



**City of Camas Planning Conference
Camas Community Center
January 27th and January 28th, 2012**

Friday, January 27, 2012, the City of Camas Planning Conference began at 1:05 p.m. In attendance were Mayor Scott Higgins, Council members Greg Anderson, Don Chaney, Linda Dietzman, Tim Hazen, Steve Hogan, Melissa Smith, and Shannon Turk. Staff members present were Parks & Recreation Manager Jerry Acheson, Fire Captain and Union President Kevin Bergstrom, Community Development Director Phil Bourquin, Engineering Manager James Carothers, Executive Assistant Leisha Copsey, Manager of Information System Services Sherry Coulter, Finance Director Joan Durgin, Human Resources Director Jennifer Gorsuch, City Administrator Lloyd Halverson, Police Chief Mitch Lackey, Public Works Director Eric Levison, Fire Marshal Randy Miller, Police Captain Shyla Nelson, Fire Chief Nick Swinhart and Library Director David Zavortink. Editor Heather Acheson from the Camas Washougal Post Record was present. Randy Curtis, Chair of the Community Center Development Committee (CCDC), Jim Walsh, with J.D. Walsh Associates, and Jack McKinney with Architects Associative were in attendance to give presentations. Mike Nerland, Superintendent of the Camas School District, was present to facilitate the meeting.

Approximately 14 members of the public and two firefighter/paramedics were present.

Mayor extended a welcome to everyone and made opening remarks.

Mike Nerland, Superintendent of the Camas School District, made opening remarks and thanked Council for inviting him back to facilitate the conference. Nerland engaged Council in a team building exercise.

Nerland gave an overview of the agenda and noted that the community development and the year-end wrap up and 2012 preview topics will be switched.

Community Development 2011 and 2012 Work Plans:

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, gave Council a Power Point presentation that summarized the 2011 Work Program for the Community Development Department. The presentation also included an overview of the 2012 Community Development Department Work Plan/Priorities and highlighted the 2011 and 2012 capital

projects and the status of each project. Bourquin commented that the projects tie into economic development. He added that the Shoreline Master Program will be coming before Council for consideration on February 21st and that the Transportation Impact Fee (TIF) Study may be discussed at the February 6, 2012, Council Workshop.

Bourquin responded to questions from Council.

EMS/Fire Department Status:

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, gave background regarding the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system and cited several examples that have helped the EMS fund. He added that the current six-year levy will be expiring in 2012.

Nick Swinhart, Fire Chief, gave Council a Power Point presentation regarding EMS delivery options. The presentation included national issues surrounding EMS, various types of EMS systems and their advantages and disadvantages, recommendations from the Clark County Medical Program Director's Office, quantitative measure of success, and overviews of the current system's advantages and disadvantages and the Camas and Washougal Fire Department's profiles. Swinhart talked about the City's options for moving forward and highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of each. He concluded the presentation with a slide stating that EMS is a local issue and what works for our community is the best choice.

Swinhart gave a brief overview of the cost savings and efficiencies that have been realized with the merger of the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments.

Swinhart stated that the way to address funding issues for the EMS fund for 2013 and beyond is through an EMS levy. He said that he has met with Mayor, Halverson and others to determine how the levy should be approached. The group is in the process of forming a levy that will be sustainable for the next six years. He noted that May 12th is the deadline to file for the levy and that the plan is to run the levy in August.

Halverson remarked that an extension of the current consolidation with Washougal will come before Council in approximately one month and that a schedule for a replacement levy will need to be adopted prior to the May 12th filing deadline. Discussion ensued regarding potential levy options, the EMS fund, concerns about the termination clauses in other jurisdiction's agreements that could impact the City, and how providing mutual aid for other jurisdictions impacts the staffing levels and the EMS fund of the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments. Halverson asked Swinhart to obtain copies of the agreements from the neighboring jurisdictions for Council to review.

Mayor, Halverson and Swinhart responded to questions from Council.

Year-end Wrap-up and 2012 Preview:

Halverson distributed a document entitled, *Year-end Wrap-up, and 2012 Preview*, dated January 27, 2012. Halverson highlighted the expenditures and revenues of the General fund (GF) and noted that the GF ended the year better than it began the year. It increased by approximately \$215,000 over the year. The fund balance is now approximately 25%.

Halverson gave a brief overview of the Street, Cemetery and EMS funds. He also gave Council a preview of 2012 and highlighted the challenges, policy choices and opportunities that lay ahead. Halverson noted that economic development incentives will be discussed at the February 6, 2012, Council Workshop.

Halverson responded to questions from Council.

Halverson relayed to Council a transition plan for his retirement, including transitional tasks and an outline of a schedule. The proposal is to leave full-time duties and responsibilities as City Administration in the early fall of 2012. Halverson summarized the transition plan.

