

Everson City Council

July 22, 2008

The Everson City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Jaleen Pratt presiding. Council members Perry, Lautenbach and Laird were present. Also present were, Clerk Treasurer/City Administrator Debbie Davidsen, City Attorney Sitkin, Planner Rollin Harper, Public Works Supervisor Rick Holt and Police Chief Erik Ramstead. Councilmember's Rowson and Hammond were excused. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 8th, 2008 Council meeting. Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- Andrea Cary-Grant- Bellingham/Whatcom County Commission against domestic violence- Andrea Cary-Grant discussed what the commission does for the community and how it works. She also discussed what the commission is looking to do in the future.

It was asked when the Mission Road phase II project will be completed. Public Works Supervisor Holt stated it is in the finishing up stages and should be completed by late September.

It was asked what response the residents of Mission Road have had towards the rain gardens. Public Works Supervisor Holt stated there has been mixed emotions and time is needed for the rain gardens to get established and allow the grass to grow in them.

Russell Tucker- The residents have expressed concern over the fact the project was not explained thoroughly to them and they were unaware of the installation of the rain gardens until they were installed.

Mayor Pratt stated she does not like the rain gardens either and met with the engineers and they are working on some options for the rain gardens. Mr. Tucker also asked if the City has had any correspondence with Grant Langdon about the current status of the SEPA request. Attorney Sitkin stated the City is not required to inform the public of this information until a public hearing is held. Planner Harper did state there will be a notice of the updated, mitigated determination and the notice of the re-opening of the public hearing published in the paper and set for the August 12th 2008 Council meeting.

It was asked if all cities followed the same method as the City of Everson for annexation. Planner Harper stated there are a couple different ways the annexation process can be done. Usually all small cities follow the same process. There was audience discussion about the process the community would like to see.

NEW BUSINESS- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Final report of decision The Crossing subdivision- This issue will be tabled until the August 12th Council meeting.

Revised report of decision- Steve and Dolores Quinn variance application- Attorney Sitkin reviewed the declaration of covenant written up to meet the conditions of the variance approval handed out to the Council. **It was moved by Councilmember Lautenbach to accept the report of decision regarding the variance application of Melanie Demerjian for Steve and Dolores Quinn as well as accepting the declaration of covenant to meet conditions of variance approval for the Quinn's, seconded by Councilmember Laird. Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

PUBLIC HEARING- 6 year transportation improvement program- Marie Wilk asked if Mission Road phase III had been moved on the list. She was told it had been moved to #9. Public Works Supervisor Holt reviewed the information sent out in the Council packet. Marie Wilk-Chatham place- Mrs. Wilk asked if Mission Rd. phase III will actually be done. Mayor Pratt stated it is on the 6 year transportation program list. Things have been on this list for years. If the City of Everson had a lot more money this project would get done.

Fred Cockle-Chatham Place- Mr. Cockle stated Mission Road phase III is scheduled to start in July of 2012. Mayor Pratt stated there are several projects slated to start in the next few years and the date will not be met unless funding is available. Mr. Cockle asked if the City of Everson is still planning to have a work shop for the Mission Rd. phase III project. He was told there would not be a workshop held until the project is closer to being looked at in the budget process. Mr. Cockle then asked about the annexation of the property out by Selco. He was wondering if the utilities would be brought out there. He was told the utilities would be brought out but it would be the residents/developers money paid out if they wanted to hook on to the system. It was stated there is no link between the annexation and Mission Rd. phase III project.

Marva Powell- There is a date of July 2008 for downtown improvement. Is this going to happen? Public Works Supervisor Holt stated this date will be changing as there is no enhancement grant available. Marva also asked if Lincoln Street is going to be pushed through to the shopping center. She was told it is planned if funding becomes available.

Carolyn Hougen- Chestnut Street- Carolyn asked if Selco is using some of the old rail road to store their equipment. The answer was not known. Public hearing closed with no further comment from the audience. **It was moved by Councilmember Lautenbach to draw up resolution #483 to adopt the 6 year transportation improvement program from 2008-2013, seconded by Councilmember Perry. Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

COMMITTEE REPORT- None

CLAIMS APPROVAL- The following claims were presented for approval:

Claims vouchers # 17580-17621, \$35,108.35

Councilmember Laird moved the claims be approved, and warrants drawn, seconded by Councilmember Perry, motion carried with unanimous approval

OTHER ITEMS- Clerk Treasurer/City Administrator Davidsen spoke about the internal audit the City had performed on the LID's. She recommended the City refund the seven property owners who overpaid the amount of overpayment and re-bill the outstanding assessments to the property owners owing money including the City of Everson. She would also like Council to approve the Mayor to allow Public Finance to pursue the collection process of the delinquent installments. It will cost about \$300 for the initial billing for accounts owing. Charges will then be based on how many notices need to be sent out after the initial billing.

Attorney Sitkin stated his firm has dealt with Public Finance and found they are a very cost effective method for collecting funds. The City will send out the refund for overpayment and Public Finance will be in charge of re-billing the owing accounts. **It was moved by Councilmember Laird to approve the Mayor to sign an agreement with Public Finance to provide the services outlined in the report for collection of delinquent installments and re-bill outstanding assessments and refund overpayment, seconded by Councilmember Lautenbach. Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

Attorney Sitkin stated Council will be receiving information on the sewer contract following the meeting.

A packet is being sent in to the publisher for the municipal code update. The dangerous dog curfew error has been fixed.

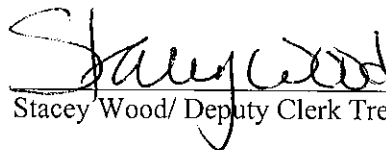
The senior contract and the consolidated drainage contract are in draft form and will be sent to the Council for the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Hammond asked if money was budgeted for the domestic violence commission. It was mentioned it was not put in the 2008 budget but can be discussed for the 2009 budget at the retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- None

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Laird. Motion carried with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Jaleen Pratt, Mayor


Stacey Wood/ Deputy Clerk Treasurer