

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

**DATE** December 4, 2008

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Ron Onslow.

**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** [6:30:58 PM](#)

**PLEDGE OF ALLIEGANCE**

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to excuse Mayor Onslow from the meeting

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

Vote: 4-0

Yes: Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

**LATE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**PRESENTATION**

1. Recognition of the Community Center Board of Directors  
Past and present Officers and Board Members were recognized for efforts of bringing forth the vision and the continuance of the community center  
Past officers and board members recognized are: Pat Jones, Dan Robinson, Gene Chapman, Lois Chapman, Don Bottemiller, Vic Michelson, Allene Wodaeye, Marie Wilcox, Janet Perry, Kay Goodrich, Paul Peck, Bonnie Peck, Ann Margaret O'Reilly, Vickey Schell, Charlotte Clevidence, Betty Tuenessen, Carla Bonebrake, and Jerry Stallings.
  
2. Recognition of the 2008 Outstanding Citizen  
Born in Ridgefield, raised a family here, is independent, self sufficient, hard working and has volunteered many hours and always willing to assist and support all the various community



Abstained: None  
Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

2. Reappointment of Nancy McQuillan, Position 3, Ridgefield Cemetery Advisory Board

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Nancy McQuillan to the Ridgefield Cemetery Advisory Board

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[6:47:40 PM](#)

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

Motion unanimously passed.

3. Reappointment of John Forsberg, Position 3, Ridgefield Parks Board

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of John Forsberg to the Ridgefield Parks Board

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

[6:49:22 PM](#)

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

Motion unanimously passed.

4. Reappointment of Vern Veysey, Position 7, Ridgefield Parks Board

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Vern Veysey to the Ridgefield Parks Board

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

[6:50:20 PM](#)

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

Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

5. Reappointment of Celia Antonini, Position 7, Ridgefield Planning Commission

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Celia Antonini to the Ridgefield Planning Commission

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[6:52:07 PM](#)

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

Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Clary announced that a study session has been scheduled for January 15, 2009 regarding the discharge of firearms in city limits

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Tevis Laspa, non-resident

Community Center is maintained by the association and there will be a fundraising dinner on May 16, 2009 with a silent and oral auction and is looking for 20 table hosts

Remember to support your community

Centennial Celebration committee asked the Lion's Club to host a pancake breakfast to help raise funds for the celebration. The first breakfast will be January 10, 2009 at Community Center. Encourage all to attend.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of claims/payroll in the amount of \$402,058.49  
Claims: 11405 through 11445 for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$180,673.59 and an automatic payment for postage in the amount of \$518.99

Payroll: Direct Deposit for payroll in the amount of \$99,996.53, 1214 through 1222 for payroll in the amount of \$16,558.12, 11398 through 11404 for payroll benefits in the amount of \$35,409.09, Electronic payment for payroll taxes in the amount of \$42,611.73, and an Automatic payment for benefits in the amount of \$26,290.44

2. Approval of minutes of November 20, 2008
3. Approval of Colemansmith real property donation

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[6:56:47 PM](#)

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

Motion unanimously passed.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Petition for vacation of a portion of Sevier Road

Opened [6:58:03 PM](#)

Portion bypassed by a new alignment through Canyon’s Ridge subdivision  
Street now extends further west

No testimony received

Closed [7:00:07 PM](#)

2. Notice of Petition to Annex – North Pole Yard and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)

Opened [7:00:31 PM](#)

Parcel was bisected years ago through an annexation  
Parcel abuts the city limits on both south and east sides

Randy Mueller, Port of Ridgefield  
Four acres of port property is not in the city limits  
Will allow for one planning process for redevelopment rather than two, one with the city and one with the county

Todd Johnson, Group MacKenzie  
7 acres total in the annexation – 4 for the Port and the remainder owned by BNSF  
Annexation has been certified by the County

Roy Garrison, non-resident  
How much of the railroad is already in the city limits

Closed [7:06:19 PM](#)

Todd Johnson, Group MacKenzie

Railroad right-of-way in city limits is from the north at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the south at McCuddy's Marina

**BUSINESS**

1. Ordinance No. 1021

First reading of Notice of Petition to Annex – North Pole Yard and Burlington Northern Santa Fe

Railroad property will be taxable according to the County Assessor's office

Zoning assigned is from the current zoning map dated 2004

County indicates that current zoning is "MX" – presumed to be mixed use

2. Ordinance No. 1027

First reading of Petition for vacation of a portion of Sevier Road

Applicant requested not to pay portion of vacated road since they had completed the realignment

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to dispense with the procedure of two readings of the ordinance and adopt Ordinance No. 1027

SECOND: None.

No vote taken as secondary motion is not within procedure

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to waive the fees for the Sevier Road for the one-half the value of the land

SECOND: None.

