

Pastor Jim Weddle, Kelso First Baptist Church, gave the invocation. 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, Webb, Karnofski, Roberson, Schimmel, McDaniel, and Myers.

Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Schimmel, 'Approve the Minutes of the 3/1/11 Special Council Workshop and the 3/1/11 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

PUBLIC HEARING – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

APPLICATION: Mayor Futcher opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comments on the application to the Department of Commerce for CDBG Planning Grant Funds to complete a groundwater elevation and flow estimate for Phase V of the North Kelso Sewer Replacement Project. Located on the back table are CDBG Fact Sheets in English and Spanish. Public Works Director David Sypher said the program benefits low-income communities for economic development. The North Kelso sewer system was identified as the area within the city that has the highest infiltration/inflow rate. Public Works has been replacing the sewer mains. The sewer failure that we are dealing with now on Ross Street is related to the groundwater problems. As part of the CDBG program, they recommended we would be more successful in our grant applications if we would first bring this forward as a study. We are asking for money they have available to study the groundwater in this North Kelso sewer area. Mayor Futcher invited citizens to make comments about the application process at this time. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Futcher closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dennis Pelton of Longview American Legion Post 155: The Longview Post has had a long-standing tradition of honoring those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make our community a better place to live and work. The Legion looks at four points in making their selection; that is, community service, professional career, letters of accommodation, and heroism. This year the recipient of the Longview American Legion Law Enforcement Award for **Law Officer of the Year goes to Officer BeBe McFall.** BeBe has been with the Kelso Police Department for six years. She was chosen for this award for her work with the Safe Kids Coalition, Citizens' Police Academy, and her work on the streets of Kelso. BeBe accepted the award and Mayor Futcher offered his congratulations.

Cheryl Wilson and Carmen White of Caring Pregnancy Center: Due to some legislative actions against pregnancy centers in Washington State, many citizens don't know the pregnancy center exists. This non-profit Christian organization, located in Longview, has been in the community for twenty-six years. They serve mainly low

income families who need help to obtain necessary items such as a free pregnancy test, maternity clothing, infant and toddler clothing, cribs, strollers, highchairs, and diapers. They also provide prenatal and infant care, parenting skills, and Bible studies for clients to earn the items they receive. Cheryl and Carmen presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Fitcher and Councilmembers for the work they do and extended an invitation to them to visit the center.

Commissioner James Misner, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Funding Options:

Commissioner Misner spoke about a proposal for the cities and the county to consolidate a portion of their lodging taxes to become a regional tourism destination. The premise is that everyone will prosper by coming together. Through consolidation of funds and the need to diversify our tourism market, the direction of tourism will meet the ultimate goal which is more "heads in beds". He spoke about a "Big Idea" fund that would invest in a regional project to improve and attract tourists' interest. It was proposed that Kelso and Cowlitz County would each dedicate five percent of their annual Lodging Taxes for the next six years. Longview, Woodland, Castle Rock, and Kalama would each contribute ten percent and twenty percent would come from unincorporated areas. (Kelso's portion would be approximately \$7,624.80 annually for six years.) Each entity would receive the "Big Idea" fund in one of the six years. Commissioner Misner is asking the Council to draft a letter of support. Council discussion followed. **Upon motion by Councilmember Webb, seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Draft a letter of support endorsing the restructuring of the County's Tourism Department under the guidance and direction of a Board of Directors as well as dedicating five percent of our annual Lodging Tax for the next six years as a partner in "The Big Idea" fund allocation program.'** Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield asked if this needs to go before the Lodging Tax Advisory Board before the Council takes any action. Commissioner Misner explained that the letter is not a commitment. A Memorandum of Understanding would be drafted and brought back to Council for their approval. Discussion continued. Councilmembers McDaniel, Webb, Roberson, Schimmel, Karnofski, and Fitcher voted yes. Councilmember Myers voted no. **Motion passed 6 to 1.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Cowlitz County District Court Appointment: Ronald S. Marshall as District Judge**
2. **Award Paxton Road Water Reservoir, Project No. 590703, to Ward-Henshaw Construction in the amount of \$2,596,053.50**
3. **Authorize City Manager to Enter into a Design Engineering Services Contract with Gibbs & Olson for waterlines on 1st Avenue North & 2nd Avenue North, Project No. 590903, for \$101,150**
4. **Liquor License Renewals: a) Azteca, 420 Three Rivers Drive; b) Ol Tima', 211 West Main; c) Maltese Bar and Grill, 100 Pine; d) B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1482, 900 Ash**

5. Reappoint Linda Curry to Library Board, Term Expires 12/31/2015
6. Auditing of Accounts \$1,576,406.20

It was the consensus of the Council to remove Item No. 2 from the consent agenda to be discussed separately. Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Myers, 'Approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda and the Auditing of Accounts in the amount of \$1,576,406.20,' motion carried all voting yes.

