

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 24, 2006

A. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Gainer called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call – Excused Absences Councilmembers present included Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Stockton, Councilmember Trulove, and Councilmember McKeehan. Staff members present included Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Conklin, Mr. Montague, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Sale, Mr. Martin, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Gemmell, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Wahl, and Ms. Showalter.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of January 10, 2006 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 84848 and 84863 through 84989 in the amount of \$684,101.79 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts None

G. Citizen Participation None

H. Information Items Mayor Gainer proclaimed February 3 as Wear Red for Heart Day. Ms. Showalter invited councilmembers to attend the breakfast that morning. Mr. Wahl stated that our CTR goal was to reach a 35% reduction in vehicle miles traveled, which was required by State law. We were one of only seven in Spokane County that was able to do so. Last Thursday, Spokane County recognized the City of Cheney with a plaque. Mr. Wahl presented the plaque to Mayor Gainer. Mayor Gainer presented Mr. Wahl with a Certificate of Achievement for his commitment to Commute Trip Reduction. Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Wahl was recognized for his hard work from his peers.

I. Action Items

1. 06-015 EDC Agreement Mr. Schmidt stated that membership in the Spokane Area Economic Development Council is in the 2006 budget. Membership would enable us to receive benefits for the city. Mr. Schmidt introduced Jim Huttenmaier and Robin Toth from EDC. Mr. Huttenmaier stated that there are over 300 businesses that are members, as well as several other municipalities and Spokane County. He summarized their activities for 2005. Councilmember McKeehan asked how the EDC differentiates between the different cities. Mr. Huttenmaier stated that the clients give a set of criteria. EDC goes into the marketplace and finds what matches their criteria. Discussion followed. Councilmember Overhauser asked about the West Plains effort. Ms. Toth stated that there are large areas of undeveloped or underdeveloped land. They are working with the cities and businesses to talk about how to bring value to this area. Discussion followed. Councilmember Trulove moved for approval of Resolution D-082. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

2. 06-009 IAFF Contract 2006-2008 Ms. Showalter stated that this is the final contract for the firefighters for the next three years. It increases their deferred compensation match. They have agreed to pay for 15% of their medical premiums with the City paying the remaining 85%. They will receive a 4% increase in 2006, which almost puts them equal to comparable peers. She commended Ken Johnson and Mike Ault for their hard work on this contract. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve the 2006-2008 IAFF Contract. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. 06-010 2006 Salary Ordinance Ms. Showalter stated that this follows passage of the contract and allows us to pay them at the correct salary. There will be another salary ordinance when the contract with the Police Sergeants is ready. Councilmember Huff moved for the first reading of Ordinance U-17 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the second and third, and placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Harris,

Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Stockton, Councilmember Trulove, Councilmember McKeehan. Ordinance U-17 passed.

4. 06-011 Consulting Service Agreement with Studio Cascade for GMA Update Grant Mr. Richardson stated that we received a \$30,000 grant from CTED. This consultant would work with interns and Planning Department staff to do the job. The cost for the consultant is \$9,000. This is the consultant that is finishing up the Parks and Recreation plan. Councilmember Stockton moved to approve the agreement with Studio Cascade. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. 06-016 Appointment to STA Board Mr. Schmidt stated that Councilmember Trulove agreed to represent the City on the STA board, but he discovered that he had a conflict with the meeting schedule. We would like to forward Mayor Gainer's name for our STA representative. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-081. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried with Councilmember Overhauser abstaining.

6. 06-017 Confirmation of Finance Director/City Clerk Appointment Mr. Schmidt stated that we began the recruitment process before Grant Murie left in December. We had quite a few applicants. The interview committee consisted of someone from EWU, the Cheney School District, the City Manager from Airway Heights, Ms. Showalter and himself. The unanimous decision was that Ms. Niemeier was the most qualified candidate. The Mayor agreed. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve Resolution D-080. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

7. 06-018 City Council Retreat Mr. Schmidt stated that we are looking at whether the Council wants a retreat and, if so, when. He would like the committee to decide on a facilitator. Councilmember Rast stated that maybe they should just get together to talk about ideas instead of a formal retreat. Councilmember Huff stated that we should set some goals. Councilmember Trulove stated that we do not need a facilitator unless we have something to facilitate. Councilmember McKeehan suggested referring this to the General Government Committee. Councilmember Huff moved to send this to the General Government Committee to set an outline for an informal retreat. Councilmember Overhauser asked for Mayor Gainer to be involved. Councilmember Harris seconded. Carried unanimously.

J. Council Reports Councilmember Overhauser congratulated Mr. Wahl for his achievement. She stated that someone at SCAPCA told her that the new representative does not have to be from the City of Spokane. The material that came from Spokane County did not adequately explain the process. The County will redo the ballots because they did not receive back the minimum number needed. She asked staff to check if the representative did have to be from the City of Spokane. Councilmember Huff asked about the make up of the Finance Committee. Discussion followed. Councilmember Trulove stated that he and the Mayor attended the AWC Newly Elected Officials workshop. He has the information if anyone needs a refresher. There were 170 applications for the JDF funding. It is a pretty competitive process.

K. Staff Reports Mr. Schmidt reminded councilmembers that they must file their PDC forms. The General Government Committee will meet Thursday at 5:15 p.m. Policies and procedures and the retreat will be on the agenda. The Legislature is in session. Streamlined sales tax seems to be moving through. They are looking at applying sales tax to internet and catalog sales.

L. Mayor's Report Mayor Gainer stated that the expenditure approval list is now available in the Finance Office for viewing. Copies will be fifteen cents per page. He will be in an open forum at the United Church of Christ at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

M. Citizen Comment None

N. Motion for Adjournment Councilmember Rast moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor