

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 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 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. Wahl, Ms. Cooper, and Ms. Showalter. Councilmember Harris was excused.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of April 11, 2006 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 85754 through 85858 in the amount of \$427,132.77 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts None

G. Information Items Ms. Cooper introduced Will Haas, volunteer intern in the Court. He is working on probation.

H. Appointments None

I. Citizen Comments Christie Bruntlett, 499 Annie Pl, stated that she attended the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission approved the mitigation plan for the Tarbert property. She does not think it went through the process the way it should have. She wants assurance that it has been done correctly. She hopes the Council will look through everything before it is approved. Steve Emtman, 5323 S Bella Vista, stated that he owns property on Cheney-Spangle Road. He wanted the sewer system to be on the Council agenda and wanted to know why it was not. He hopes that there is consistency when the Planning Commission deals with his property mitigation. Bonnie Eccles, 214 N 6th St, asked Council to get all of the information on the Bi-Mart package and other developments. She stated that she also questions the order of the way things were done at the Planning Commission. She would like to have the opportunity for discussion on buffer zones. Brian Anderson, 20303 S Cheney-Spokane Road, stated that he is speaking for Mitchell Park LLC and the new hotel. They would like to see the City consider doing something to dress up the traffic islands. Mr. MacDonald stated that we have grant funds specifically for that. Mr. Anderson stated that they hope to have the hotel open on June 7.

J. Action Items

1. 06-068 – Resolution D-114 – Cheney WWTP Expansion Project – PWTF Application Mr. MacDonald stated that they are proposing to submit a Public Works Trust Fund application to finance the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We must expand because we have hit the trigger mechanism under two of the three criteria. Based upon population growth, the plant will be at full capacity in 2008. The expansion will double the size of the conditioning tanks. We will convert from gas chlorine to ultraviolet for disinfection. There will be an expansion of the biosolid processing facilities. We will also need to upgrade the electrical and variable frequency drive motors. Last year we just missed out on having our project funded. The problem is that we do not really have an imminent hazard. The loan is \$7 million and the estimated cost is \$8.8 million. There has been a 10% increase in cost estimates from last year. We will look at DOE funding to help finance the remaining \$1.8 million. The Public Works and Utilities Committee has been reviewing this. Discussion followed. Councilmember Huff stated that he wants to make sure EWU is being charged their fair share before we consider an increase to the citizens. If we pay off the bonds in 2012 there should be a decrease in rates. Councilmember Trulove asked if we are treating stormwater. Mr. MacDonald stated that there is some, but we are taking steps to lessen that. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-114. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

2. 06-069 – Resolution D-115 – Hagelin Park Improvement Project – IAC Application Mr. MacDonald stated that this application is for funding through the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Restrooms, playground equipment, and shelters were identified as being in need of repair. They are focusing on Hagelin Park right now. The funding would replace the existing restroom facility, change the existing playground equipment with an emphasis on smaller children, and replace the shelter with two shelters. It would also install walking trails. There is \$171,000 in mitigation monies that we have to spend before 2008. The total cost is \$210,400 and the City has to match 50%. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-115. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

3. 06-070 – Resolution D-116 – Water Reservoir Inspection & Cleaning – Contract Mr. MacDonald stated that this is a budgeted item. A diver will go into the reservoir to clean and inspect it. They do not anticipate needing any other repairs. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approval of Resolution D-116. Councilmember Rast seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

4. 06-054 – Resolution D-117 – Policies and Procedures Ms. Showalter stated that the policies are Emergency Staffing, Leave of Absence Without Pay, and Water Efficiency and Restricted Use. The City vehicle use policy will be worked on further. The General Government Committee discussed these. Councilmember McKeehan moved for approval of Resolution D-117. Councilmember Huff seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. 06-072 – Resolution D-118 – Heart of Tradition Mike Allen, EWU Athletic Department, stated that they are trying to foster tradition. Last fall they put together a committee to help encourage people to come to athletic events. The committee has changed and includes members from the City, West Plains Chamber of Commerce, Pathways to Progress, University Bookstore, University Relations, Cheney Free Press, and others. The goals include creating a message of awareness, focusing on events held in Cheney, and promoting civic and community pride. “Heart of Tradition” was chosen because the City has traditions, the University has traditions, and together we have traditions. Heart was selected because of the color red, which both CHS and EWU use. Tradition is a powerful word. Pathways to Progress also uses a red heart. They are trying to pool their resources to bring greater attention. Councilmember Huff moved for approval of Resolution D-118. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Dave Sonntag, University Relations, stated that they want to make this more than just talk. They felt the phrase lined up well with the City’s vision statement. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

6. 06-067 AWC Matching Grant Application Ms. Showalter stated that this grant application is for the Wellness program and is targeted at a particular health risk for our community. That risk is inactivity and the funding will be used for Walk Across Cheney. We had so much momentum with Walk Across Washington that we wanted to do a Cheney walk. Councilmember Huff moved to approve submittal of the grant application. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

7. 06-071 Strategic Plan (Draft) Mr. Schmidt stated that citizens have asked about the energy taxes and why they are there. Voters approved the taxes on electricity and natural gas. He presented information about revenue and taxes. He stated that the City Council had a workshop retreat on March 18 and he presented the draft vision statement. The City Council developed strategies and prioritized them at the retreat. Economic development was the number one strategy. He recommended concentrating on the first six strategies. Councilmembers have arbitrarily been assigned. Staff will be chosen to work with each team.

K. Council Reports Councilmember Overhauser suggested putting agenda items that have visitors at the beginning of the meeting so they can leave when they are through. Councilmember Huff stated that they received a letter from John Hanke and he moved to send it to the Public Works and Utilities Committee. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously. Councilmember McKeehan asked about the number of blue duplexes that can be put on the lot they are on. Mr. Montague stated that there is room for four.

L. Staff Reports Mr. Schmidt stated that the AWC Board has an opening. He will need to have the names of the three voting delegates for the AWC Annual Conference. Haase Landscaping and KXLY will be doing an extreme yard makeover on Harlan Henderson’s house. They will be giving a concert and a picnic during the week of May 8-12. At the last Council meeting we had items from citizens. The petition was reviewed by

the General Government Committee and they are seeking legal input. The Public Safety Committee discussed Simpson Parkway and they are looking at the options. Councilmember Huff stated that he thinks the speed limit should be increased to 35 MPH on Simpson Parkway since it is an arterial. Discussion followed.

M. Mayor's Report None

N. Further Citizen Comment Christie Bruntlett, 499 Annie Pl, stated that she thought the public was going to be part of the visioning process. Councilmember Overhauser stated that the Council met to do some visioning. Ms. Bruntlett is referring to the Comprehensive Plan visioning. Mr. Richardson stated that there will be a press release coming out soon. The consultant wanted one visioning session in May and then other exercises during the summer. There will be a closing meeting in the fall. The work we are doing this year is just a compliance review to make sure we meet the requirements. Discussion followed. Councilmember Overhauser stated that it might be useful to have a table showing the processes and timelines. There are several things going on at once and they are difficult for people to keep track of. Councilmember Trulove stated that he thinks that would be a good idea. He also stated that we need to do planning but the state requirements are getting in the way. Ms. Bruntlett asked about cable broadcasting of meetings. Mayor Gainer stated that they are working on the details. Bonnie Eccles, 214 N 6th St, asked about the end result of the petitions. Mr. Schmidt stated that the General Government Committee met and they are getting a legal opinion.

O. Executive Session None

P. Adjournment Councilmember Huff moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor