

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2008

**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 Mather, Councilmember Nixon, Councilmember Overhauser, and Councilmember McKeehan. Staff members present included Ms. Fisher, Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Richardson, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Noland, Mr. Winters, Mr. Wahl, Ms. Beeman, Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Mather, Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Jennings. Mayor Gainer stated that Councilmember Stockton and Councilmember Huff requested to be excused due to vacation and Councilmember Trulove requested to be excused due to business. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve the requests. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously. Mayor Gainer stated that Councilmember Mather requested to be excused May 27 due to personal business. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve the request. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

**C. Minutes** of the Regular City Council meeting of April 22, 2008 and Special City Council meeting of April 22, 2008 were approved as distributed.

**D. Claims and Vouchers** nos. 94065, 94072, 94106, 94107, 94110, and 94127 through 94296 in the amount of \$470,018.83; payroll warrants nos. 52995 through 53044 in the amount of \$28,829.05; direct deposits nos. 23382 through 23546 in the amount of \$247,239.47; claims warrants nos. 94072, 94075 through 94105, and 94109 in the amount of \$324,296.33; and transfers to claims clearing fund for distribution in the amount of \$-15,487.92 for a total payroll of \$584,876.93 were approved as read.

**E. Claims for Damages** Ms. Niemeier stated that the Harmon claim is for \$169.99. Councilmember Overhauser moved to postpone this for review by WCIA. Councilmember Nixon stated that this person should have insurance. Councilmember Overhauser stated that we do not think we should pay it. We are going to ask WCIA for their opinion. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously

**F. Small Contracts** Ms. Niemeier stated that the three small contracts are with the Department of Information Services at no cost, the Preschool Coop for 20% of fees collected, and the State Auditor's Office for \$1,890 for a BPA audit. Councilmember Overhauser moved to approve the small contracts. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**G. Information Items** Mayor Gainer proclaimed May 2008 as Older Americans Month. Jim Huttenmaier and Jeff Severs, Greater Spokane, provided a quarterly update. Mr. Huttenmaier stated that the economy in the Pacific Northwest is doing better than other parts of the country. This region added 1,200 new jobs in the first quarter of this year. There were no losses. They have 129 prospects in the pipeline. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they have been working on the rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan. They just finished the visioning portion of the plan and are now ready to focus on some of the big issues that were brought up. They have had twenty community meetings with approximately 220 people involved. The City Council has a vision statement and these two do not conflict in any way. Mayor Gainer stated that the fifty acre park update will be postponed to the next meeting. Ms. Fisher introduced Brian Jennings, the new Community Development Director.

**H. Appointments** None

**I. Citizen Comments** None

### **J. Action Items**

**1. 08-068 – Resolution D-461 – Grant Application for Washington Heritage Capital Projects Fund for Sterling-Moorman House Rehabilitation** Mr. Richardson stated that this grant application has to be filed tomorrow. We are asking for \$87,000 from the Capital Projects Fund. We are promising \$10,000 from city funds. We are going to try to make up the additional \$15,000 out of donations. There is no budget impact today. Councilmember Overhauser stated that we can always reject the grant if we decide later that we do not want to do this. Councilmember Stockton moved for approval of Resolution D-461. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**2. 08-080 – Resolution D-471 – Interlocal Agreement for Ambulance Service** Mr. Winters stated that the fire chiefs went out for a proposal for countywide ambulance services. Currently the average response time to Cheney is seventeen minutes. This will not cost the city anything. Councilmember McKeehan moved for passage of Resolution D-471. Councilmember Nixon seconded. Carried unanimously. Councilmember Overhauser asked if we will get more information once this is signed. Mr. Winters stated that we will.

**3. 08-081 – Resolution D-472 – Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application** Mr. Winters stated that this is a federally funded grant. It is for exercise equipment and health screenings for Fire Department employees. It was already sent in due to a shortened application period. Councilmember Overhauser moved for passage of Resolution D-472. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously. Councilmember Overhauser asked if other city employees could use the equipment. Mr. Winters stated that the equipment will be put in the fire station and other employees should be able to use it.

**4. 08-082 – Resolution D-473 – Cheney Municipal Facilities Assessment – Consultant Agreement** Mr. MacDonald stated that we went out for an RFQ seeking architectural services. NAC was the overwhelming selection by staff. Councilmember Mather also participated. This will look at City Hall, the fire station, police station, Utility Building, and Wren Pierson Building. We want the consultant to evaluate and determine if the facilities are meeting the needs of staff and the public. We are looking for recommendations on whether to modify or build new facilities. There is funding in the budget for this. Councilmember Overhauser asked if part of the solution is an electronic document system. Mr. MacDonald stated that we do need to do something about record retention. The consultant will ask each department what is needed. Councilmember McKeehan moved for approval of Resolution D-473. Councilmember Mather seconded. Carried unanimously.

