

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

DATE March 26, 2009

ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT: None.

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

CALL TO ORDER [6:30:08 PM](#)

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGANCE

LATE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

Council

Mr. Taylor No official report

Mr. Swindell Attended council briefing

Mr. Wells Attended the Town Hall meeting of the 17th District, toured Ridgefield with Senator Cantwell's staff member Brian Willoughby, Ridgefield Junction Association meeting, and briefing

Mr. Wertz Attended the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) meeting

Mayor Onslow Attended the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program meeting, the State of the City Address at the City of Battle Ground and met with a couple of members of the Cowlitz Tribe regarding the proposed casino project

STAFF REPORTS

Executive & Community Development:

CDBG awarded to the City a grant for replacement of sewer laterals

Outcome from the Transportation Alliance has the Senate version of budget including the I-5/SR501 Interchange Project

Working with the Port on a grant for Downtown Revitalization

Working on a grant for the update to the Development Code

Work plan status report from the Council Retreat in February presented

Received notification of a grant award for skate park equipment in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Parks Foundation

No single family residential permits were issued in February, one has been issued so far in March
Moonlight Meadows building permit was issued

Finance & Administration:

Review of the banking proposals has been completed and contract award to be forthcoming

Working through various year-end audits and reports for other agencies

Working on compliance of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act for the Human Resource Division

General Fund balance for February is \$44,426, revenues are at 53% of projected budget and expenses are at 108%, which is typical for the beginning of the year activity

Utility operating fund revenues are at 78% which includes an accrual adjustment of \$110,000 for February service billings and expenditures are at 88%

Final payment was made on the land purchase for Overlook Park

The State Auditor completed our single audit on the Federal Grant for the I-5 Interchange project and no finding was noted. The financial statement audit will occur this summer

Public Works:

Wastewater Treatment facility treated daily on average 0.30 million gallons for February which is 60% of the allowable permitted capacity

Middle School children volunteered and picked up cigarette butts around town yesterday for "Kick Butts Day"

Stormwater catch basins are being cleaned

Water consumed for February was 10.5 million gallons

Design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is essentially complete

Sewer Coalition efforts continue for an integrated approach

Well #10 project completed and will test next week

Public Safety:

Officer Bone continues to be on light duty

Enforcement filings were slightly less than January

Stimulus funding provides an opportunity for an additional Police Officer and the grant funding available will be looked into

Table top emergency exercise conducted with staff during the All Hands Staff meeting today. Staff did well and we recognized some things that need to be worked on

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

David Rowe Concerns regarding a proposed cell phone tower North East of town

Staff: Current City Code prohibits cell phone towers, proposed tower is outside of City limits

CONSENT AGENDA [7:24:53 PM](#)

1. Approval of minutes from March 5 and March 12, 2009
2. Approval of Claims/Payroll in the amount of \$240,941.95
Claims No. 11818 through 11866 in the amount of \$239,148.67
Automatic payments in the amount of \$1,793.28

MOTION: Council member Matt Swindell moved to approve the Consent Agenda

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[7:25:07 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.

BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 1029

First reading of Amendment to Ridgefield Municipal Code Chapter 9.07.150 & 151 – Weapons and Discharging of Firearms

Inquiries were made about the legality of the use of firearms under best farming practices
Current Ridgefield Municipal Code (RMC) 9.07.150 prohibits the discharging of firearms within city limits but RMC 9.07.151 contradicts the previous section and allows for permitting and discharging of firearms under certain circumstances regarding crop depredation
The City does not have permits for this nor has one ever been issued
Study session was conducted in January with Council direction to update current code to allow for hunting
Proposed ordinance will allow a person to discharge shotguns in areas designated by the City Council by Resolution when hunting is legally permitted
The City Attorney, Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) and Staff do not recommend passage of this Ordinance but rather to adopt an Ordinance that prohibits the discharge of firearms within the city limits except by a Police Officer performing their lawful duties

Charles Gretch, non-resident
Will Insurer protect the City in case of a lawsuit

Council: WCIA recommends the passage of a prohibition of discharging of firearms

Jim Walker, resident
Understands liability that City would accept
Economy has changed and can not sell his property as expected
Geese have completed destroyed property

David Standal, resident
Proposed ordinance does not allow hunting in the City
Resolution must first be passed to allow hunting in certain area
Supports proposed ordinance

Gary Adkins, resident
Involved when annexation took place of the farm lands

Annexation hurdle to overcome was the farm land and the need to grandfather in their rights as realized under County Codes
Supports proposed ordinance

Jim Walker, non-resident
Make property limits 50 acres or more before allowing hunting

Council: Farmers need to make assurances that shot will not leave their property

Marie Stephenson, resident
Does not like the wording of "No Discharging of Firearms"
We slaughter animals for our business and we would need an exception to the ordinance

Council: Property owners need to be allowed to protect their crops
Council member Lee Wells disclosed that he proposed the original ordinance for his land, that the ongoing hunting practice has been going on and was promised that it could continue
Farmer spent \$6,000 to plant a crop that was destroyed by the Geese
Would ordinance prohibit paintball and archery ranges
Designate a date for submission of application for area to be allowed for hunting
Should allow agent to sign for property owner

Staff: Staff will look into definition of projectile
Exceptions for slaughtering, bow issue, property owner and agent

2. Ordinance No. 1030
First reading of 2009-01 Budget Amendment

Davis Park improvement expenses carried over from 2008 of \$4,000
Division Street sidewalk project expenses carried over from 2008 of \$6,000
Hillhurst overlay project in the amount of \$280,000 - Revenue from Stimulus Funding for \$200,000 and use of \$80,000 in Transportation Impact Fees
Purchase of Dump Truck in the amount of \$16,300

3. Motion – Approval of the Parks Board Recommendation Naming the Public Park on S. Main Avenue as Eagle’s View Park

Parks Advisory Board considered two names
Eagle’s View Park or Stryker Park
Ian Boyle, the Eagle Scout who worked on the park suggested Eagle’s View and eagles were sighted during his work

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to accept the Park Board’s recommendation that the park located at the intersection of Main Avenue and Sargent Street be named Eagle’s View Park

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

[8:20:17 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.

4. Motion – Approval of the Parks Board Recommendation Naming the Public Park on Cispus Way as Columbia Hills Park

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to accept the Park Board’s recommendation that the park located between Hillhurst Road and Cispus Way be named Columbia Hills Park

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[8:27:09 PM](#)

Vote: 4-1
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz
No: Council member Matt Swindell
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion Passed.

Discussion: Utilities are currently being relocated on S. 85th

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURN [8:29:44 PM](#)

Kay Kammer
Director of Finance & Administration
City Clerk

Ron Onslow
Mayor