

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the September 9, 2019 regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Art Lee, Lee Kessler, Earl Queen, Paul Simonsen and Ellen Rose.

Also present: Librarian Vicki Selander, Police Chief Scott Neves, City Attorney Nicole Tideman, City Engineer Tom Gower, and Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Added one item to the agenda. 1) Provide lunch for volunteers for United Way Day of Caring on September 11, 2019, not to exceed \$300. Approval by consensus.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

OLD BUSINESS

Due to Councilmember Queen feeling ill, Item #1 from Old Business was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

1. Mayor Helenberg stated this would be a nice token of respect for the Reserve Officers, who don't receive pay for the hours they volunteer.

Councilmember Simonsen requested clarification of payment. Mayor Helenberg stated this is a one-time buy-back for the prior years of service and the current rate is \$135.00 per person, per year. There are currently five individuals who would receive the buy-back, and a sixth individual would become eligible to join the plan in 2020.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Lee to approve the buy-back option into the Volunteer Firefighters' & Reserve Officers' Pension Act plan in the amount of \$11,302. Motion carried by roll call vote, Councilmembers Lee, Queen, Simonsen and Rose voted 'Aye'.

Councilmember Kessler abstained.

Councilmember Queen departed at 7:35 PM.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Dave Vorse

-gave brief report on the Cowlitz County Community Report Card 2019.

- 12% drop in tobacco use for teenagers, however vaping has increased by 42%.
- Suicide rate has steadily decreased and now matches the Washington State rate.
- Teenage (15-17) pregnancies has been trending downward.
- Food programs remain an important resource to Cowlitz County families, however as the economy improves, those receiving SNAP benefits and free or reduced school lunches have decreased.
- Mental Health services needed in schools have exceeded resources.
- Housing vacancy rate is 1.4% (healthy is 4-6%). Affordable housing has suffered.
- Unemployment rate was 5.6% last year, the lowest rate in 30 years.
- McMenamins in Kalama has had a positive impact.
- Downtown revitalization in Castle Rock has resulted in the store vacancy rate decreasing from 35% to 3%.

- Schools are focusing on trades and tech as well as college degrees.
- Head Start serves nearly 60% of the income eligible.
- Graduation rate is 96.3% at RA Long, up from 58.5 just seven years ago.
- Cowlitz County schools beat the state average at improving graduation rates.
- LCC offers 58 programs with university and college degrees.
- In the fall of 2019, LCC will offer its own four-year degree program.
- Voters: Approximately ¼ of the population makes decisions that affect everyone.
- People are volunteering more as experienced by the South Kelso Neighborhood Association and the Castle Rock Bloom Project. This Wednesday, there will be 40-50 people volunteering for the United Way Day of Caring, 30 of which will be students.

Things you can do:

- Shop locally.
- Volunteer at schools.
- Read to a child.
- Donate to local food banks.
- Support children and adults in at least 30 minutes of physical activity, five days per week.
- Build new housing for all income levels.
- Donate to or volunteer with service organizations.

Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro

-St. Paul Lutheran Church is hosting a community event Saturday, September 21, 2019 between 2:00 – 5:00 PM. There will be free food, games for the kids and live music. This event is to say “Thank you” to all the First Responders. All are invited to attend. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated they are planning for 500 people to attend.

Council and Ad Hoc Committees

Mayor Helenberg

-attended retirement party for Cal Smith, owner of Cascade Select Market at Parker’s Restaurant. He retired after 23 years of operating the market.

-Sunday, September 22nd from 1-4 PM is a birthday celebration for Myron Nelson. Myron is the current president of the Senior Center. The party will be in the Senior Center.

-CRCDA Representative Nancy Chennault is getting ready for the United Way Day of Caring.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes of the August 26, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approve the August 2019 invoices as described in the Fund Transaction Summary Report, in the amount of \$371,036.53.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Lee to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

OLD BUSINESS

-completed before Department Reports

NEW BUSINESS

1. This item is tabled until the 9/23/19 Regular Council Meeting.

2. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated there were eight bids received for the Citywide Catch Basin & Tube Settler Basin Cleaning. Roto-Rooter Sewer & Drain out of Longview, WA is the lowest responsible bidder. Their bid includes an hourly rate of \$218.00 for the vac truck with an operator and a laborer. The total estimate of \$16,480.80 is based on an estimate of 70 hours plus sales tax. This would be funded by the Regional Water and Stormwater Funds.

Bidder	Vac Truck w/ Operator (per hour)	Laborer (per hour)	Total (per hour)	Subtotal (70 hours)	WA Sales Tax (8%)	Total Cost	References Provided
Roto-Rooter Sewer & Drain, Longview, WA	\$120.00	\$98.00	\$218.00	\$15,260.00	\$1,220.80	\$16,480.80	Yes
Drain-Pro Inc., Puyallup, WA	\$180.00	\$75.00	\$255.00	\$17,850.00	\$1,428.00	\$19,278.00	Yes
RC Northwest, Inc.	\$198.00	\$69.00	\$267.00	\$18,690.00	\$1,495.20	\$20,185.20	Yes
All-Out Sewer and Drain, Longview, WA	\$205.00	\$75.00	\$280.00	\$19,600.00	\$1,568.00	\$21,168.00	Yes
AIMS Co.	\$255.00	\$45.00	\$300.00	\$21,000.00	\$1,680.00	\$22,680.00	Yes
CCS, Longview, WA (includes CF Trailer 30 hrs at \$30.00/hour)	\$216.00	\$75.00	\$291.00	\$21,270.00	\$1,701.60	\$22,971.60	Yes
Evergreen North America	\$299.59	\$69.79	\$369.38	\$25,856.60	\$2,068.53	\$27,925.13	Yes
Lavelle Vac & Drainage, LLC	\$256.25	\$125.00	\$381.25	\$26,687.50	\$2,135.00	\$28,822.50	Yes

Vorse recommends the bid be awarded to Roto-Rooter Sewer & Drain.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to award the bid to Roto-Rooter Sewer & Drain for a total bid of \$16,480.80.

In response to Councilmember Simonsen’s question, Vorse stated the vac truck the City owns is older and is good for purposes we use it for, but if we ran it hard for this project, we would be looking for a new vac truck. The bidder also has adaptable equipment to reach down into the catch basins as they range in depths (shallow to 12-15 feet) and widths. This process has been done this way for approximately 15 years and it works well. We purchased the vac truck we have from the City of Kelso about 20 years ago, and it was probably 20 years old at that time.

Vote on the motion above: Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

3. ***Added Item*** Request to provide \$300.00 for lunch for the United Way Day of Caring volunteers on September 11, 2019. The money provided will buy pizza from CJ’s Pizza, and CJ’s Pizza will also donate one pizza.

CRCDA Representative Nancy Chennault is also providing lemonade, cookies and vegetables.

Volunteer hours will consist of 6 hours per adult and 3 hours per student. There are three projects planned: painting picnic structures and tables at Lions’ Pride Park, weeding at the entrance feature and cleaning and prepping at the Bike Park, which has the Bike Park Blowout this Saturday.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the purchase of lunch for the United Way Day of Caring volunteers, not to exceed \$300.00. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous ‘Aye’.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.



Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro


Mayor Paul Helenberg