

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the February 25, 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, Public Works Director Dave Vorse, City Engineer Tom Gower, and Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro.

Mayor Helenberg led a moment of silence in honor of Councilmember Simonsen's late wife, Arlene.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Castle Rock Lions Club requested to be removed from the agenda, as their paperwork has not been received from the State as of this date. No other changes made. Approval by consensus.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Scott Neves

-distributed operational briefing via email.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse

-advised approval of a Transportation Alternative grant in the amount of \$299,852 for the Six Rivers Regional Trail Improvements and the bridge across I-5 at Exit 49 for pedestrian traffic.

-informational meeting for the Dougherty Dr project was held 2/20 and about 10 people attended.

There were several questions and the information was received well and all are pleased to see the project move forward. Tree removal will begin next week, the water main project is scheduled to begin in April and the street construction portion is scheduled to begin in June.

City Engineer Tom Gower

-gave a quick update on the Exit 49 Pedestrian Improvement Project Phase 2: currently under construction; sidewalks and new island have been poured; asphalt work remains to be completed but will be completed as soon as Lakeside Industries starts back up (currently, the plant is shutdown); all but two light pole bases have been poured, but it will take time for the light poles to be installed but are scheduled to be delivered in March.

City Planner Gregg Dohrn

-beginning to receive more inquiries from property owners who are looking to develop. One consistent item from years past is that vacant lots tend to be vacant for a reason and we frequently find that a pre-application meeting is necessary to begin these projects.

Clerk-Treasurer Carie Cuttonaro

-distributed the 2018 year-end and January 2019 expense and revenue reports. Cuttonaro noted the Street Construction Fund closed the year in the negative, as it was waiting for WSDOT FHWA grant reimbursement. The reimbursement request was submitted in advance of year-end, but the reimbursement wasn't received until January 11th, 2019.

-two funds exceeded their appropriations, however we are analyzing to see if all expenses were coded properly throughout the year and will make corrections, if applicable. In response to Councilmember Kessler's question, the two funds are related to Building and Planning, and adjustments may involve park projects.

Council and Ad Hoc Committees

Mayor Helenberg

-there are several bills in the legislature. One is I-976 filed by Tim Eyman. If passed, the initiative would reduce all car-tab taxes to a flat \$30 fee and limit the TBD's funding. This reduction would be detrimental to all cities, counties and the state.

-Another SB 5116, is Governor Inslee's new proposal for carbon taxes. Current proposal is to charge \$15 per ton of carbon (15¢ per gallon) and the package also features a 6¢ per gallon fuel tax increase, for a total of 21¢ per gallon. It also states by 2025 we would have to rely on 80% renewable energy and there would be a penalty per mega-watt of \$60 for use of fossil fuels to make up the demand and by 2035 there would be zero fossil fuels that can be used for power. The director of PUD was talking about this and he was looking at the last cold snap in Washington and it was the first time we have ever bought power from California and Canada, even with the gas fire plants running and he stated the main reason we had to purchase power was due to the regulations to keep water in the river, preventing the dams from releasing water, thereby not creating enough power to serve. Solar and Wind power generated during the cold snap was zero. It is suspected that power rates could be thirty times higher by 2030, if this passes. Carbon taxes will be used for transportation projects.

Councilmember Ellen Rose

-a big lowboy trailer came today and wanted to tell the designer of the crosswalk thank you, because he had enough room to make the wide swing into the parking lot. He stated it was put in the right place.

Mayor Helenberg for CRCDA Representative Nancy Chennault

-Annual Meeting for CRCDA is March 4th at the Women's Club

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Rose to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Helenberg closed regular session at 7:45 PM to convene a Public Hearing to take public testimony on the proposed street vacation of an unnamed and currently unimproved right-of-way west of parcel #30490, between McCoy Street NE and Ramsey Street NE.

City Planner Gregg Dohrn stated during previous discussions, the City had been approached and asked if there was an interest in vacating a portion of the city's right-of-way west of parcel #30490. This particular right-of-way had previously been cut-off by the I-5 corridor and doesn't connect with anything. As the property owner located to the west of this right-of-way, WSDOT has confirmed they have no interest in half of the right-of-way, nor do they have an objection to the proposed vacation. The owner located to the east, Gourde LLC is interested in acquiring the entire right-of-way. The ordinance (Ordinance No. 2019-03) has been written to include both portions of the right-of-way. There is a small triangle shaped right-of-way to the west of the proposed vacation area that is currently owned by WSDOT and would remain so. The calculation used to determine the value of the property is included in the ordinance.