CITIZEN BUSINESS:

Anthony Carrera, 803 S. 6th, spoke against raising property taxes. It would not be fair for people who don't own property to vote on the issue. A short discussion followed.

MOTION ITEMS:

Resolution No. 11-1042 - Applying for CDGB Planning Grant Funds: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Pass Resolution No. 11-1042, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR CDBG FUNDS.' Public Works Director Sypher said this pertains to the North Kelso Sewer Grant the Public Works Department is working on. In order to get that construction grant, we need to get a study on the groundwater for that area. Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Resolution No. 11-1043 - Approving Contracts for Emergency Repair Work: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Pass Resolution No. 11-1043, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO ADOPTING FINDINGS REGARDING A SPECIFIC EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY REPAIR WORK WITHOUT FORMAL BIDDING.' Public Works Director Sypher spoke about the possibility of a sewer main failure on Ross Street between Division Street and Redpath. It is being monitored twice a day, as a total failure is a possibility and we need to be prepared to move immediately. One quote has been received and two more are expected to be received tomorrow. The work will begin early next week if we are able to wait that long. Funding will come from sewer fund reserves. Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance No. 11-3745 – Adopting Text Revisions to Title 17.08: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Schimmel, 'Adopt Ordinance No. 11-3745, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE, TITLE 17 TO PROVIDE FOR NEW DEFINITIONS AND ALLOW FOR CERTAIN NEW PROVISIONS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN.' Community

Development Director Mike Kerins pointed out there have been some minor changes to the ordinance since the first reading, in the "Whereas" sections, to provide for a more defined process and reason for the changes. Nothing in the actual ordinance proposals have been changed. Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Award Paxton Road Water Reservoir, Project No. 590703, to Ward-Henshaw Construction in the amount of \$2,596,053.50 (Removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration): Public Works Director Sypher said when general contractors submit bids for projects dealing with electrical, HVAC, or plumbing that are over a million dollars, they are required to submit a subcontractors' list. In this instance, the three lowest bidders neglected to do so; therefore, their bids are not valid. We can award the project to the highest bidder, which is the only remaining bidder, or reject all bids and start over. Upon motion by Councilmember Myers, seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, "Reject all bids and advertize again," motion carried, all voting yes.

STAFF REPORTS:

David Sypher: 1) We are starting to advertising for street lights and overlay bids. 2) The water crew is doing pothole patching once or twice a week. I appreciate their efforts.

Michael Kerins: Each year we are required to fill out a report indicating how many single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes were built in the previous twelve months. The last report we sent indicated from April, 2009, to April, 2010, we had three new single-family homes were built. From April 2010 to present, we have had ten. We are seeing some improvement in development.

Cindy Donaldson: 1) We have issued 334 new library cards since January 15th, with 71 purchased by people who live outside the city limits. 2) Sixty-five kids (a record number) and their parents came to our story time last week. 3) Our February circulation is up 22 percent compared to this time last year. 4) Four or five years ago Altrusa committed to \$15,000 for a new teen center in the library. Items have been arriving and the teens are already using it. Altrusa will have a grand opening of the new teen center after all the items have arrived.

Darr Kirk: 1) We are staying within our overtime budget. About 20 percent of the year is done and we are 10 percent into our overtime budget. 2) We are in our second week of the citizens' academy with around thirty-five citizens attending. Officer Bebe McFall is our lead for this program.

Brian Butterfield: 1) Financial Statements, through February, were given to Councilmembers. The expenditures are in line with the budgets in all departments in the

general fund; however, there is a potential budget issue that may occur. We budgeted to have a police officer retire at the end of this month. As of today, there is no word on his retirement. 2) Auditors will be here beginning the week of April 11th.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

James Webb: No report

John Karnofski: No report

Rick Roberson: Remember to attend the Kelso Downtown Revitalization Association's social event at Mirror Images, 211 Allen Street, at 6:00 p.m. on March 16th for mingling, reminiscing, and treats. Citizens are encouraged to attend the event to see what KDRA is all about. Tickets are \$10 and I have some available tonight.

Todd McDaniel: No report

Gary Schimmel: No report

Dan Myers: No report

David Futcher: 1) Last week we held a special meeting to discuss alternative funding sources and the possibility of putting some issues on the ballot. Finance Director Butterfield said the deadline to put something on the ballot for the primary election in August is approximately sixty days and around ninety days for the November election. 2) I appreciate my son coming tonight.

There being no further business, Mayor Futcher adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK