

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2007

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. Richardson, Mr. Montague, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Sale, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Ableman, Mr. Cathey, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Donner, Ms. Bridges, Mr. Wahl, Mr. Hartford, Mr. Winters, and Ms. Showalter.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of December 26, 2006 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 88597 and 88772 through 88863 in the amount of \$344,106.44; payroll warrants nos. 52164 through 52216 in the amount of \$41,848.21; direct deposits nos. 20935 through 21078 in the amount of \$203,904.93; claims warrants nos. 88598 through 88599 and 88728 through 88766 in the amount of \$237,328.02; and transfers to claims clearing fund for distribution in the amount of \$7,647.74 for a total payroll of \$490,728.90 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts Ms. Niemeier stated that there are four small contracts with DIVCO for heating and cooling at the Library, City Hall, Wren Pierson Building, and the Recycling Facility. The remaining small contracts are for Recreation classes. They are with Ian Kusz, Glenn Braunstein, Gary Carver, Julie Butler, and West Plains Goju-Ryu Karate. Councilmember Harris moved to approve the small contracts. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

G. Information Items Mr. Simmons introduced Jera Donner. She is from Cheney but came here from the City of Longview. Ms. Cooper introduced their intern, Kevin Tracy. He has been with them since November and will be here through March. Mr. Winters introduced the four Fire residents, Shawn Friese, Ben Walters, Chris Munoz, and Matt Jung. They are all college students. Mr. Cathey introduced Nick Briggs. Mr. Briggs is a prior resident and is currently a volunteer. He was with us for about a year and a half. Mr. Cathey presented Mr. Briggs with a plaque in recognition of his dedication and service to the City of Cheney. Mr. Winters presented Mr. Briggs with a gift certificate for dinner.

H. Appointments Mayor Gainer stated that he would like confirmation of the following appointments: Vince Barthels to the Board of Adjustment for a four year term, Aimee Flinn to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term, Charles Mutschler to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term, Heidi Winegar to the Park Board for a three year term, Carl Golden to the Park Board for a three year term, Jim King to the Park Board for a three year term, Jessica Dempsey to the Park Board to fill the unexpired term of Gayle Foien, Doug Nixon to the Planning Commission for a four year term, and Tillman Carr to the Planning Commission for a four year term. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve the appointments. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

I. Citizen Comments None

J. Action Items

1. 07-002 – Public Hearing – Utility Easement Vacation for Cheney Care Center Foundation Mayor Gainer opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. Mr. Richardson stated that this utility easement was acquired in the 1990s. The land was reserved for a road, but it is no longer needed. The property owners would like the easement released. We did not spend money to acquire the easement. Councilmember Huff asked who owns the property. Mr. Richardson stated that the City owns the property. There is no value to it. Ms. Showalter stated that Keith Fauerso from the Cheney Care Center could not be here due to illness in the family. Mayor Gainer closed the public hearing at 6:14 pm. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-233.

Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Councilmember Trulove stated that he is a member of the Care Center Board and will abstain. Carried with Councilmember Trulove abstaining.

2. 07-003 – Resolution D-234 – Interlocal Agreement for Subrecipient of Homeland Security Funding

Mr. Sale stated that we need to sign this agreement with Spokane County to receive LETPP funds. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-234. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

K. Council Reports Councilmember Huff stated that we need to have guidelines for the Mayor’s newsletter. He thinks it should be strictly what is happening in the City. Councilmember McKeehan agreed. Councilmember McKeehan stated that he has a new granddaughter who was born on December 23.

L. Staff Reports Mr. Sale stated that he would like direction on the P zone issue. He asked Chief Walters from EWU to be available to answer any questions. Mr. Sale stated that he would like to do away with the P zone. We have told EWU that they have no authority on our streets unless requested by us. He has discussed the issue at length with Chief Walters. Mr. Sale recommended that we rewrite the agreement to give EWU officers full law enforcement authority in the City. Councilmember McKeehan asked if the Public Safety Committee discussed this. Councilmember Huff moved to send this to the Public Safety Committee for a recommendation. Councilmember Trulove stated that this does not sound like a bad idea. The main sensitivity is to make sure that people understand the reasons behind it. Mr. Sale stated that part of it is a public relations campaign. Councilmember Rast stated that he would like concurrence from the administration of EWU. Chief Walters stated that he understands there has been some history with the P zone. Their first responsibility is to the campus. His administration agrees with his philosophies. He stated that he will talk to others and get answers. Councilmember Rast stated that he would like to know that there is commitment from the University. Chief Walters stated that he holds his people accountable. This would be a win-win situation for the community. Councilmember Trulove commended the chiefs for working together to back each other up. He stated that we need to make the public aware of the reasons behind this. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously. Ms. Showalter provided an update on the City Administrator search. There were telephone interviews with seven candidates. The committee, consisting of department heads, the Mayor, and Councilmember Huff, narrowed the field to three. One candidate withdrew. Robert Strobe will be here Thursday for more interviews. He is the City Administrator for the City of Long Beach. Derek Matheson will be here on Friday. He is the Assistant City Administrator with the City of Federal Way. The public session will be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wren Pierson Building on Thursday and Friday. The official interviews are open to the public for observation only. Mr. Montague stated that the Public Safety Committee will meet on January 16 at 7 a.m. The General Government Committee will meet at an agreed upon time. The Public Works & Utilities Committee will meet on January 11 at 5:15 p.m.

M. Mayor’s Report Mayor Gainer stated that he is glad to have the students back. The lights on College Avenue look nice. They were donated by Pathways to Progress and put up by the City.

N. Executive Session Mayor Gainer recessed the meeting at 6:32 p.m. for executive session regarding matters of litigation lasting twenty minutes. There will be no action to follow. He asked Mr. Montague, Mr. Conklin, and Ms. Niemeier to stay. Mayor Gainer reconvened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

O. Adjournment Councilmember McKeehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Huff seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor