

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the October 14, 2019 regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:32 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Art Lee, Lee Kessler, Earl Queen, and Ellen Rose. Paul Simonsen was excused.

Also present: Librarian Vicki Selander, Police Chief Scott Neves, City Attorney Frank Randolph, Public Works Director Dave Vorse, City Engineer Tom Gower, and Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Added two items to the agenda under New Business.

1. Susan Eaton, 454 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, request to remove three trees
2. Approval to pay ServPro invoice.

Approval by consensus.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The Beacon Youth: On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Youth & Family Link and The Jordan Project are presenting a Town Hall Youth Panel and members of The Beacon Youth will be sharing what it's like growing up in Cowlitz County. All are invited to attend.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Attorney Frank Randolph

-Humane Society 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report shows a high number of intakes; 41. Police Chief Scott Neves stated he would reach out to the Humane Society and see if they can indicate an address for each intake.

Police Chief Scott Neves

-Officer Gann has finished training with the US Marshall Service and has been called twice. The relationship with the US Marshall Service is good for us as it gives us access to a lot of additional resources we can use inside the City.

-the Major Crime Team for the County agreement is being finalized. A final draft has been issued and we hope to bring it to Council in the next couple meetings to be executed. This meets the new requirements for "use of force".

-a lot of questions and concerns have been brought forward regarding the camera installation at the North Trail Head. There is a blue flashing light that led the citizens to believe it was a traffic camera. It is a surveillance camera for the North Trail Head. We don't broadcast the location of these cameras, however, when this was installed, the flashing blue light option was left on. We are working on getting that turned off.

-This weekend there was a felony assault on Cherry St. Domestic Violence victim was assaulted with a knife and held at knife-point. The suspect was there in violation of the domestic violence protection order. In addition to our office, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and Longview K-9 was also called. The K-9 was released into the residence and the subject was bit multiple times as he refused to comply with orders. He was transported to PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center and is currently booked into the Cowlitz County Jail on multiple felony charges. While in jail, he called the victim and threatened her again. Three additional violations of the domestic violence protection order have been added.

-I'm spending this week meeting with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission as part of my role as Law Enforcement Liaison for Cowlitz County. Working on grants for the County for additional funding for traffic enforcement, such as seatbelts.

-Meet next week to hopefully finalize the jail contract. It appears the increase will be 7% for the next several years.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse

-Public Works recently completed the exterior painting of the Bond Rd Reservoir. Using our own crews saved the City approximately \$50,000 on this project. Very proud of the crew's professionalism and abilities. This project had a lot of metal to prep and clean to get ready for paint.

CRCDA Representative Nancy Chennault

America in Bloom Symposium report

-a lot of accolades for Castle Rock and celebrations tonight. Bloom Team Volunteers are a major part of what we do in Castle Rock. We received an award for recognition of our community flowers.

-we had a great article in The Daily News that Mallory Gruben wrote; has been shared widely.

-The submitted video has also been shared widely.

-America in Bloom folks wrote an article online for Better Homes & Gardens magazine. One of our Bloom Team Volunteers saw the article and shared it, Castle Rock Blooms then saw it and shared it, America in Bloom picked it up and Better Homes & Gardens and has a picture of Castle Rock flowers all over the nation.

-I received a call yesterday from a lady in Minnesota who wants to establish a blooming Proven Winners city or garden in her area and wants to learn about America in Bloom.

-44 cities participated; we aren't in the smallest city size group any longer, as they have a size for less than 900 population.

-Awards/Nominations from the Judges:

- Coolest Place for Kids (elementary school kids gardening cooperatively and independently)
- Overall Impression (we received 75% out of 100%)
- Eye-Popping Pots (landed in top 3 in the nation)
- Community Involvement (landed in top 3 in the nation)
- Outstanding Achievement Award for Flowers (Top in the nation!)
- People's Choice Award for Best Video (winner & recipient of only cash award - \$1,500)

-“Best Idea” is something that we submit every year. This year, we submitted the metal gate that the two students at CRHS welded with the trees. It is located between the Post Office and Bredfield's. It solved a problem to block off the area behind, visually, artistically, beautifully and we covered up the graffiti paint and it created a jump start for the mural that Justice Wyonne and Aaron Harney did. This was chosen as the “Best Idea” at our round table.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse added to the America in Bloom Symposium report:

-one of the Judges talked about “planting hope and harvesting dreams” and how these greenspaces (gardens, parks & trails) have many benefits that payoff. One particular garden was for Veterans dealing with PTSD. This garden produced 10,000 lbs. for the VA hospital. The gardens help developmentally challenged children to help them focus and learn better. The gardens and parks are a social equalizer.

-87% of Americans spend most of their time inside. Another 6% spend most of their time in vehicles because they are commuting most of their day. Dr. Charlie Hall spoke about greenspaces and what they do to our health. The average lifespan for a human being is 78.9 years. The factors driving that down are obesity, diabetes and depression. The U.S. spends 18% of their gross national product on healthcare; \$3.5 trillion. The greenspaces reduce stress, provide a sense of belonging and self-worth, engage senses (taste, smell, vision and creativity) and helps sustain memory. The healing gardens, like the Elementary School Garden, help the children be less aggressive, improve sleep, balance hormones and decrease agitation. Senior citizens live 10% longer when around greenspaces. Greenspaces also shelter us from UV rays, noise and wind. They also improve air quality, enhance immune system functions, increase social activity, and provide great satisfaction making you feel 7 years younger. On the average, greenspaces also drive crime down by 52%.

Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro

- distributed 2020 budget packets which includes Public Works' capital outlay requests.
- requested to schedule budget workshop for 10/28 at 6:00 (scheduled).
- requested to schedule TBD meeting for 11/12 at 7:00.

#### Council and Ad Hoc Committees

Mayor Helenberg

- former County Engineer Ken Stone passed away. He was a great part of the County for a long time and was always available to help Castle Rock. He helped out a lot with FEMA and the flood. He is a hard guy to replace in his capacity. Always willing to help is a good guy. Our thoughts go out to him and his family. The funeral is October 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in Kelso. Flags will be lowered to half-staff Saturday and Sunday in his honor.
- annual auction at North County went well.
- thanked Council, City staff and Police for the Tap Take-over event held on Saturday. They raised a lot of money for Battalion Chief Zainfeld's family and First Responders. Was a great event for Castle Rock.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes of the September 23, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approve the September 2019 invoices as described in the Fund Transaction Summary Report, in the amount of \$508,149.52.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

#### OLD BUSINESS

none

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Special Event Permit #2019-0025; CRCDA's request to host the 'Halloween Jamboree' on October 27, 2019. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.
2. Councilmembers reviewed a leak adjustment request submitted by Judy Browning, C Street SW, in the amount of \$1,038.45 for the August and September billing periods. Public Works Director Dave Vorse recommended approval of the adjustment, as it meets the requirements in the ordinance.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the leak adjustment. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

3. Councilmembers reviewed a quote for tree work from Champ's Tree Service for tree work on Shear St SW. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated the tree is located in the City's Right-of-Way in an alley behind Mr. Anderson's house. Approximately 50-60 years ago, a homeowner planted this tree, and years later, a homeowner built a fence that included the tree in the back yard. CRCDA Representative Nancy Chennault agreed with Vorse that the tree is healthy. The tree is a redwood and because it was a burrow, it has multiple trunks which has created weaknesses in the trunk system. The tree is located close to the middle of where the alley would be. In this alley, there are buildings, fences, and brick walls constructed. The alley has not been vacated. There are no utilities in this alley. The quote includes trimming work for \$2,600 or complete removal for \$10,000.

Mr. Anderson stated his concerns are the safety of the neighbor children. He's had branches break off and leave holes in the ground where they landed, and damage to his shed and fence. He wants the tree to at least be trimmed.

In response to Councilmember Kessler's question, Vorse stated this is not included in the budget.

The City could vacate the alley, but the typical process is the homeowners receiving the property would have to pay the fair market value.

There are other companies who could also do this work, however it is prevailing wage work, which increases the cost when the City is involved. Fencing and sheds would have to be moved out of the way for the equipment to even get in there.

Councilmember Kessler asked if AWC (insurance provider) would be an option. Vorse stated that they have a loss control grant for \$5,000, but we've already scheduled that for another project in January.

This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

4. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated this MOU is to have Pathways 2020 manage the operations of the steering committee for the Six Rivers Regional Trail System, since this is not just a Castle Rock project. This is a way to get input as the different sections of the trail are designed.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Pathways 2020 and the City of Castle Rock relating to the Six Rivers Regional Trail System, at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

5. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated all the driveways along the west side of Dougherty where the water main was installed still has gravel. Due to the delay in the Dougherty Dr project, this is a request to pave these sections to minimize potholes. This will be torn up next year when the Dougherty Dr project begins. There is funding from the water main project remaining to cover this. Three bids were received. The lowest bid was Lakeside Industries for \$10,980.00, including tax.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to award the bid to Lakeside Industries for a total bid of \$10,980.00, including tax. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

6. City Engineer Tom Gower stated Authorization No. 2019-002 is for the liner the City would like to install in the HDPE pipe on the overpass over I-5. The authorization cost will cover the design, permitting, bid advertisement and award, and inspection. It does not include the construction portion.

In response to Councilmember Rose's question, Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated the funds will come out of the Regional Water Fund, using the Ending Fund Balance. We propose to increase only the wholesale water rate by 2%. This is better than getting a loan.

In response to Councilmember Kessler's question, Gower stated the costs cover preparation of drawings, issue contract documents with technical specifications, work with the representative of the particular liner, look for other products, detail the flange and fitting on each end, working with WSDOT and Cowlitz County for permits.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Authorization No. 2019-002. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

- 7. \*Added Item\* Susan Eaton, 454 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW, request to remove three trees located in the City's Right-of-Way. Public Works Director Dave Vorse stated the trees have pushed up the sidewalk and the roots have been ground down a couple times. The roots are surfacing through the sod. These trees are healthy trees, but are a nuisance as they are causing sidewalk issues. Full disclosure, this is my direct neighbor. Daryl Eaton stated these are fast-growing trees, noted the power lines near the trees and the sidewalk repair.

In response to Councilmember Kessler's question, Mr. Eaton stated they are simply requesting approval to remove the trees and that they are willing to pay the cost.

In response to Councilmember Lee's question, Vorse stated these trees were planted by a homeowner. This is a fairly wide boulevard with adequate space for trees. They weren't planted with root protection to make the roots go down. Susan Eaton added there is concern of the water line.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the removal of the three trees located at 454 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW, via hired licensed and bonded contractor at the expense of the resident. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

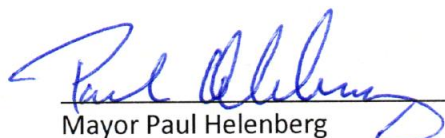
- 8. \*Added Item\* Request to approve payment of ServPro invoice in the amount of \$798.01. AWC will reimburse the City for these charges.

Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve payment in the amount of \$798.01 to ServPro. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

  
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Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Cuttonaro

  
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Mayor Paul Helenberg