

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2009 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, Council Chambers, 134 East Johnson Avenue, Chelan, Washington

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Goedde called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Councilmembers Cooney, Greenfield, Harper, Morehouse and Morse present. Excused absences: Councilmembers Lingard and Pape-Miller.

City staff present: Administrator Reinbold, Attorney Galbraith, Clerk Liles, Planning & Community Development Director Gildroy, Finance Director Grant, Parks & Recreation Director Sablan, and Public Works Director Van Epps.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA CHANGES

A twenty minute executive session to consider potential litigation was added to the agenda as the last item before adjournment.

An ordinance authorizing issuance of a bond to refinance a 1998 USDA loan, was deferred to the March 12, 2009 City Council meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

LIONS CLUB PROJECT/DARK SKIES EXEMPTION: Jerry Bragg, representing the Chelan Lions Club, reported that the Lions and Rotary plan to install a sign at the west entrance to town to match the one at the east entrance. The Lions Club would like to donate and install an internal halyard flagpole with solar LED lighting at each of the sites as well. Bragg described the pole and lamp in detail, pointing out that the lamp is mounted on the pole and shines up to illuminate the flag, which may violate the City's dark skies ordinance. Reinbold said that as long as the light focuses on the flag, an exception can be made without amending the code. Council consensus was to permit the installation of the lighted flagpoles as described.

AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: Rinehart Jung, representing Reid-Middleton, introduced himself and reported that his firm plans to respond to the request for qualifications issued by the Lake Chelan Airport for environmental assessment services in conjunction with the planned airport expansion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Greenfield moved to approve the consent agenda as follows. Seconded by Harper, motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve Minutes of February 12, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting.
2. Approve Payroll Warrants No. 30483-30549 totaling \$115,882.07 and Claims Warrants No. 71830-71895 totaling \$141,844.96.

3. Schedule a special joint meeting of City Council and the Chelan County Board of Commissioners at 6:00 p.m. on March 12, 2009, for the purpose of conducting a workshop on the Lower Lake Chelan Basin Strategic Plan.
4. Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-1381 imposing an additional real estate excise tax of one quarter of one percent on sales of property within the city pursuant to RCW 82.46.035(2).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations.

COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no council delegate reports.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CDBG/HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT: Mayor Goedde introduced a public hearing to consider the Community Development Block Grant for the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Improvement Project. The Mayor explained the purpose and procedures of the hearing and then called for staff's presentation.

Reinbold explained that this would be the final hearing required to close out the CDBG grant, which he described as essentially a pass through of money from the State to the Hospital via the City. Barbara Engstrom, a consultant representing the Hospital, provided background information on the project and grant. Engstrom explained that municipalities are eligible for CDBG funding while hospital districts are not, so the City applied for and administered the \$434,000 grant, while the hospital conducted all activities of the project, which included replacement of plumbing on the first and second floors of the hospital and replacement of elevator mechanics.

There being no Council discussion, the Mayor opened the public hearing (7:17 p.m.) and called for public testimony. There being no public testimony, the Mayor closed the public hearing (7:17.5 p.m.) and called for Council action. **Morse moved to accept the final public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant funding of the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Improvement Project. Seconded by Morehouse, motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

FEES FOR CITY SERVICES: Grant reviewed proposed changes in rates and fees for city services as set forth in Exhibit #1 to Agenda Bill 08-053J and entertained related questions and comments from Council. Grant reported that the Finance and Public Works Committees reviewed the proposed changes and approve.

There being no further Council discussion, **Cooney moved to adopt Resolution No. 2009-1190 amending Resolution No. 2007-1172, setting the fees to be charged for water, sewer and sanitation services, park and golf fees, and other charges. Seconded by Harper, motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST – PLANNING & BUILDING: Grant presented Planning Director Gildroy's request for a budget amendment to purchase a new copier for the Planning/Building Department. Included was information to support purchasing as opposed to leasing a copier. Grant reported that the Finance Committee reviewed Gildroy's request and concurs with his assessment.

There being no Council discussion, **Morehouse moved to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$10,117.44 for purchase of a new copier for the Planning & Building Department. Seconded by Morse, motion passed unanimously.**

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST – PARKS & RECREATION: Sablan requested a budget amendment to purchase a television for the dining area of the golf course clubhouse. Sablan reported that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Finance Committee approve of the purchase.

There being no Council discussion, **Greenfield moved to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a forty-two or forty four inch flat screen television to be installed in the golf course clubhouse dining area. Seconded by Morse, motion passed unanimously.**

TRAVEL POLICY AMENDMENT: Reinbold asked Council to authorize a \$25 per night stipend to be paid to employees traveling on City business who stay with friends or relatives instead of renting a hotel room. Reinbold explained that it has been City practice to allow such employees to claim the cost of treating their hosts to a meal, but that practice could be construed as gifting of public funds and should be discontinued. Reinbold acknowledged that staying in hotels should be encouraged because it facilitates networking, but he also pointed out that hotels are getting very costly.

There being no Council discussion, **Morehouse moved to amend Section 4.5.11 of the City of Chelan Personnel Policies to add authorization of a \$25 per night stipend for employees traveling overnight on city business who don't stay in a hotel or motel. Seconded by Greenfield, motion passed unanimously.**

EMPLOYEE MEDICAL BENEFITS: Reinbold reminded Councilmembers that on February 12, 2009, they considered a request from the employees' union that the City pay the premiums on employer provided health insurance for employees' dependents who are 24 and 25 year old students. Council consensus was to grant the request with the stipulation that the subject dependents be full time students. Reinbold reported that he had met with union representatives, who agreed to that stipulation and have signed the Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the terms of this extended benefit.

There being no Council discussion, **Harper moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Employees AFSCME/AFL-CIO Local Union 846 CC setting forth the terms under which the City will offer paid medical insurance for employee dependents aged twenty-four and twenty-five, as presented. Seconded by Greenfield, motion passed unanimously.**

RECESS

The Council meeting was recessed at 7:35 p.m. to allow the Mayor and Councilmembers to participate in the regular meeting of the Lake Chelan Airport Board. Council meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m. following adjournment of the Airport Board meeting.

MAYOR, COUNCIL, STAFF COMMENTS

LOWER LAKE CHELAN BASIN REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN: Mayor Goedde pointed out that the consent agenda included the scheduling of a special joint meeting of the City Council and County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of conducting a workshop on the Lower Lake Chelan Basin Regional Strategic Plan. The Mayor announced that the meeting would be at 6:00 p.m. on March 13, 2009, in Chelan City Council Chambers, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Morse and Cooney asked to be excused from the special and regular City Council meetings scheduled for March 13, 2009.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: Cooney reported: The committee has been reviewing the City's proposed dark skies ordinance. After fine tuning, the new regulations will be communicated to the public and enforced.

STATE OF THE CITY: Cooney recommended Administration issue a "State of the City" report. He explained that he thought it might comfort citizens who have been hearing so much about financial failure.

BOATING SAFETY/REGULATION: Morehouse said he'd attended a recent meeting hosted by the Sheriff's Office where one of the topics discussed was boating safety and the enforcement of boating regulations. He reported the following information based on that discussion. Law enforcement personnel are very aware of boating safety issues. Better signage and more buoys will be provided and boating safety pamphlets will be distributed at launch sites and watercraft rental businesses. Fifty percent of those ticketed for boating violations are operating rented watercraft, so the Sheriff's Office is contemplating an undercover operation to determine if rental businesses are actually educating their customers as required. Morehouse said he wonders if it would be possible to add a tax onto the fee for renting watercraft to help offset the cost of signage, buoys and enforcement.

GANG ACTIVITY: Reporting further on information learned at the recent Sheriff's Office public meeting, Morehouse said that gang activity has increased slightly. The Sheriff asks that citizens report any illegal activity or incidents of concern.

SOLID WASTE ACTION COUNCIL (SWAC): Morehouse reported for SWAC: Chelan County Public Works is purchasing property to be used as the site for a household hazardous waste collection facility. The property is in Wenatchee and is currently owned by the Chelan County Port District.

The City of Chelan computer recycling program is operating.

Plans are being made for the annual metal recycling event scheduled for March 28 and April 4, 2009.

Revenue from the sale of recyclables has dropped considerably, so it is likely the City will have to further subsidize its recycling program.

PARKING COMMITTEE: Morse reported on behalf of the Parking Committee: the Committee's first meeting was held February 25, 2009, with about twelve committee members present. There was good

input and discussion. One idea considered was limiting parking to 15 minutes in one slot at each end of the downtown core.

BURN BAN: Morehouse reported that a bill has been proposed to suspend the burning ban for two days each fall. He encouraged people to email legislators with letters of support.

Morse responded, saying that Chelan used to be very smoky in the fall, and it was difficult for people with breathing problems. The air quality improved significantly once the burning ban was imposed. If two days are set aside for burning, everyone will burn on those days and the smoke will be intolerable.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE: Morse, Mayor Goedde and Reinbold, who represented the City at the 2009 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Action Conference held in Olympia on February 18 and 19, commented on the conference. Reinbold provided Councilmembers who did not attend a copy of the conference agenda and AWC's "Hot Topics" dated February 2009.

STREET CLOSURE PERMIT: Reinbold asked that the "distribute to Council" provision of the City's street closure application form/permit be eliminated to save paper and staff time. Reinbold said he would verbally inform Council of approved street closures. Council consented.

COUNCIL MINI-RETREAT: Reinbold said he'd been polling Councilmembers and believes April 4, 2009 looks like a good date for the planned mini-retreat.

COUNCIL BIOS: Reinbold said he'd received several bios from Councilmembers for the City's website and hoped to hear from the other Councilmembers soon.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: Reinbold reported that Police Chief Huddleston would like to present information about several Sheriff's Office programs to City Council in the coming months.

AIRPORT EXPANSION: Reinbold reported that Requests for Qualifications to provide an airport environmental assessment in preparation for the planned airport expansion are due February 27. Reinbold said that the plan is to choose three firms for interview, and Councilmembers may be asked to serve on the interview committee.

CITY PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE: Reinbold told Council that a budget amendment may be required to upgrade the City's antiquated phone system.

NO-SEE-UM INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT: Reinbold reported that Senator Parlette is interested in working with the City on improvement of the No-See-Um intersection. Mayor Goedde added that he believes it is time to finally act on plans to improve the intersection. Greenfield said she's glad to know the project is a priority again as the intersection is extremely dangerous.

AIRPORT WINDSOCK: Morehouse reported that the airport windsock needs replacement. Reinbold responded, saying the Airport Maintenance Lead intends to replace it as soon as enough snow melts so he can get to the pole.

AQUATICS/COMMUNITY CENTER: Sablan reported holding a public meeting February 18, 2009, on the Community Development Block Grant application for the Aquatics/Community Center planning only grant, and said the grant application will be submitted within the week.

Sablan reported that ORB is beginning the Aquatics/Community Center Feasibility Study and will be contacting Councilmembers, Park Board members, the Aquatics/Community Center citizens advocate group and others. ORB's initial visit to Chelan to begin the study will be on March 17 and 18.

SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT: Sablan reported that a committee will be interviewing four of the respondents to the City's Request for Qualifications to conduct the Shoreline Restoration project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:10 p.m., Council adjourned to a twenty minute executive session to discuss potential litigation. Regular meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. following adjournment of the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by:
Linda Allison-Liles
City-Clerk

Attested to:
Robert R. Goedde
Mayor

Date approved by Council: March 12, 2009