**5. 08-083 – Resolution D-474 – Water Meter Purchase – Bid Award** Mr. MacDonald stated that we hope to get this project accomplished in the next five years. We are ultimately looking to replace all of the meters with radio read meters. This bid award is for approximately 400 meters and it is a budgeted item. Councilmember McKeehan moved for approval of Resolution D-474. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

**6. 08-084 – Resolution D-475 – Reservoir Fence Installation – Contract Award** Mr. MacDonald stated that this will provide some security around our five reservoirs. It is budgeted. Councilmember Overhauser moved for passage of Resolution D-475. Councilmember Mather seconded. Councilmember Nixon asked why we are doing this. Mr. MacDonald stated that there is a heightened sense of awareness after 9-11, but we are not mandated to do this. Carried unanimously.

**7. 08-087 – Resolution D-478 – 2008 Road and Water Project: Engineering Services** Mr. MacDonald stated that this is with Simpson Engineers. Councilmember Overhauser asked if any of this is in an area where we have had issues with sedimentation. Mr. MacDonald stated that there is a distinction between sedimentation and mains that are deteriorating. We identify where there is a main in bad shape and apply for funding to replace the main. There were probably water issues in this area. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approve of Resolution D-478. Councilmember Nixon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**8. 08-088 – Resolution D-479 – Acceptance of Sole Source Bid for Switch from HD Supply** Mr. Noland stated that we need this switch to complete our substation project. We only received one bid. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approval of Resolution D-479. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**9. 08-089 – Resolution D-480 – Contract Change Orders Policy** Mr. MacDonald stated that we have not had a formal policy on change orders. This should be citywide and not just for Public Works. He changed the policy to reflect that. Anything above \$50,000 will require the approval of the City Administrator. Councilmember McKeehan moved to defer this to the next meeting. Councilmember Nixon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**10. 08-090 – Resolution D-481 – Well Seven Rehabilitation Project – Appropriation Increase** Mr. MacDonald stated that the appropriation is less than what is needed. Even with the cost of replacement, we are

below what was budgeted. Councilmember Overhauser moved to approve Resolution D-481. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**11. 08-091 – Resolution D-482 – Betz Property** Ms. Fisher stated that this will allow the Betz property to be farmed again this year. We do not foresee any changes to the property in the next year. Councilmember McKeehan moved to approve Resolution D-482. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

**12.08-092 – Resolution D-483 – Authorizing the City of Cheney to Pay for Geiger Electronic Home Monitoring Service Costs** Ms. Cooper stated that we entered into the contract with Geiger in 1999. Electronic home monitoring is now considered incarceration. When the offender cannot pay for it, they are just kept in jail. This is a lot less expensive. It is a savings of \$66 per day. Councilmember Overhauser asked if we try to collect that. Ms. Cooper stated that we always bill back for jail costs and we are more likely to collect \$20 per day. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approval of Resolution D-483. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**K. Council Reports** Councilmember Nixon stated that the Cheney Merchants Association will meet again soon. They hope to raise money through Pathways to Progress and the B&O tax. Councilmember Overhauser congratulated everyone that worked on Mayfest. She thanked the Public Works Department for the barricades for Bloomsday. She stated that we have been hearing about an eighteen cent gas tax holiday that is being proposed. Almost everyone realizes that it really is not going to make a difference. The wastewater rate increase that was proposed is only 2.5% of the monthly bill. The eighteen cents from the proposed gas tax would add up to \$9 billion per year. We could be collecting an additional eighty-two cents per month on wastewater rates. She would like to have staff bring the wastewater rate proposal back. The Spokane County Planning and Building Department has laid off 8-10 people because nobody is building homes. Part of the reason the rate increase was not passed was that we are going to have all this revenue from building homes. If we do not do little bits now it is going to be a lot later. The little bits add up nicely. She does not think the Council should wait until 2009 for the increase. Part of the shock of the increase in hookup fees was the size of it. There are signs in the economy that we should reinvestigate this. Councilmember McKeehan asked if anything is happening with a business loop sign on the freeway. Mayor Gainer replied that nothing is happening yet. The Merchants Association has talked about it.

**L. Staff Reports** Ms. Fisher encouraged everyone to participate in Relay for Life. It starts Friday evening. The Council retreat is June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. There will also be a post retreat event. The Council will take an involuntary field trip to the wastewater treatment plant during the retreat. She complimented the capstone senior class at EWU for the great work they are doing on the Comprehensive Plan. She attended the Law Enforcement breakfast. She is going to Wenatchee for a downtown revitalization conference. She attended the EWU Recreation Center grand opening. She also attended the live firefighter training last Tuesday. She now understands why all the apparatus is so important. It was a great experience. Mr. MacDonald stated that we now own the twenty-one acres at the business park. We will be interviewing people about the marketing of the property. He hopes to have the bid for the wastewater treatment plant expansion awarded in June. Well eight will be brought forward at the next meeting. Mr. Noland thanked the councilmembers for their support. He stated that we will be having cake and coffee for Mr. Richardson's retirement on May 30 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. After that we will go to Gattos for pizza.

**M. Mayor's Report** Mayor Gainer stated that Mayfest was a wonderful success. It was a great example of everyone working together. The Merchants Association is working on the sign issue.

**N. Executive Session** Mayor Gainer recessed the meeting at 7:10 p.m. for executive session as per RCW 42.30.110 regarding matters of litigation for five minutes with no action to follow. He asked Ms. Fisher, Ms. Niemeier, and Mr. Schwartz to stay. Mayor Gainer reconvened the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

**O. Adjournment** Councilmember McKeehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor