



**CITY OF CAMAS
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
March 5, 2012
4:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Scott Higgins presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Anderson, Chaney, Dietzman, Hazen (arrived at 4:35), Hogan, Smith, and Turk.

Excused:

STAFF PRESENT: Acheson, Berquist, Bourquin, Carothers, Durgin, Gant, Halverson, Lackey, Levison, and Swinhart.

PRESS: Heather Acheson, Camas-Washougal Post Record.

Levison honored and thanked Jim Gant, Chief Grounds Maintenance Worker, for 35 years of service.

PUBLIC:

Patricia Bieze, 2934 SE 3rd Avenue, Camas:

Ms. Bieze expressed concerns about the impact of coal trains traveling through Camas and the location of the proposed Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power lines. She submitted a letter about her concerns to Council.

Dietzman also submitted letters from William L. Vaughn Jr., 1180 NW 10th Ave., Camas; Bobbi Houts, 638 NW 18th Ave. Loop, Camas; Dustin Davis, 531 NE 17th Avenue, Camas; Cesilie Cocks, Camas; and Carly Marshall, 521 NE 17th Avenue, Camas, for the record. A list of 56 residents who oppose coal exports from northwest ports was also submitted for the record.

**WASHOUGAL CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CONNIE JO FREEMAN C-TRAN
CONSULTATION:**

Connie Jo Freeman, Washougal City Council, C-TRAN Board of Directors:

Freeman distributed a handout entitled, "Vote of the People on November, 2012 Ballot RE: Sales Tax Increase for Operations & Maintenance of High Capacity Transit". She asked for Council's response to the following questions: "*Do we want to: be part of a full district vote recognizing that if it passes we will be paying more in sales tax within our city limits as opposed to: if we do not join in the vote due to the creation of a sub-district and it passes we will not pay more in sales tax within our city limits*".

Discussion ensued.

Hogan stated that there should be a vote to decide.

Mayor requested that Council respond to Freeman's questions no later than March 15th.

PARKS:

“Three Lakes” Area Discussion Including ① Lakeside Center, ② Outdoor Pool Renewal Plan and ③ Fallen Leaf Lake User Charges:

Jerry Acheson, Parks and Recreation Manager, referred to “Option D” that was recommended to Council by the Parks and Recreation Commission at the City of Camas Annual Planning Conference held on January 27th. Option “D” includes a major renovation of the facility commonly known as the Moose Lodge to a new lakeside community center, the replacement of the current dock, additional parking, as well as site improvements. The estimated cost for these improvements is 1.7 million dollars. If Council concurs, staff will proceed toward design development, refining the cost estimates for the building and site improvements, and the submission of permits and grant applications. All of these steps will contribute toward refining the options for financing.

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, recommended proceeding with “Option D” and gave the reasons why.

Mayor said there is a potential for a financial plan that does not affect the City's tax structure.

Referring to ② Outdoor Pool Renewal Plan, Acheson briefly reviewed the history of the current outdoor pool located in Crown Park and proposed that a major upgrade to the pool be made. Acheson and Halverson gave reasons why they supported the renewal plan.

Smith asked for a comparable of renovation expense versus the potential life of the renovated pool.

Questions were asked and clarifications were made.

Halverson and Acheson stated that they will keep Council informed about each project as steps are made. Council affirmed staff should proceed with these projects and provide frequent check-ins.

Halverson thanked Acheson for his insightfulness and creativity.

③ Fallen Leaf Lake User Charges: Acheson gave Council an overview of the fee structure for Fallen Leaf Lake Park. He noted that non-profit groups will be charged the midweek rate on weekends and Camas citizens will receive a 20% discount off on all rates.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Camas Art Market (CAM) Request to Use the City Parking Lot (NE 4th Ave. & Franklin): Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, stated that a proposal was submitted during the February 6, 2012, Workshop to use the City of Camas employee parking lot located at NE 4th Avenue and Franklin Street on Wednesdays beginning June 13th through October 10th during the hours of noon to 8 p.m. Staff gave the reasons why this lot was not

being recommended for a location. Staff suggested a smaller potential location on Everett Street near NE 4th Avenue.

Gene Dietzen, 1025 NE 5th Avenue, Camas:

Dietzen is requesting an area of 50 x 100 feet for the market. Dietzen stated that he will consider staff's recommendation of the area on Everett Street near NE 4th Avenue.

Questions were asked and clarifications were made.

It was Council's recommendation to consider the smaller area on Everett Street due to issues with traffic flow and emergency services at the original requested location.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Sewer (and Water) System Development Charge (SDC) Rate Schedule Discussion:

Eric Levison, Public Works Director, explained that the new temporary rate schedule was the result of the efforts of the ad hoc committee, Economic Development Strategy Committee for Economic Incentives. The committee's recommendation was for a trial across-the-board eighteen month reduction in the SDC's. Ordinance No. 2637 and No. 2638 facilitating the temporary reduction are included on the March 5th Regular Agenda.

Hazen and Mayor commented on the program's attributes, including measured checks every six months.

Miscellaneous and Updates:

James Carothers, Engineering Manager, read a press release from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the SR-14 Camas-Washougal Widening and Interchange Project, specifically, the traffic shifts beginning March 9th and maintaining access across SR-14.

Carothers responded to questions and clarifications.

PRESENTATION REGARDING 'HOMELESS SPECIAL COURT':

Halverson introduced Susan Arne, Executive Director of Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program, and Anna Waendelin, Administrator for the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program. Arne distributed a handout entitled Homeless Court – Clark County District Court dated February 29, 2012, and briefly summarized the history and purpose of the homeless court, and requested that Camas rejoin the effort.

Discussion ensued between staff, the city attorney, court representatives and City Council.

Council will revisit the question of whether a homeless court is needed after a decision has been made about whether or not Camas will establish an independent municipal court.

Waendelin further explained the plight and operations of the homeless court and urged Council to reconsider being involved.

ADMINISTRATION:

BPA Draft Letter:

Halverson confirmed with Council that they received a copy of the third draft of the BPA letter which he summarized. After discussion, it was decided that the letter will be brought back to the Council meeting on March 19th. Halverson asked for Council's comments and revisions before that date.

Code Title 17 Amendment Regarding Land Purchased by the City:

Halverson explained that the amendment has to do with a technicality related to exemptions from the requirements of the land development code. He noted that a public hearing is scheduled for tonight's Regular Meeting.

Miscellaneous and Scheduling:

A Camas library page has been selected to fill a City of Camas administrative support position. Halverson stated that his recommendation is to refill the library page position and Council concurred.

Halverson said the ward redistricting map proposal will be ready to present at the March 19th 2012, Council meeting.

Halverson stated that a report on the legislative session will be given at the March 19th Council Workshop.

Discussion ensued about Ward meetings. Tuesday, April 24th, and Thursday, May 17th were selected as the dates for the 2012 Ward meetings. Halverson suggested that information about the meetings will be advertised differently this year due to the cost associated with doing a bulk mailing. He described a variety of options for informing the public. Mayor asked Council to consider the format for future Ward meetings and to bring their ideas to the March 19th Council Workshop.

Dietzman put the components together for a "coal train" resolution which states the concerns of the citizens of Camas regarding additional trains with coal loads travelling through Camas.

Halverson noted City Attorney Roger Knapp's concern that the public understand that the City does not have jurisdiction over trains. The resolution's purpose is to communicate the potential impacts of coal trains to our City with the hope that we can influence decisions.

Discussion ensued.

Dietzman noted minor grammar changes to Resolution No. 1235 and advised Council that the Resolution would be included on the Regular Agenda.

After discussion with Turk, Council decided to reinforce the BPA letter with a resolution and have it ready for adoption at the Regular Meeting on March 19th.

Hazen thanked Dietzman for taking the time to put the resolution together.

Dietzman attended the Library Trustee Board meeting.

Mayor postponed the remaining Council comments to the Regular Meeting at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC:

Ken Hadley, 4011 F Circle, Washougal:

Hadley confirmed with Mayor that property owners are considered the same as residents regarding park fees and that the BPA letter will be published on the web once it is adopted.

Karen Hall, 405 NE 4th Ave., Camas:

Hall, representing herself and her husband Tom as well as Joanne and Tommy Taylor, distributed a letter written from a business person's perspective about the negative impacts of coal train traffic.

Chris Kralik, 631 NW 18th Loop, Camas:

Kralik asked about a City-wide coal-train petition and Mayor suggested connecting with another person in the audience.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk