilwoman Nichols asked whether the police have signed their contract. She also asked whether the Council Members will attend the AWC Conference which is going to be held in Yakima in June. She asked if there would be discussion regarding correspondence received in Council Members' mailboxes recently.

Frank Sweet said he did not receive the correspondence, but asked if it was in reference to the Hearing Examiner's decision. He asked Mr. Noe if he wanted to address that.

Mr. Noe said he did not see the correspondence.

Councilwoman Nichols said there were two different letters.

Chief Davis returned to the meeting.

Mr. Sweet asked him what year the truck is and reported to Councilwoman Derrey it is an '86 and has 10,000 miles now, including miles driving it back to Selah.

After reviewing one of the letters, Mayor Jones said it does not give the whole story. He stated he went over and investigated the situation. He learned that the person was frustrated and kept demanding the information, so another person intervened and said, "When it's ready, you'll get it. We will call you." He said he thought it was the result of frustration over the Hearing Examiner's decision.

Mr. Noe suggested making the second letter part of the record at the next meeting when Council will address the Planning Commission's decision regarding the requested change in the Comp Plan designation for property from high density to low density.

Mr. Sweet said that will be on the Agenda at the May 13 meeting.

Dave Hoffert said he has a full packet, and he will bring the packet to Public Hearing on May 13.

Mr. Noe agreed that he should bring those materials to the Public Hearing.

Mr. Hoffert further stated that he had written the other letter as well, and it wasn't frustration. He said he would like to bring that to the record. He said he was called in there.

Mayor Jones said that was what he was told by the lady.

Parks & Rec Director Jeff Hagler reported it was a fantastic weekend with softball teams here. He reported this coming weekend there will be 24 younger teams here for a GYGSA Tournament. He praised his parks maintenance crew for keeping the Park in first-class shape.

Public Works Director Joe Henne reported Public Works is working on South Park Drive and Carlon Park paving behind Woods Field. He said he will be bringing in a Change Order for repairs to an irrigation pipe that was leaking. He stated they repaired the leaking joints and all but one held. He said they will put a drainage ditch along there in case of further leaks. He reported that they will need to put in a catch basin and extension pipe where they have removed grass. He noted they need to put in PVC sleeves to put in gas pipes across South Park Drive, and today one of the lines for lights at tennis courts was broken.

Community Planner Dennis Davison passed out copies of Ordinance 1449 establishing plant investment fees, adopted August 24, 1999, and a map showing the City limits of the City of Selah on September 1, 1999. That Council adopted this as a fee schedule for capital cost improvements for new construction hook-ups to water and sewer. He said he is bringing it to Council Members' attention now because at the same time that Council adopted Ordinance 1449 they also adopted a ten-year freeze on costs to existing homes for hooking up to existing lines. He noted once that time frame expires, then existing residences would have to pay the new rates. He said he will urge them to hook up now at old rate of less than \$100 rather than waiting and paying today's rates of up to almost \$1,000. He said they will be proactive and send out notices to people urging them to get on City services now.

Chief Davis reported it was an interesting trip to pick up the 1986 truck which is valued at \$35,000. He said there was an air leak, but John Shipley was able to fix it with screwdriver and a crescent wrench. The truck has only 10,500 miles on it, and it will be a fine addition to the Fire Department.

Mayor Jones said he has been working at Veterans Park and has been picking up rocks. He reported the sprinkler system in, and the water feature is being constructed. He said a friend will weld the flagpoles. He said they will use whatever sod they have and seed the rest, put part in lavender. He further reported having attended an Emergency Management meeting and things going well there except they still can't find a new home. He noted when the City builds a new Public Works, Selah will have an emergency management center. He stated when we have a drill, we have a full complement of participants.

Councilman Tierney asked if there has been consideration into putting the County Emergency Management Office into our building.

Mayor Jones responded that he would prefer to have them separate. He noted there is an existing building near the fairgrounds close to the jail. He stated if they can get the money to rehab that, it would work as a headquarters for both Emergency and 911.

Mayor Jones declared recess. At 5:15 the Mayor convened the Executive Session.

Q. Executive Session

1. Litigation – 20 Minutes

Mayor Jones adjourned the Executive Session at 5:58

R. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

(Excused)

Paul Overby, Council Member

Summer Derrey, Council Member

Denise Nichols, Council Member

(Excused)

Brian Harris, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

John Tierney, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer