

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

DATE November 20, 2008

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; City Attorney Clayton Spencer; Public Works Director Steve Wall.

CALL TO ORDER [6:34:27 PM](#)

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

LATE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

PRESENTATION

1. 2009 Legislative Agenda
Mark Brown, Governmental Affairs Consultant, Connections Public Affairs

State Agenda

Top Priority – Ridgefield Interchange Project

Protect current state funding, increase funding, modify Transportation Benefit District (TBD) statute to add Transportation Impact Fees (TIF)

Governance – no unfunded mandates, no loss of revenue, no preemption of local control, no mandate to tape executive sessions and no county utility tax authority in cities

Finance – Real Estate Excise Tax permitted uses, Public Safety sales tax authority, Offender medical costs, Liability reform

Economic Development and Infrastructure – TBD to include TIF, tax increment financing, increase funding for Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), renew and refund Local Infrastructure Funding Tool (LIFT), fix street utility statute, authorize Community Facilities Districts and protect Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) funding

Environment, Land Use and Growth Management Act (GMA) – Shorelines Master planning funding, uniform design standards, annexation and Climate Benefit District

Public Safety – school mapping funds, access to Department of Licensing photos and system, sex offender address verification funding and gang intervention and prevention funding

Federal Agenda

Transportation – increased funding for interchange

Eco tourism – funding for Overlook Park and Welcome Center

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

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

Mr. Taylor Attended briefing and Clark County Fire & Rescue stakeholder meeting

Mr. Swindell Attended briefing, Building Industry Association meeting, and the Kiwanis meeting to inform them about the work on the Three Creeks Advisory Council

Mr. Wells Attended briefing, Port meeting, and the Junction Association meeting

Mayor Onslow Attended briefing, met with Veolia regarding utilities, met with Ellen Smart of the Cemetery Advisory Board regarding the Cemetery, Identity Clark County (ICC) meeting, met with Isolde Raftery from the Columbian and went on a tour of Ridgefield, the Kennedy Jenks seminar, and the Garden Club meeting

STAFF REPORTS

Executive & Community Development

Met with commercial and industrial developers who have interest in Ridgefield

Preparing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application

Transportation roundtable

Economic stimulus packages and how to obtain funding

CREDC luncheon

No home permits issued this month

Masons Supply will be seeking occupancy in March

Agave seeking occupancy in January

Moonlight Meadows – foundation permit issued today

Finance & Administration

Hometown Celebration on December 6th with the Davis Park Rededication at 3:00 P.M. and the Christmas Tree Lighting at 4:30 P.M.

First Fridays to continue throughout the winter months – support the local businesses

General Fund is using approx \$162,000 of fund balance, fund balance now at approx \$150,000

Revenues are at 78% and expenditures at 85%

Project to end year at \$200,000

Utility funds combine net is at \$410,000 which will just about cover depreciation expense

Public Works

Sewer Coalition – tomorrow is the third elected officials meetings

Well 10 in Abrams Park is going smoothly

Davis Park – lights will be going in, bronze casting to memorialize funding, and play structures are in

Division Street sidewalk – has been poured and will complete path and crosswalk. It is pervious concrete and will not have a brushed finish

Water usage volume high for October

Public Safety
Enforcement at normal range
A couple of felony cases were closed

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from October 23 and November 6, 2008
2. Approval of Claim/payroll in the amount of \$381,906.60
Claims No. 11339 through 11397 in the amount of \$186,334.53, Automatic payments in the amount of \$195,572.07

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to excuse Council member Swindell from the October 23, 2008 council meeting

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[7:44:27 PM](#)

Vote: 4-0
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz
No: None
Abstained: Council member Matt Swindell
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 23, 2008 with amendment to reflect Council member Swindell's absence as excused

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[7:44:57 PM](#)

Vote: 4-0
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz
No: None
Abstained: Council member Matt Swindell
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 6, 2008

SECOND: Council member Matt Swindell.

Vote: 3-0
Yes: Mayor Ron Onslow; Council member Matt Swindell and David Taylor
No: None

Abstained: Council member Lee Wells and Darren Wertz
Absent: None

Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION: Council member Matt Swindell moved to approve the claims/payroll [7:46:25 PM](#)

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Final Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2009

Opened [7:47:32 PM](#)

Revenues declined from 2008 budget and prepared for slower growth
Five staff reductions carried forward from 2008 through 2009
Used a base of 25 new single family residential permits, and 150,000 square feet of commercial permits
Proposed rate increases: Water 3.9%, Sewer 10% and Stormwater \$0.50 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU)
Operating budget \$6.9 million

Joy Scarbrough, resident
Concerns on taxes being charged
Utility rates being increased
Why are employees getting raises
City is charging the maximum on sewer
People are living on fixed income

Closed [7:55:12 PM](#)

2. Parks Capital Facilities Plan

Opened [7:55:36 PM](#)

Current plan adopted in 2004
Adopted Ridgefield Comprehensive Plan on August 14, 2008 and now must update the Parks Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)

Financial plan included in CFP

No testimony received

Closed [7:58:26 PM](#)

BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 1022

First reading of Amendment to Parks Capital Facilities Plan

First reading conducted

Changes to proposed ordinance: change verbiage from transportation to parks

Page 4 on plan – Ridgefield Refuge is partially in city limits and will it skew impact fee calculation

This is part of inventory section and will not affect calculation or level of service

Clarification in foot note in the update

Request to add average of national standard for comparison in Table 4

2. Ordinance No. 1023

First reading of Amendment to Water Utility Rates

First reading conducted

Proposed rate increase of 3.9%

Low income senior discount is available

3. Ordinance No. 1024

First reading of Amendment to Sewer Utility Rates

First reading conducted

Proposed rate increase of 10%

Cheryl Scott, resident

Would it be possible not to increase rates until it is determined if the City will be receiving funding from the Federal Economic Stimulus package

Funds may be available if plant is built green

City previously did not raise rates enough to accommodate debt service needs and upgrades for existing system

Reserve fund has not been funded for repair and replacement

4. Ordinance No. 1025

First reading of Amendment to Stormwater Utility Rates

First reading conducted

Proposed rate increase of \$0.50 per equivalent dwelling unit per month

Commercial and industrial customers are charged by impervious surface

5. Ordinance No. 1026
First reading of 2009 Fiscal Year Budget

First reading conducted
Operating budget \$6,926,928
Operating and capital budgets are approximately \$19,000,000

Utility taxes are at 6% - neighboring jurisdictions are much higher up to 20%
Association of Washington Cities (AWC) published a Rate& Fee summary book – most communities have utility taxes
Utility rate increases - include language about the availability of the senior discount in notification letter
Salary increases – contractual increases for represented employees, exempt staff is working longer hours between 50 and 60 hours per week, taken on additional tasks, and are paid less than peers in local area. Need to maintain knowledge and experience.

6. Ordinance No. 1012
Second reading of Amendment to Park Impact Fee

Proposed fee is \$2,768 for a single family residence and \$2,367 per unit for multi-family
Population estimated to be 26,000 in 2024
Capital Facilities Plan breaks down the growth rate into a 6 year plan

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1012 as presented
SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

[8:56:38 PM](#)

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

Motion Passed.

7. Motion – Approval of Maple Street Sewer Collection System Improvement Project for Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding

\$225,000 project costs
\$47,250 of Sewer repair and replacement funds to be used as a match

MOTION: Council member Matt Swindell moved to authorize the City Manager to submit an application on behalf of the City of Ridgefield requesting 2008 Community Development Block Grant funding supporting the Maple Street Sewer Collection System Improvement Project
SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[9:01:22 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.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

Officer Gibson responded to a pipe bomb explosion

ADJOURN [9:04:45 PM](#)

Kay Kammer
Director of Finance & Administration
City Clerk

Matt Swindell
Mayor Pro Tem