

City of Selah
Council Minutes

October 9, 2007

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

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 3:58pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Brian Harris, Keith Larson, Denise Nichols, Paul Overby, Allen Schmid,
Herb Schmidt, Scott Smeback

Members Excused:

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Schmid led the Pledge of Allegiance. Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler led the group in prayer.

Mayor Jones greeted students in the audience.

D. Agenda Changes

E. Public Appearances

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

2. Written

- a. Letter from Dick Graf, Selah National Little League
- b. Letter from Randy Lee, General Manager Charter Communications
- c. Yakima Transit – Special Ridership Count

- d. Letter from Cullen D. Stephenson, Manager DOE Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program
- e. 2008 YVCOG Preliminary Budget

H. Proclamations/Announcements

- 1. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 7 – 13, 2007

Mayor Jones read the Proclamation for National Fire Prevention Week:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 7 – 13, 2007

WHEREAS, the City of Selah is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our City, and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire, and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has documented through its research that home fires killed 3,030 people in the U.S. in 2005 – roughly eight people every day, and

WHEREAS, Selah’s first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education, and

WHEREAS, Selah residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire, and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Fire Prevention Week theme, “It’s Fire Prevention Week - Practice Your Escape Plan!” effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round;

THEREFORE, I, Robert L. Jones, Mayor of Selah, do hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2007 as Fire Prevention Week throughout this City, and I urge all the people of Selah to heed the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Week 2007 and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Selah’s fire and emergency services.

In witness hereof, I hereunto set my hand this 9th day of October, 2007.

He noted there are five paid fire personnel and seventy volunteers. He praised their dedication.

Chief Davis reported on activities scheduled this week.

Councilman Harris stated he went to the Matson fire and was a long ways away, but could feel the intense heat.

Chief Davis stated at time flames went 100 feet in the air. He noted there were some plastic bins at the site, which exacerbated the fire.

Mayor Jones moved to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Scott Smeback moved to add M-1 to the Consent Agenda, explaining that engineer Ted Pooler was not available for today’s meeting.

Councilman Schmidt asked if it was unusual to have this many change orders in a project.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet stated it is not unusual in a project of this size and duration. He added in this project, the problems with the water table at the site caused unanticipated delays and expenditures

I. Consent Agenda

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting & Study Session September 25, 2007
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Payroll Checks Nos. 61869 – 61952 for a total of \$153,700.51 and claim checks no. 50485 – 50563 for a total of \$805,290.53.
- * 3. Resolution Approving Payment to Mountain States Construction Company for Work Performed through September 28, 2007

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda as amended.

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

Councilman Smeback moved and Councilman Schmidt seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. By voice vote, the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

J. Public Hearings

K. New Business

- 1. Request for Approval of up to \$7,000 To Be Spent in the 2007-2008 School Year in Support of a Youth Center

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler addressed item K-1. He explained that the School Board did not want to enter into a long agreement, but paid their portion of \$7,000 toward support of the Youth Center. He stated approval of this expenditure will enable the City to continue the same level of commitment to the Youth Center as the Contract provided for.

Councilman Schmid stated Selah C.A.N. has agreed to take the Contract back and rework it in such a way that the parties can agree to it.

Mayor Jones praised the new facility, noting it has a pool table, foosball tables, air hockey, and will likely have some computers after the Police Department moves to its new facility.

Councilman Smeback asked if the Council is now voting on the City's portion of the agreement.

The City Supervisor stated this vote allows the budget adjustment to be done to make the expenditure for this facility.

Councilman Schmid stated Selah C.A.N. will remove the clause stipulating that the contract will continue unless it is terminated; so basically this will now be a year-to-year contract.

Councilman Schmidt moved approval of the Request for Approval of up to \$7,000 To Be Spent in the 2007-2008 School Year in Support of a Youth Center. Councilman Smeback seconded. Roll was called: Council Member Smeback – yes; Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Harris – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

- * 1. Resolution Approving Payment to Mountain States Construction Company for Work Performed through September 28, 2007

N. Ordinances

O. Communications

- 1. Oral

Wayne Pederson, 631 Selah Naches Road, addressed the Council. He noted he has experienced trouble understanding traffic flow in Selah. He stated people don't stop for pedestrians in cross walks, and he would also like to know who on the Council drives down Speyers. He noted a car can't get on Fremont at 9:00am or 3:30pm. He said whoever put that in there obviously doesn't drive down Speyers.

Mayor Jones volunteered to take the blame for that decision. He cited an example of danger when the road is icy. He noted those stopping at the Fremont should have enough etiquette to stop long enough to let someone through from Speyers.

Mr. Pederson said he is used to more structure in Bellingham where he lived before. He asked if the Police have a motorcycle to patrol. He said no one stops where Speyers intersects with Pear, Home or Bartlett, where there are marked crosswalks. The Mayor pointed out the Chief and Police Lieutenant to Mr. Pederson.

Councilman Overby said this is a somewhat controlled intersection. He noted cars coming down Fremont stop, but Speyers drivers must stop too.

Councilman Schmid said a major problem is the people who stop at 5th and Fremont don't come to a full stop. He said if people come to a full stop, there would be time for a car to move in from Speyers.

Mr. Pederson said there are lots of stop signs people roll through in Selah. He said there is a danger to children. He said people in Selah and around the state chuckle when Selah law enforcement is mentioned.

Councilman Schmidt noted that when you are getting your driver's license, if you don't stop three seconds dead, you will not get your license.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Pederson for his input.

P. Reports/Announcements

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

- a. Quarterly Report Building Permit/Code Enforcement
- b. Flyer – Grand Opening of New Selah Youth Center

Councilman Smeback said the previous discussion is a great testament to roundabouts. He praised the Selah Police Force, saying it is superior to Bellevue or Bellingham.

Councilman Harris reported that after years of not having a spirit club for school activities, they now have the Viking Crew spirit club for school.

Parks & Rec Director Jeff Hagler invited Council Members to visit Youth Center if the meeting lets out early.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet reported that in recent years the City has spent \$2000 for the "official" Yakima Visitors Guide and the Selah Chamber paid \$2000. He noted the Chamber amount is now up to \$3700. He stated the Yakima Valley Visitors Guide which is published by the publishers of the Selah Independent will charge \$1500 for the City page and charge the Selah Chamber \$1500 too. He noted that guide has distribution on the I-5 corridor, Oregon, Walla Walla, and Spokane, so they get a good circulation. He urged the Council to support publishing in the Yakima Valley Visitor Guide. He said it's important to support the Selah Chamber.

Councilman Larson asked if this is separate from what we pay to the V&C for support of the Visitors Center.

Mr. Sweet said the two are separate.

Councilman Schmidt said we would continue support for the Visitor's Center.

Mr. Sweet affirmed that, noting the City puts \$6,500 into that. He noted the circulation numbers are roughly the same between the two publications.

Mr. Schmidt asked if that could be put on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Jones suggested Mr. Schmidt could have someone from the V&C publication attend that meeting, as well as Larry Watkins from the Yakima Valley Visitor Guide.

Mayor Jones reported that the Valley Mayors will meet with New Vision Board this week. He noted he is participating in Preliminary budget meetings this week.

Q. Executive Session

R. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

Paul Overby, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

Denise Nichols, Council Member

Brian Harris, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Scott Smeback, Council Member

Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer