

**CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE** February 12, 2009

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** City Manager Justin Clary; Director of Finance & Administration/City Clerk Kay Kammer; City Attorney Chris Sundstrom; Public Works Director Steve Wall, Police Chief Carrie Greene, Senior Planner Dale Schulze, Finance Division Director Gaylynn Brien.

**CALL TO ORDER** [6:30:11 PM](#)

**PLEDGE OF ALLIEGANCE**

**LATE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Add: Executive Report after Mayor/Council reports

Add: Executive Session regarding potential litigation after the second Citizens Comments

**MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS**

1. Council

Mr. Swindell Met with the County Commissioners, attended the Planning Commission meeting, the Study session regarding annexation and partnership opportunities with the Port, the Sewer Coalition meeting, the North County Leadership Group meeting, council briefing, the Three Creeks Advisory Council, and met with Battle Ground Mayor Ciraulo.

Mr. Taylor Attended the Planning Commission meeting, study session with the Port, the Parks Board meeting which was cancelled, the Port meeting, and council briefing.

Mr. Wells Attended the Ridgefield Business Association meeting, the Port meeting, the Planning Commission meeting, study session with the Port, the Sewer Coalition meeting, council briefing, the Parks Board meeting, the bid opening for the S. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, the Port meeting, the State of the County address, and traveled to Olympia when Ms. Herrera brought forward HB 2545 to expand Transportation Benefit District authority.

Mr. Wertz Attending the Planning Commission meeting, the Port study session, the Sewer Coalition meeting, and council briefing.

Congratulated Celia Antonini from the Planning Commission on her national recognition for teaching

2. Mayor

Mayor Onslow The Mayor's Ball raised approx \$3,150 for Overlook Park, traveled to Olympia to discuss the Overpass with legislators, attended the Port study session, the Sewer Coalition meeting, the Overlook Park meeting, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) meeting, met with LaCenter council members, attended the Mayor's monthly meeting,

council briefing, the Centennial meeting, the North County Leadership Group meeting, First Friday events, the State of County Address, the Planning Commission meeting and met with Ian Boyle about S. Main park, and Rob Simmons about green sustainability.

Discussion:

CTRAN has asked for a volunteer for a board position

Hunting ordinance is being researched and developed

Port of Ridgefield sent a letter to Council regarding the annexation application. The ordinance had been tabled at a previous meeting. To discuss the ordinance a motion to remove from the table will be necessary.

- a. Appointment of Sue Carroll, Ridgefield Parks Board, Position 2

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Sue Carroll to the Ridgefield Parks Board

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[6:54:58 PM](#)

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

- b. Oath of Office – Sue Carroll

Director of Finance & Administration/City Clerk Kay Kammer administered the Oath of Office for Ms. Carroll

### 3. Executive

The City had banked with Bank of Clark County and have been made whole with the receipt of the approximate \$5.8 million held by the Public Deposit Protection Commission after the bank's failure. Request for Proposals (RFP) for banking services has been noticed and a copy sent to all local banks. Deadline for submission is February 27, 2009.

The bid opening for S 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue was conducted and the lowest responsible bidder was Kerr Construction for approximately \$593,000

Received 15 bids

The estimate was just over \$1,000,000

Start date is estimated to begin May 18, 2009 and to be finished in September

### PRESENTATION

1. Parks Foundation Strategic Plan

Mission is to raise funds through partnerships for parks, trail and recreational programs

Vision is to ensure uncommonly vibrant parks, trails and recreational programs which can promote more livable and healthy communities

Strategic objective is to assume a leadership position within Clark County

Funding needs for parks, trails and programs in 2007 was \$9,500,000, current funding for 2009 is \$8,000,000

Foundation is working to fund gap of \$1,500,000

Foundation budget for 2009 is \$7,500

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Donna Thompson, resident

Late fees on utility are high

Ridgefield is most expensive in area

\$27,000 for water and sewer late fees were collected in 2008

Unemployment is high and utility charges are unreasonable and unfair

Criteria is needed before shutting off someone's water

Questions utility taxes on electricity and what needed for

Many people are assessed stormwater fees and receive no benefit

Utility budget of \$6,000,000 and what is it for

Asking council for change to fees

Set bill aside and then forgot to pay it, penalty is punitive

Council:

Postcards can get lost or damaged in the mail

Rates are set is to cover costs

Marie Stephensen, resident

Billing cycle changed from monthly to bi-monthly

Can it be changed to monthly and what is the cost for that

Disappointed with study session regarding Port annexation and why Council is against it