No vote taken as secondary motion was not within procedure

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to suspend the procedure of two readings and adopt Ordinance No. 1027 as presented

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[7:20:27 PM](#)

Vote:

4-0

Yes:

Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No:

None

Abstained:

None

Absent:

Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

3. Ordinance No. 1022

Second reading of Amendment to Parks Capital Facilities Plan

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1022 as presented

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[7:22:49 PM](#)

Vote: 4-0

Yes: Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

4. Ordinance No. 1023  
Second reading of Amendment to Water Rates

Rate increase is to cover cost of service  
Proposed 3.9%, adds \$0.75 per month

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1023 as presented

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

Council discussion: Utility rate increase needed for increased costs and repair and replacement

[7:27:16 PM](#)

Vote: 4-0

Yes: Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

5. Ordinance No. 1024  
Second reading of Amendment to Sewer Rates

Recommended increase of 10% to properly fund utility  
Funds to cover a portion of debt service, repair and replacement  
Increase would be \$4.31 per month  
Project to need funds in 2011 in the System Development Charge fund to cover debt service payments, utility rates should cover a portion of debt service

Council discussion: If over collection occurs, rates can go down

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1024 as presented

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

Council discussion: going through difficult times now, would like to reduce but realize it would jeopardize the utility

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1024 with an amendment to reduce increase to 7%

SECOND: None.

Motion fails for lack of second.

Vote on Motion as presented

[7:34:39 PM](#)

Vote: 3-1  
Yes: Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor and Darren Wertz  
No: Council member Lee Wells  
Abstained: None  
Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion Passed.

6. Ordinance No. 1025  
Second reading of Amendment to Stormwater Rates

Proposed increase to cover operations and maintenance and to fund projects noted in the Stormwater Management plan  
Increase \$0.50 per month

Council discussion: would it be wise to wait until the State finalizes regulations before moving forward on projects

City is waiting on changing regulations

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance NO. 1025 as presented

SECOND: Council member Darren Wertz.

[7:39:13 PM](#)

Vote: 3-1  
Yes: Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor and Lee Wells  
No: Council member Darren Wertz  
Abstained: None  
Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion Passed.

7. Ordinance No. 1026  
Second reading of 2009 Fiscal Year Budget

Balanced budget – revenues equals expenditures without dipping into reserves  
Used combined efforts of a budget advisory committee, conducted a study session, and two public hearings to discuss the budget

Changes discussed were made and are incorporated in budget  
Total budget equals \$19,665,343

Council discussion: projected General Fund ending fund balance is between \$200,000 and \$250,000

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 the 2009 Budget with an amendment to suspend the proposed salary increases of exempt staff and apply funds to ending fund balance

SECOND: None.

Motion fails for lack of second

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to table Ordinance No. 1026 until the next regularly scheduled meeting on December 18, 2008

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

Discussion: Balanced budget, consider time, salary increases are another issue to be addressed in another manner, need budget to operate on, need to be fiscally responsible, other people are out of work, and should not single out one group of employees, city gets value for its dollar from the exempt staff, needed to cut this year's budget as revenues were not realized

Mayor submitted a letter: concerns about rate and salary increases, support whatever council decides, consider wage freeze for 6 months for salaries of exempt staff

[7:54:34 PM](#)

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

Motion Failed.

Council discussion: Would like to see us get through the budget issue, not the right message to give to the staff or the voters, get the budget resolved so that we can proceed into the next year, treat salary increases as a separate item and could amend the budget at a later date, revise then adopt

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 as presented

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[8:02:47 PM](#)

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

Motion Failed.

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 as presented

SECOND: None.

Motion fails for lack of second

Council discussion: freeze increases for exempt staff

Roy Garrison, non-resident

Budget before you is a balanced budget

Difference between adopting a budget and giving salary increases are two different issues

Council discussion: not opposed to adopting the budget, do not want to imply raises for exempt staff

Roy Garrison, non-resident

Trying to take responsibilities away from the City Manager, increases are an administrative function

Council sets the budget and salary for City Manager

Council discussion: received phone calls after newspaper article from citizens expecting a no vote on a budget that authorizing salary increases

MOTION: Council member David Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 but with a proviso to have a discussion within thirty days to discuss the exempt salary increases as a separate issue.

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[8:18:33 PM](#)

Vote:

3-1

Yes:

Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor and Lee Wells

No:

Council member Darren Wertz

Abstained:

None

Absent:

Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion Passed.

8. Resolution No. 365  
General Sewer Plan

Plan was sent to Dept of Ecology and approved

MOTION: Council member Darren Wertz moved to adopt Resolution No. 365

SECOND: Council member Lee Wells.

[8:21:01 PM](#)

Vote:

4-0

Yes:

Council member Matt Swindell, David Taylor, Lee Wells and Darren Wertz

No:

None

Abstained:

None

Absent: Mayor Ron Onslow

Motion unanimously passed.

9. Motion - Endorsement of the 2009 Clark County Transportation Alliance Legislative Agenda

Common voice and theme for the legislative agenda  
Allows meeting with legislators and provides for a unified voice

MOTION: Council member Lee Wells moved to approve the endorsement of the Clark County Transportation Alliance 2009 State Legislative Agenda as presented

SECOND: Council member David Taylor.

[8:23:04 PM](#)

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

Motion unanimously passed.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Roy Garrison, non-resident  
City boundaries include a portion of railroad – need to annex remaining BNSF railroad within the city limits to gain taxes on assessed value

Celia Antonini, resident  
Thanked council for dedication and commitment and for reappointment  
Requested council to staff a booth during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities to discuss issues with citizens

**ADJOURN**      [8:27:23 PM](#)

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

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**Ron Onslow**  
**Mayor**