Mayor gave heartfelt remarks about Halverson's announced retirement and the transition plan.

A break began at 3:00 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

Team building exercises were performed by Council throughout the conference.

“Three Lakes Area” Report:

Smith stated that Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Brent Erickson was not able to attend the planning conference.

Jerry Acheson, Parks and Recreation Manager, read an introduction about the Parks and Recreation Commission's vision for the Camas Moose Lodge property on behalf of Erickson.

Acheson stated that Jim Walsh from J. D. Walsh Associates and Jack McKinney from Architects Associative will give a presentation which will highlight the process that the Parks and Recreation Commission followed to create a vision for the Moose Lodge property and to bring it to Council.

Walsh gave Council a Power Point presentation highlighting the “Three Lakes Master Plan”. The master plan includes the Moose Lodge property, the proposed community center and the proposed increased parking for Heritage Park.

McKinney gave an overview of the preliminary review of the interim and long term use of the Moose Lodge. The presentation also included a report on the Moose Lodge as well as options for Council's consideration. The recommended option “D” is to do a major remodel of the Moose Lodge which will cost approximately \$1.7 million. The concept is to develop something that the City will be proud of and the community can use for gatherings.

Mayor summarized that Council would like to realize the dream of building a new community center, but believe that if a vote went out to the citizens at this time that it would not pass. He added that if Council authorizes staff to move forward with the recommendation to remodel the Moose Lodge that it could be viewed as Phase I of the master plan for a new community center. This could establish some positive momentum,

engaging the citizens and get them excited about building a new community center. Discussion ensued.

Mayor asked and Acheson affirmed that the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed and recommends option “D” of the plan.

Mayor stated that Council needs to give direction in order for funding to be pursued for this option. Questions were asked and clarifications were made.

Anderson stated that he would like time to review the report on the Moose Lodge prior to making any decisions.

Randy Curtis, Chair of the Community Center Development Committee (CCDC), briefly gave Council background regarding the proposed community center and stated that he does not see any conflict with the Moose Lodge and community center proposals. He added that if Council decides to move forward on the Moose Lodge, it may influence the proposed plan for the community center, as the plan may be able to be downsized. Curtis stated the CCDC will discuss this matter at their next meeting. He added that there is still work to be done and that he believes that at the minimum, it will be at least two years before this matter will be ready to go before the voters.

Halverson suggested that this matter will be discussed further during the February 21st Council Workshop after Council has had a chance to review the information in the report and the CCDC has met. Discussion followed.

Further School/City Collaboration:

Mayor stated that for a long time the community has been offered exceptional recreation programs from the City as well as exceptional recreation and educational activities from the Camas School District (CSD). Mayor mentioned the idea of combining the CSD’s Community Education Programs with the Camas Parks and Recreation Programs to see if the combination would be more efficient.

Mayor recommended forming a committee to explore this concept which will likely build on the partnership with the CSD and send a signal to the community that the City is making an effort toward efficiency. Mayor hoped this would add to the momentum towards building a new community center.

Mayor stated the committee will consist of the following members: Jerry Acheson, Camas Parks and Recreation Manager, Councilmember Shannon Turk, Doug Quinn of the CSD Board of Education, and Mary Weishaar, CSD Community Education and Camas Extended Day Director.

Mayor proposed that the committee research the potential of combining the efforts of the two entities and bring a recommendation back to a joint meeting with the CSD by early summer.

Nerland echoed Mayor’s comments.

Hogan voiced his support and stated that past collaboration between the City and the CSD has been very successful. He added that there are members from non-profit organizations (Lupus and Parkinson's disease) present that are interested in working with both the City and the CSD to educate the community about activities and programs that can help people suffering from these diseases. Anderson also voiced his support for exploring this option.

Public Comments:

Ken Hadley, 4011 F Circle, Washougal, WA:

Hadley suggested that the material that was provided to Council during the planning conference be posted to the City's website.

Dan Maxwell, 15809 SE 23rd #110, Vancouver, WA:

Maxwell stated that he is present on behalf of the Clark County Parkinson's Disease Support Group. He commented about the support groups in Clark County and asked if the City would be able to provide a space for a support group to meet in this area. Maxwell added that they will be contacting some of the other jurisdictions as well.

Kim Lehmann, Health and Fitness Director for Touchmark, 2927 SE Village Loop, Vancouver, WA:

Lehmann commented about the support groups for Parkinson's disease. She added that there is a need for support groups in Camas and Washougal to raise awareness and to make resources available.

David Szyplinski, 1134 NW Meriwether Court, Camas, WA:

Szyplinski stated that he is the Development Director for Molly's Fund fighting Lupus and they are also looking for ways to reach and touch the community locally. He briefly spoke about Lupus.

Nerland made closing remarks and thanked everyone for coming. Nerland gave a brief overview of Saturday's agenda

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**City of Camas Planning Conference
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Saturday, January 28, 2012, the City of Camas Planning Conference began at 9:05 a.m. In attendance were Mayor Higgins, Council members Anderson, Chaney, Dietzman, Hazen, Hogan, Smith, and Turk. Staff members present were Acheson, Bourquin, Carothers, Copsey, Coulter, Durgin, Assistant Library Director Sandy Glover, Gorsuch, Halverson, Lackey, Levison, Court Security Officer Larry Linne, Nelson, Swinhart, and Zavortink. Acheson from the Camas Washougal Post Record and Judy Hooper from the Planning Commission were in attendance. Assistant City Attorney David Schultz was present for a portion of the conference. Debby Prentice, Leslie Bell, Cathi Simmons and Jeff Heinrichs from the citizen group “No Way BPA” were present. Nerland from the Camas School District was present to facilitate the meeting.

Approximately 13 members of the public were present.

Mayor welcomed the group back and mentioned that Smith has something that she would like to add to the agenda.

Smith commented about a call she received from a reporter from the Columbian inquiring about Council absences during City Council meetings. There was brief discussion followed by Halverson stating that during his time as City Administrator that he could not recall a time that a City Council meeting had to be cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Nerland made opening remarks and shared a story.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Lines and City Role:

Mayor briefly gave background information regarding BPA’s I-5 Corridor Project. Bourquin distributed a letter sent to BPA in December of 2009 stating the City’s position. He added that Council previously stated that they would reconsider their position when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) statement was released. The Draft EIS has yet to be released.

Bourquin said that a citizen group “Another Way BPA” is present to address Council and introduced Debby Prentice. Prentice introduced Leslie Bell and Jeff Heinrichs who were in the audience.

Prentice read a statement from “Another Way BPA” that outlined the work that this group has done. She also stated that their main goal is to keep power lines away from populated areas. Prentice gave Council a couple of points to consider while determining what position the City will take on this matter.

Bell distributed a packet to Mayor and Council containing the latest map with the four alternatives that BPA plans to include in their Draft EIS. Prentice noted that all four alternatives end in Camas.

Prentice spoke about the “grey line” route that their group proposed to BPA, which BPA has chosen to ignore. The intent of the “grey line” proposal was to keep the power lines from coming through populated areas, such as Camas, and have the lines cross the river at Bonneville Dam.

Prentice responded to questions from Council.

Prentice stated that through the Freedom of Information Act they obtained BPA’s legal advice on the subject of how BPA representatives might respond to Camas’ ordinance pertaining to electric transmission lines. She added that the legal advice was redacted on the document they received.

Discussion ensued about concerns with the power lines traversing through the 1,100 acres recently annexed into Camas on the north side of Lacamas Lake as well as lines crossing the easterly portion of Camas which is an urbanized area with neighborhoods, commercial areas, and parks.

In conclusion, Council affirmed they would like a statement drafted to BPA asking them to look at the Bonneville Dam crossing, as part of their process, even if it takes additional time. The statement would also recite Camas’ interest that if the Bonneville Dam crossing does not prove successful, that the transmission lines not be placed in the area recently annexed into the Camas and that the lines through the urbanized area of Goot Park be placed underground. This message will also be sent to the legislators through lobbying efforts. Discussion followed.

Bell stated that citizens are concerned about the toxins that are used to remove vegetation along the transmission lines. She noted that the letter from BPA that was sent to the citizens that live along the transmission lines was included in the packet that she distributed earlier.

Nerland spoke about a potential parcel that the CSD may be interested in for a future high school that is in “Section 43” and stated that he would share the correspondence between the school district and BPA pertaining to this subject.

Halverson stated that he and Bourquin will draft a statement which he will have reviewed by legal counsel and the City Attorney. The draft will then be brought to Council for review no later than the February 21st Council Workshop.

Anderson suggested that staff review and identify concerns regarding watershed impacts.

Simmons distributed a letter from the Pastor at the Camas Assembly of God that was addressed to Mayor and Council highlighting his concerns regarding BPA’s proposal. Simmons briefly summarized the contents of the letter.

Public Safety; Future Needs and Funding:

Anderson spoke about public safety and expressed his concerns about having enough resources to continue to provide the quality of service the community has come to expect and gave Council the following options to consider: Let service decline, use more mutual

aid response, reduce responses to lower level calls, transfer funds from the GF, look at setting the EMS levy up to the legal maximum of fifty cents, raise taxes by one percent (maximum) to fund public safety, or increase the resources that are being allocated to the consolidation efforts.

In summary, Anderson said the question is how can the City preserve service and prioritize where the City is going.

Hogan suggested that interlocal agreements with other jurisdictions regarding mutual aid should have a threshold built into them to ensure that Camas is not subsidizing other jurisdictions while decreasing the level of service in Camas. Discussion ensued.