No public comment was offered. Mayor Helenberg closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 PM and resumed regular session.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Ordinance No. 2019-02, an ordinance amending City of Castle Rock Municipal Code Chapter 13.16 Retail Water Sales, on second reading. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Ordinance No. 2019-03, an ordinance vacating an unnamed, and currently unimproved city right-of-way situated west of parcel #30490 in the vicinity of McCoy Street NE and the eastern boundary of the I-5 corridor, in the City of Castle Rock, Cowlitz County, Washington, on first reading. Motion carried by roll call vote, unanimous 'Aye'.

City Planner Gregg Dohrn clarified the vacation would not go into effect until receipt of payment, updated survey is received and everything is properly recorded.

2. This item is tabled, per the request of the Castle Rock Lions Club.
3. Cowlitz County is proposing a WATV (Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles) ordinance that will allow the operation of certain WATV's on county roads less than 35 mph. Police Chief Scott Neves checked with the other Police Chiefs in the county and found none of them are in favor of this ordinance. Neves stated the Police Chief's from Longview, Kelso and Woodland are very opposed to this and feel it is very short-sighted of the County not to take this in concert with all the Cities, in order to come to a recommended ordinance that would be County-wide. There is fear this will create issues where people could drive here, but not there and end up with infractions from the Cities.

Some of roads that are 35 mph or less are shared with the cities. For example, the northern part of Dougherty Dr NE is located within Castle Rock City Limits, while the southern part is located in Cowlitz County. According to Axel Swanson, Cowlitz County's Chief of Staff, citizens would be able to come into Four Corners on SR 411, but cannot exit onto city streets. There is approximately a two-week period to respond to the BOCC in the form of a SEPA.

Councilmember Kessler stated he believes the concerns for the County in a lot of ways are much different than the concerns in the residential areas and shared that he has significant concerns regarding the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Helenberg stated the Commissioners feel ATV's are no different than a motorcycle.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse pointed out that the Commissioners took time with the Landfill decision, but is rushing through this one.

Chief Neves stated they have not reached out to the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, nor other counties that have these ordinances in place. Grant County has an ordinance that is by community locations, not county-wide, but they also have dedicated enforcement to those communities.

In response to Councilmember Rose's question, Chief Neves stated people who own ORV's are wanting to operate them on city streets and county roads. The ORV's would go through a process prior to being legal to operate on the roads. They would be inspected, have lights and turn signals

and would be certified by the State. They are not licensed like regular vehicles. These vehicles aren't up to the same standards; they are not airbag-equipped, nor do they contain safety features modern vehicles have, which increases the likely-hood of injury in collisions.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse noted that the City has three shared streets with the County: Pleasant Hill Rd, Dougherty Dr NE and Old 99. According to Patrick Harbison at Cowlitz County Public Works, only seven of their roads have a speed limit higher than 35 mph.

Councilmember Kessler added that simply because the County might allow this, doesn't mean the City has to, but this is a significant change and we shouldn't just enter into this without deeper exploration.

Chief Neves stated he encouraged Commissioner Gardner to form a task force involving the cities so that we could come up with a county-wide plan so there isn't a patch-work like map that states you can operate your ORV here, but you can't here, etc.

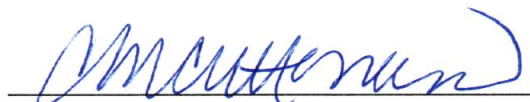
Mayor Helenberg stated he and Chief Neves will respond to SEPA. Kurt Sacha from Longview wasn't even aware of this, nor were the other Police Chiefs.

4. City Engineer Tom Gower stated this change order request is for new catch basins on the north and south side of the highway. There was an unknown 6-inch concrete drain pipe in the ground that need to be tied in. This has been approved by the State.

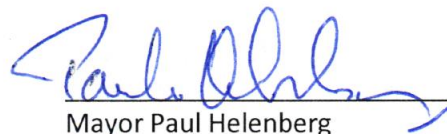
Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve Change Order 001 in the amount of 2,592.00 for the Exit 49 Pedestrian Improvement Project Phase 2 for connection of an existing drain pipe to the proposed catch basin.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.



Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Cuttonaro



Mayor Paul Helenberg