

CITY OF HOQUIAM
Council Special Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Simera led the flag salute and Mayor Durney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Durney and Councilmembers Anderson, Dickhoff, Diehm, Grun, McMillan, Nelson, Pellegrini, Simera, Swope and Winkelman. Absent from the meeting was Councilmember Pennant.

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Jeff Myers, Fire Chief Paul Dean, City Librarian Mary Thornton, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, Finance Director Mike Folkers and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

PROCLAMATION

Pastor Kent Gravley

Mr. Folkers read a Proclamation honoring Pastor Kent Gravley for 25 years of service as Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church.

COMMUNICATIONS

Explorer Program

Retirement

Chief Myers introduced Tom Johnson, Lt. of the Explorer force. Since April 2012, Mr. Johnson has provided over 3100 hours of service to the city and police department. When an individual turns 21 they must leave the explorer program. Chief Myers and Mayor Durney presented Tom with a plaque in recognition of service to the program and our community.

Oath of Office –

Councilmember Tibbetts

Mr. Folkers issued the oath of office to newly appointed Councilmember Ron Tibbetts. Councilmember Tibbetts was seated.

Broadway Avenue Slide

Sue Phillips 715 Broadway Avenue in Hoquiam stated her concern about the hillside on Broadway. There are several trees slanting at an angle and she can see material built up towards the river. She would like the city to check on the stability. She also stated that she is opposed to the oil by rail.

Renaming of Portion of Street

Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, Hoquiam, spoke regarding a name change that is being proposed for Aberdeen Avenue to McQuade Avenue. He stated that he Could find no notice regarding the hearing and after talking with staff it was posted on the finance door and the department sent a notice out to the adjoining property owners. He feels there needs to be more open Government and the citizens should be informed of when meetings are going to be held. He also could not remember this proposal coming to the council.

Pedestrian Safety

Ms. Robin Moore, 1019 Monroe, stated that a friend was hit by a vehicle on Saturday and she believes it might be because of the one way streets. She asked if the City could install signs reminding drivers to look for pedestrians both ways on the one way streets. She also attended the Hoquiam Drama production at 7th Street and they did a wonderful job.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember McMillan moved for approval of items a through c on the consent agenda and the motion was seconded. Those items appearing on the consent agenda were as follows:

- The City Council Minutes of January 26, 2015;
- The Regulatory Committee report recommending approval and payment of claim check numbers 81488 through 81504 in the amount of \$55,957.31;
- The Notice of Completion on the construction of the East Side Fire Station (Five Rivers Construction)

Following a brief discussion regarding an open house of the new fire station, the motion for approval passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Ambulance Purchase

The Public Safety Committee made a recommendation to purchase a new ambulance using funds from the equipment rental fund. Councilmember McMillan moved for approval of the committee recommendation and the motion was seconded. A brief discussion followed regarding the number of ambulances we currently have and the necessity of purchasing a new one. Current revenue is not at a level where there can be further money put away for future purchases. Following the discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Public Safety – Jail Addition

The Public Safety Committee made a recommendation that the City spend up to \$20,000 for an architect to design a new jail addition. Councilmember McMillan moved for adoption of the committee report and the motion was seconded. Council asked if there was money budgeted for this. Mr. Shay stated that there was not money budgeted, but believes that an expansion would pay for itself. Chief Myers stated that the contract with DOC is good through 2017 and it looks as if DOC will renew the contract to house prisoners locally. The estimated cost of expanding jail is approximately \$230,000 and the City could do an interfund loan from the Watershed fund to accomplish the expansion. Following further discussion the motion to approve passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

Police Vehicle Bid

Mr. Folkers provided a written report to the council regarding the recent bid opening for a Police pursuit vehicle. Three bids were received from Five Star and one was received from Whitney's as follows: Five Star \$36,992.13, \$33,206.22; \$33,499.24; Whitney's \$38,609.86. Staff recommends that Council approve the bid from Five Star and authorize the Mayor or his designee to sign all necessary agreements. Chief Myers stated that this vehicle is to replace a vehicle damaged in the flood and the cost is being covered by our insurance. Councilmember McMillan moved to accept the bid and the motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Police Department Recap

Chief Myers provided a written report to the council regarding the contract with DOC and the revenue being realized from this contract. He reminded council that the jail is not designed to be a money maker. The contract with DOC has been successful and worked for both the City and DOC.

MAYORS REPORTS

Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Durney made the following Council appointments: 911 Board – Councilmember McMillan; Loggers Playday – Councilmember Diehm; Council of Governments (appointed at last meeting) – Councilmember Pellegrini; Community Services Board – Councilmember Winkelman and Tibbetts; Cemetery Board – Councilmember Nelson. There is still an opening on the Library Board for anyone interested.

Flood Update

The City has been informed that the State will cover up to 86.4% of the cost for the Broadway slide. 43,000 cubic yards of debris pulled from slides and dumped at old lagoon. There is still debris being removed from Queets and the clean-up efforts are a large hit to our budget. Mayor Durney stated that he is very proud of the volunteerism and how the community has been helping each other. He is also very proud of the City staff and what they have done. Region 3 of Homeland Security has sent in an Emergency Management team and over 600 damage forms have been submitted. The Incident Management Team is responsible for getting information out to the public and if anyone needs assistance they should contact the CCAP office.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Drama Department and Miss Grays Harbor

Councilmember Winkelman stated that the drama department did an excellent job on their recent production. He also reminded Council that Miss Grays Harbor will be in a few weeks.

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Babe Ruth World Series Councilmember Winkelman also stated that the Babe Ruth World Series will be held in Hoquiam this year. There are 3 age groups that will be playing in the tournament.

Bridge Painting DOT will be painting the Simpson Avenue Bridge this year and the detour will be in place. Local businesses are planning on joint advertising during the closure.

Film Company Councilmember Winkelman stated that there is a request Independent film company would like to use some City property for filming and has specifically asked about the caretaker cottage at the Cemetery. Mr. Shay stated that the cottage is scheduled to be burned on the 27th. This information will be relayed to the film company.

Grays Harbor Gulls – AAA Baseball The Grays Harbor Gulls will be playing at our stadium this summer. They are scheduled to begin their season on May 25th.

Basketball Playoffs Councilmember McMillan stated that the Boys Basketball team has made it to the playoffs. They will play on Thursday.

7th Street Theatre Movie Councilmember McMillan reminded Council that When Harry Met Sally will be playing at the 7th Street Theatre this weekend. Damage to stadium from flood.

NEW BUSINESS
Committee Chairs Councilmember Dickhoff reminded the Council Committees that they need to elect their committee chairs. She asked that each committee meet briefly following the meeting to do this and to provide the information to the Council secretary.

Excuse Absent Member Councilmember McMillan moved to excuse the absent member. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

February 23rd Meeting Councilmember McMillan stated he will be absent from the next meeting.

Grays Harbor Gulls Council asked if staff would have a Grays Harbor Gulls representative attend a future meeting to talk about the team. .

Locker Room Damage Mr. Shay briefly discussed the Locker room damage from the flood. The original improvements were not done by city, but by the school district several years ago

COMMUNICATIONS
Newsletter Mr. Dave Forbes, 2216 Aberdeen Avenue, stated he would like to have the City newsletter reinstated.

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Gable Slide

Mr. Bill Wieland, 600 Washington Court, asked if the slide at Gable will be removed. Mr. Shay stated that it will probably be done by City staff as will the debris behind stadium.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember McMillan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

JACK DURNEY – Mayor

TRACY WOOD – Council Secretary

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