Chaney mentioned that he would not be supportive of adding new staff absent the department proving the need. Halverson explained that in some cases it is not wise to wait too long in order to have the proof of the need.

Mayor stated that there is a need to identify a revenue stream that is preserved for public safety. Discussion continued.

Roles of Council, Boards and Commissions:

Chaney stated that he believes that Council should have the opportunity to discuss significant changes adopted by boards and commissions prior to adoption.

Dietzman suggested that this topic be brought up at a Council workshop to discuss the expectations for the role of Council liaison and gave examples of some guidelines that could be established. Discussion followed regarding the liaison's ability to vote or not vote and the need to be informed of their specific role as it relates to the board or commission they serve.

In response to Anderson's question about what this topic relates to, Chaney stated that this topic relates to vetting changes in policy or procedures that have a direct impact on the citizenry. He added that Council should be made aware of the potential changes and have an opportunity for input prior to any changes being made. Chaney gave examples.

Mayor suggested that Council Workshops have a designated time to discuss Council liaison reports to increase communications about significant issues that may impact the public. Discussion ensued.

In conclusion, Council affirmed the need for better communication. This matter will come back to a Council Workshop for more discussion.

A break began at 10:45 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

Technology Update and Council Meeting Protocols:

Mayor stated that the City's new website has been launched and that he is very excited about it.

Sherry Coulter, Manager of Information System Services, gave Council a brief introduction of the Information System Services Department and an overview of the support they provide. Coulter displayed a list of the general technology projects that her department has scheduled to complete in 2012. She briefly highlighted the list of projects and noted that the City's website and email address domain name will be changing to cityofcamas.us. Coulter elaborated on the new Granicus software that will allow streaming live video of Council meetings.

Mayor spoke about the Granicus software package and stated that the software will make it much easier to go paperless.

Mayor responded to questions from Council.

Municipal Court Study with Recommendations:

Mitch Lackey, Police Chief, gave a brief introduction of the topic and introduced Larry Linne, Court Security Officer, and David Schultz, Assistant City Attorney and Chief Prosecutor. As a preview to the presentation, Lackey stated that the results of the study indicate that the City will save approximately \$150,000 per year by forming an independent Municipal Court.

Linne gave a Power Point presentation highlighting the results of the study that was performed to determine if the City of Camas and the City of Washougal, through a cooperative effort, should terminate the long standing interlocal agreement with Clark County District Court to provide judicial and correction services.

Lackey provided background information about transferring all aspects of the court, except for personnel, from Clark County to Camas and Washougal that occurred in 2010.

The presentation included the corrections/probation components of District Court, the revenue and costs related to operating a court, the projected cost savings, the appointment process for a Judge, the options to be considered, the advantages and disadvantages of leaving the County, the process involved to form a new court, and what would happen if Washougal decided not to participate.

The presentation concluded with a recommendation from the advisory committee that Council authorizes staff to proceed with efforts to establish an independent municipal court for Camas and Washougal. Their decision was based on the initial data collected.

Throughout the presentation, Lackey, Linne and Schultz responded to questions from Council.

Lackey stated that it will take nearly two years to implement the changes should the two City Councils decide to move forward. He added that it will be difficult to back out after hiring staff for the court operations.

Halverson thanked Lackey, Linne and Schultz for their thorough report. Halverson stated that he is confident about the recommendation to move towards a January 2014

implementation date and noted that there is still time to gather more information and to have a change of heart.

Lackey and Schultz responded to further questions from Council.

Mayor affirmed with Council that staff should continue to explore the concept of establishing an independent court for Camas and Washougal and provide Council with periodic updates and data. Discussion ensued.

Nerland stated that due to time constraints the topic on storm ponds will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Public Comments:

Judy Hooper, 3401 NE Garfield Street, Camas, WA:

Hooper stated that she is a member of the Planning Commission and is also the manager of the Waterleaf Homeowners Association (HOA). She commented about storm ponds and the possibility of forming a coalition to work together to keep the maintenance of the storm ponds the HOA's responsibility.

Ken Hadley, 4011 F Circle, Washougal, WA:

Hadley commented about the BPA presentation regarding "segment 50".

Martha Martin, 37015 SE Gibson Road, Washougal, WA:

Martin stated that she is present as the citizen liaison for East County Fire & Rescue. She suggested that Council considers having volunteer citizen liaisons to go to some of the meetings to promote better communication.

Council:

Anderson stated that he appreciated the longer session to be able to discuss the topics in more depth.

Hazen stated that he attended the open house of Highland Terrace's new edition and that he believes that it is an excellent asset to the community.

Chaney commented on Halverson's retirement announcement.

Mayor thanked everyone for coming.

Final Comments:

Nerland gave closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk