

Selah City Council
Study Session
May 9, 2006

Mayor Jones opened the Study Session, noting regulations for carwashes have been brought about because of groups holding carwashes on asphalt and letting the drainage pollute stormwater. He stated businesses are required to meet drainage standards while carwashes have just been letting the drainage go.

City Attorney Darin Spang explained the ordinance is to establish drainage requirements for carwash fundraisers as well as to establish costs associated with event permits and the carwash kits themselves. He referred to an email indicating cost of \$100 to make carwash kit and suggested the Council should also look at permit fees.

Council Member Herb Schmidt questioned limiting the number of carwashes being held at one location to no more than two times in one spot. He gave the example of a businessperson who welcomes students to hold a carwash at his business.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet suggested if carwashes are continually held on one spot, that could be considered a business. He referred to a similar restriction on yard sales.

Council Member Allen Schmid suggested changing the wording to the effect that a group could have only two carwashes per year and that only two carwashes could be held on one site.

City Attorney Spang said he would take a look at it.

Council Member Brian Harris stated there are lots of places around town to hold a carwash. He noted one local business owner has contacted him about the impact on his carwash business because charity carwashes are held every week across the street from his business.

Mayor Jones stated this ordinance is a tool to protect business owners whose water costs are high; it will help business owners retain control.

Allen Schmid suggested adding a Section C under 4.40.040 indicating a maximum of two fundraising carwashes will be permitted by any one organization during one calendar year.

Council Member Denise Nichols asked if the Council is going to define "group."

The City Supervisor asked if that would be limited to 501(c)(3) groups.

The City Attorney said it should not be limited to 501(c)(3) because school groups would not fall under that definition.

Council Member Schmidt stated we complain about young people not doing something positive in life, something that contributes to the community. He noted there are fewer and fewer opportunities for youth to contribute.

Mayor Jones stated the legislature has created laws that have restricted youth activities.

Council Member Schmid asked how much time it would take to process a fee.

The City Supervisor responded that it might take ten to fifteen minutes.

Council Member Schmid suggested most of these fundraisers would be for charitable groups, and he recommended a \$10 fee.

Council Member Nichols asked if we would limit permits to Selah residents and Selah charities.

Mayor Jones stated limiting the number should take care of that. He added businesses would need to have some kind of connection to or knowledge of a group before they'd allow the fundraiser on their property.

The City Attorney said there is also the issue of a deposit for the device.

Council Member Schmid recommended the City Charge a \$100 deposit for the device.

Mayor Jones asked the Public Works Director what the device looks like.

Joe Henne said the device consists of two bottles that fit inside a catch basin. He said it contains a little pump, and when it fills up, it discharges through a hose. He stated if there is no catch basin to put it in, then the device won't work. They would need to discharge fluids onto grass. He stated the whole intent of this is to keep pollutants out of stormwater drains. Public Works would need to make sure the device is installed properly and discharges into an approved repository.

Council Member Schmidt stated if a place is established, we could identify where to put device.

Mr. Henne stated it would also be necessary to cone off the area so no one drives over the device.

Council Member Overby asked if everyone is required to use this device.

Mr. Henne stated a carwash guidebook is available. He reiterated the purpose is to keep discharge from entering groundwater or stormwater.

Council Member Schmidt asked if the discharge could go on gravel. He asked if the fee is all-inclusive.

Darin Spang responded these are two different fees. It was generally agreed that the \$100 would be a deposit on the carwash device, which would be refunded upon the return of the device in good working order.

Council Member Harris suggested if groups had their carwashes at the carwash business, it would be taken care of.

Council Member Smeback stated that would need to be the carwash owner's decision.

Council Member Schmid said if they use the device, we can restrict it to facility where it can be used. He suggested the City could pre-approve sites that are appropriate. That way, it would be the burden of Public Works to "scope that out."

Mayor Jones suggested Building Inspector John Gawlik could inspect the area to make sure it is suitable.

Councilman Overby asked how the public will learn of these new requirements.

Frank Sweet responded we should contact people who commonly hold carwash fundraisers, and then contact business owners.

Councilman Smeback noted this ordinance works well with the City's stormwater plan.

The City Supervisor said if the Council wishes, we could approach groups and business-owners prior to bringing this issue back to the Council.

Council Member Larson asked if the City would limit the number of charity carwashes a carwash could have.

Council Member Schmid suggested the ordinance should state that as an exception. He further suggested that when we bring this ordinance back for a vote that Councilman Larson should be excused since his brother-in-law owns a carwash business.

Council Member Nichols noted the school district has limitations on door-to-door fundraising for student groups, which explains the popularity of service-oriented fundraisers such as carwashes.

Council Member Larson stated now the carwash is hot item, but asked what about selling Krispy Kremes across from a bakery or hot dogs across from a restaurant?

City Attorney Darin Spang stated he will make appropriate changes to the ordinance and bring it back to Council.