

Mayor David Futcher led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Futcher. Councilmembers in attendance were: Futcher, Schimmel, McDaniel, Webb, Karnofski, Myers, and Roberson.

Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Approve the Minutes of the 2/1/11 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Futcher read a proclamation declaring March 1st as "**Greg Mortenson Day**" and the week of February 27 through March 5, 2011, as "**Altrusa Celebration of Literacy Week**" in the City of Kelso. Library Manager Cindy Donaldson accepted the proclamation and spoke about some of the events that will take place during the week. This year Altrusa is partnering with Lower Columbia CAP to bring Author Greg Mortenson to our community. Mr. Mortenson, the author of the bestselling books, *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*, will be speaking at R. A. Long High School on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available. Cindy urged citizens to attend the various events.

PRESENTATION:

Kelso Police Department 2010 Annual Report: Chief of Police Andrew Hamilton gave an informative power point presentation. He spoke about the highly-qualified police officers in the department and their various activities in service to the community. KPD works together with the citizens of Kelso, the community, and other law enforcement agencies. Andy's report showed that DUI arrests, rapes, and robberies were up; however, domestic violence arrests, vehicle accidents, burglaries, thefts, and arsons went down in 2010. Mayor Futcher thanked Chief Hamilton for the informative report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Liquor License Renewals:** a) Daily Store, 1012 North Pacific; b) Sunrise Market, 1215 S. 6th Avenue; c) Chuck E. Cheese's, 351 Three Rivers Drive
2. **Approve Contract for Electrical Systems Integrator Service with Hamer Electric, Inc.**
3. **Auditing of Accounts:** January, 2011 \$ 289,771.35
February, 2011 \$1,158,763.66

Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Approve the Consent Agenda and the Auditing of Accounts in the amount of \$289,771.35 for January and \$1,158,763.66 for February,' motion carried, all voting yes.

CITIZEN BUSINESS:

Warren Neal Anderson, 614 N. 4th Avenue, spoke about concerns he has with slides in the Burcham Street area near where he lives. Public Works Director David Sypher said it is basically an act of nature and recently there has been a shift in the groundwater flow. The details cannot be discussed because it is currently in litigation; however, David invited Mr. Anderson to come to his office to discuss some of his concerns.

Rick Von Rock, 400 N. 7th, spoke about the need for lighting on the Peter Crawford Bridge. He has concerns for the kids who walk on the bridge when it is dark. Rick asked Councilmembers to contact D. O. T. to inform them of this safety issue. Discussion followed.

MOTION ITEMS:

Resolution No. 11-1040 – Declare City Owned Buildings at 240 and 246 Paxton Road as Surplus: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Pass Resolution No. 11-1040, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, DECLARING CITY OWNED RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AT 240 AND 246 PAXTON ROAD AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE THEIR DISPOSAL BY DEMOLITION,' motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – To Remove Duplicate Provisions in KMC Section 5.05 Regarding Business Registration and Fees: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Myers, 'Pass on 1st Reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3556 CODIFIED AS KMC 5.05.030 THROUGH 5.05.110 REGARDING BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND LICENSE FEES FOR ENGAGING IN UTILITY BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF KELSO.' Mayor Fatcher noted when the Council voted to raise the business license fee from \$25 to \$50 it was the same as Longview's fee; however, Longview voted to raise their fee to \$100. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Budget Revision #1 for 2011 Fiscal Year: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Pass on 1st Reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING THE 2011 BUDGET TO REFLECT REVENUES AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO COVER EXPENDITURES OVER AND ABOVE THOSE ANTICIPATED AT THE TIME SAID BUDGET WAS ADOPTED.' Councilmember McDaniel asked if the increase for salaries and benefits for the Police Department was due to an increase in contributions for their retirement. Finance Director Brian Butterfield said it was not due to an increase in retirement contributions. When the final budget was adopted, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Department hadn't been signed. This revision represents that MOU. Further discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dennis Richards: 1) Thanks to Chief Hamilton for a fine presentation. 2) Due to the recent budget cuts, the staff is doing more with less. The Police Department has been asked to help with some of the nuisance abatement problems. Every department is running with fewer employees and the business hours have been changed. I appreciate the efforts of our employees. 3) I hope you are enjoying the weather because I think it is going to change.

STAFF REPORTS:

Janean Parker: No report

David Sypher: I will be presenting my 2010 report and the 2011 plan at the next Council Meeting. David handed out the report and plan for Councilmembers to look over before the March 1st meeting.

Michael Kerins: 1) We are in the process of short platting the Hilander property and are expecting a site development plan to be presented to us soon for our review. Upon approval, the property should be developed quickly. 2) Even though we are still way below what we usually do in permitting activity, the Community Development Department had twice as much volume in January as in December. We are moving in the right direction. 3) Councilmember Schimmel asked about the Comprehensive Plan. Mike said a public hearing will be held at the next Council Meeting to finalize the text changes to the zoning ordinance. The next step will be to walk the Planning Commission through the goals and policies that have been completed so far, which is primarily the land use section.

Cindy Donaldson: 1) We continue to be busy at the library. So far this month we have issued 75 new library cards for a total of 235 cards issued since January 15th. Of the 235 cards issued, 48 were outside the city. 2) Altrusa, a local service organization, is planning to spend a total of \$15,000 to purchase new carpets, tables, magazine racks, computers, and desks for our teen area. 3) There has been a lot of interest from preschools and daycares in Longview for story times, tours, and other activities. 4) We are opening an hour earlier on Mondays and Tuesdays because we have had people waiting to get in.

Andrew Hamilton: No report

Brian Butterfield: 1) Councilmembers were provided copies of the financial statement. 2) January activity has picked up a little bit from last year in building permits and B & O taxes. Sales tax is pretty flat. Hopefully the sales tax will go up next month.

Carol Bradbury: The 2011/2012 Budgets are available for Councilmembers to pick up after the meeting. Citizens can request a copy in the Finance Department weekdays from 9:00 to 5:00.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Dan Myers: No report

Gary Schimmel: No report

Todd McDaniel: 1) Just another reminder about the comedy night at the Kelso Theater Pub on February 25th. Proceeds will go to the Kelso High School 2011 alcohol free graduation party. 2) Kelso High sports teams have done very well this year. Friday the boys will wrestle at a state tournament. My son qualified for state but drew the number one wrestler to compete against.

Rick Roberson: No report

John Karnofski: No report

James Webb: No report

David Futcher: No report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council convened into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss ongoing litigation. The Executive session is expected to last approximately five minutes and action may be taken. At 8:08 the Executive Session was extended for another three to five minutes. At 8:12 p.m. the Council convened into Regular Session.

Mayor Futcher told the audience Councilmembers had for their consideration a settlement agreement that has been negotiated by our attorney relating to a public records complaint. Councilmembers have been briefed on the details regarding the complaint. Upon motion by Councilmember Myers, seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Authorize the City Manager to enter into the agreement that was discussed.' Mayor Futcher asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, the vote was taken. Motion carried, all voting yes.

There being no further business, Mayor Futcher adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.


MAYOR


CITY CLERK