Will Hunting ordinance have a public hearing

Council:

Understand it is hard to budget a bi-monthly bill but customers may choose to pay half of the bill each month

Automatic invoicing of payment is also available, along with on-line capabilities

We are obligated to provide infrastructure once an annexation is approved

Need to get a stronger commitment from the Port to ensure we are on the same path

Staff:

Hunting ordinance does not require a public hearing but will have two readings and allow for public comments

Marie Stephensen, resident

Developer's projects were pushed through and Port has had a plan for a long time for the waterfront

Application time may run out

Council:

Wish to have the best waterfront possible

Code is silent on application timeline  
Developer's have development agreements with the City

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Claims/Payroll in the amount of \$361,827.88  
Claims:  
11650 through 11724 in the amount of \$155,000.35  
Automatic payments of \$2,172.55  
Payroll:  
Direct deposit in the amount of \$103,656.24  
11642 through 11649 in the amount of \$37,069.80  
Automatic payments of 63,928.94
2. Approval of minutes from January 15, and 29, 2009

MOTION: Council member Matt Swindell moved to approve the claims/payroll and the minutes of January 15, and 29, 2009

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[7:51:42 PM](#)

Vote: 5-0  
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz  
No: None  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

3. Approval of minutes from January 22, 2009

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[7:52:23 PM](#)

Vote: 3-0  
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member David Taylor and Lee Wells  
No: None  
Abstained: Council member Matt Swindell and Darren Wertz  
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

**BUSINESS**

1. Ordinance No. 1028  
Second reading of Amendment to Stormwater Utility Rate Structure

Change the way parcels used for farming business have fees calculated  
Currently charged by adding up impervious surface

Proposed to calculate one equivalent dwelling unit per each single family residence on parcel

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1028 as presented

SECOND: Council member Matt Swindell.

[7:57:04 PM](#)

Vote: 5-0  
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz  
No: None  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

## 2. Motion – Endorsement of the Columbia River Crossing Coalition

Ginger Metcalf from Identity Clark County requested that the council endorse the coalition following her presentation on September 11, 2008 regarding the Columbia River Crossing Coalition

The coalition communicates with the public, decision-makers and the media about the critical need for the Columbia River Crossing project

MOTION: Council member Matt Swindell moved to endorse the Columbia River Crossing Coalition

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

Council discussion:

Better alternatives than building the bridge

Support that coalition if they will support the building of the I-5 Interchange at the Junction

Benefit of support is that we are now at the table

Port of Ridgefield has not endorsed the Coalition, but the Port of Camas/Washougal has

City of Ridgefield would be the first city to endorse the coalition

Vern Veysey, non-resident

Association of Realtors did endorse the coalition today

Coalition supports taxation for street utilities

City of Vancouver is in favor of the street utility tax authority

Will bring jobs to the county that will in turn bring jobs to cities

Staff:

Coalition focus is only the Columbia River Crossing project

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to table motion to endorse the coalition

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[8:08:55 PM](#)

Vote: 3-2  
Yes: Council member David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz  
No: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell

Abstained: None  
Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Council:  
Regarding Ordinance No. 1028 - Council member Wells had disclosed he owns farm land

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Randy Mueller, resident, representing the Port of Ridgefield  
Annexation application can expire, not of infinite duration  
Delay of approval will be holding up permitting application for Master Plan  
Meeting with client who is interested in the North Pole Yard  
City Sewer Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) does not list the North Pole Yard

Discussion:  
If the North Pole Yard is purchased, the city could not expand the sewer treatment plant

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to remove the Ordinance regarding the Port's annexation off the table

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

Discussion:  
City needs entire parcel for future expansion  
Need to have a development agreement in place before approval  
If application is not within code, permit may be denied  
Paid \$30,000 to the Port for parcel at the Junction and need to ensure that the Port will work with the city and our future needs

[8:19:08 PM](#) >

Vote: 3-2  
Yes: Council member David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz  
No: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Ordinance will be placed on the next council agenda.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Potential litigation

Mayor Onslow announced that council would enter an Executive Session regarding potential litigation at [8:19:56 PM](#) for approximately 15 minutes and no action is anticipated.

Mayor Onslow reconvened the regular council meeting at [8:36:48 PM](#) and announced no action will be taken.

**ADJOURN**

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**Kay Kammer**  
**Director of Finance & Administration**  
**City Clerk**

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**Ron Onslow**  
**Mayor**