

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 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 Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Stockton, Councilmember Trulove, and Councilmember McKeehan. Staff members present included Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Maggs, Mr. Montague, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Ableman, and Mr. Wahl.

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

**D. Claims and Vouchers** nos. 86771, 86772, 86809 and 86831 through 86920 in the amount of \$186,181.48 were approved as read.

**E. Claims for Damages** None

**F. Small Contracts** Ms. Niemeier stated that the small contracts are with Hasler for a postage meter at a cost of \$108.75 per month for sixty months, the Two Dudes for a park concert at a cost of \$300, and Ikon for a copy machine in the amount of \$169.05 quarterly. Councilmember Harris moved to approve the small contracts. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

**G. Information Items** Mr. Schmidt introduced Jim Huttenmaier and Robin Toth from the Spokane Economic Development Council. Mr. Huttenmaier provided a quarterly report of EDC activities. They have had three clients in the City of Cheney looking at the Honeywell property in the last quarter. They are working very closely with a prospective purchaser. Ms. Toth explained the Community Empowerment Zone. She stated that they visited the EDA office in Seattle to talk about the Cheney Research and Industrial Park. They are encouraged by the EDA's request that a pre-application be completed. They have also talked to a local contact regarding CERB funding. Councilmember Trulove thanked Mr. Huttenmaier and Ms. Toth for providing a report. Mr. Schmidt introduced Leland Smith who completed the Cheney Research and Industrial Park Feasibility Analysis. This report will be on a future Council agenda. Mr. Smith stated that this project combined economic development tied to specific real estate opportunities. They looked at all industrial property. The site focus was on the Honeywell building and the adjacent acres. Mr. Schmidt stated that this will go to the Finance Committee or General Government and then it will be back at the next Council meeting. Mayor Gainer proclaimed July 31, 2006 as John Montague Day. Mayor Gainer presented Mr. Montague with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Montague stated that it has been a great pleasure to work with everyone. Mayor Gainer stated that there will be a retirement party for Mr. Montague at the American Legion on Friday from 3-6 p.m.

**H. Appointments** None

**I. Citizen Comments** None

### **J. Action Items**

**1. 06-084 – Ordinance U-27 – Parking Violation Penalty Ordinance** Ms. Cooper stated that the total labor and materials cost is approximately \$3.48 per ticket. Councilmember Huff moved for the third reading of Ordinance U-27 in title and summary form only and placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Harris seconded. Carried unanimously. Bonnie, Eccles, 214 N 6<sup>th</sup> St, stated that she has never seen anyone cited for parking in a fire lane in the newspaper. She does not want people to get the impression that the increase in the ticket costs is for revenue. Discussion followed. Councilmember Trulove stated that he suggested a smaller increase at the last meeting. We already get a good rate of return. He is not able to go along with the full increase. Councilmember McKeehan stated that he agrees with Councilmember Trulove. Yes votes: Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Stockton. No votes: Councilmember Rast, Councilmember McKeehan, Councilmember Trulove. Ordinance U-27 passed. Discussion followed.

**2. 06-123 – Ordinance U-31 – Youth Commission Structure & Bi-Laws** Mr. Simmons stated that the Youth Commission was created in 2004. After experience and growth, they are suggesting some changes. Meaghan Stevens, Youth Commissioner, stated that they would like to have four alternates to fill in during absences. They would like to change the appointment time from September to June. They would also like to have a treasurer and public relations position. Councilmember Huff moved for the first reading of Ordinance U-31 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the second and third, and placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Stockton, Councilmember Trulove, Councilmember McKeehan. Ordinance U-31 passed. Mayor Gainer commended the work of the Youth Commission.

**3. 06-099 – Resolution D-142 – MOU with SCOPE for Use of Office Space** Mr. Schmidt stated that we have been working with the Sheriff's Office on an interlocal agreement. He requested deferral to the next meeting to review the changes they made. Councilmember Harris moved to defer this to the next meeting. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

**4. 06-111 – Resolution D-149 – Televising City Council Meetings** Mr. Schmidt stated that this was deferred from the June 27 meeting. This would televise City Council meetings. Councilmember McKeehan asked what kind of quality we would have if we did not spend money on a camera. Tim Gainer, Davis Communications, stated that it would be similar to the quality we would have with the camera they would provide. Councilmember Rast asked if there had been any feedback from the article in the Cheney Free Press. There was no feedback received at the Free Press, Davis Communications, or the Mayor's Office. Councilmember Trulove stated that he would rather spend the money on a sound system for the Council Chambers so that people that are hard of hearing can hear better. Councilmember Stockton stated that a citizen told him that they would rather use the website than watch the meeting. Councilmember Huff moved to table Resolution D-149. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Councilmember McKeehan stated that he would like the cable franchise agreement to have televised Council meetings at no cost to the City. Mr. Gainer stated that the problem with that would be accounting for the labor to run it. Carried with Councilmember McKeehan voting nay.

**5. 06-124 – Resolution D-165 – Resolution Accepting Donation of James Madison Moorman House** Mr. Richardson stated that this is a resolution formally accepting the donation of the Moorman House. Councilmember Overhauser moved to approve Resolution D-165. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

**6. 06-126 – Resolution D-166 – Small Contracts – Authorization** Mr. Schmidt stated that there was a suggestion from Council to give the Mayor authority to enter into small contracts directly. Councilmember Huff moved to table Resolution D-166. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Councilmember Huff stated that he thought it would be nice to do that, but he has talked to members of the Finance Committee and they do a good job of reviewing them. He does not see the need to change that now. Councilmember Trulove stated that the Council should not give up their oversight. Carried unanimously.

**7. 06-127 – Resolution D-167 – WSDOT Maintenance Agreement** Mr. Ableman stated that this is an update of the agreement for striping. The last update was in 2000. Councilmember McKeehan moved for approval of Resolution D-167. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

**8. 06-128 – Resolution D-168 – Friendship Diversion Service Contract** Ms. Cooper stated that the Diversion program reduces recidivism and jail costs. Barbara Miller, Friendship Diversion, explained that diversion is an opportunity for the court to divert people away from the system. They are sent to Friendship and they do an intake. The program components will always include restitution, community service, and the defendant will pay Friendship for the diversion. After completion of the diversion, Friendship sends a letter to the court and asks that the charges be dismissed. Day reporting is a growth component in Spokane. In three months they save Spokane County \$48,000. Day reporting costs \$20 per day. In Spokane County, fees are collected from the defendants based upon ability to pay. The contract proposal for Cheney is that they continue to assess per day costs to the defendants at a rate that they can reasonably afford and bill the city the difference. Councilmember Trulove asked if this includes people with felonies. Ms. Miller stated that it includes people with both misdemeanors and felonies. Councilmember Trulove asked if this will increase our

liability. Ms. Miller stated that she does not think it will. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-168. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously. Ms. Miller stated that they will provide the Municipal Court with statistical and financial information about the program.

**9. 06-129 – Resolution D-169 – Friendship Day Reporting Contract** Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-169. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

**10. 06-125 – Moorman House – Moving Contract** Mr. Richardson stated that the low bidder is still Mountain Homestead. Councilmember McKeehan moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Mountain Homestead, Inc. in the amount of \$25,665.68. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried with Councilmember Huff voting nay.

**K. Council Reports** Councilmember Rast stated that there are No Parking signs along the street near the new EWU Visitors Center. Mr. Ableman stated that the signs were put up at the request of EWU for unloading STA and school buses. Mr. Schmidt stated that we will look into that. Councilmember Overhauser asked if the issue of a sound system for the Council Chambers could go to a committee for review. Mr. Richardson stated that they have a bid for the equipment, but he wants to make sure the equipment is the quality we are looking for. It should be ordered in a couple of weeks. Mr. Schmidt stated that it will also be used for court. Discussion followed. Councilmember Overhauser stated that her computer is not working. Councilmember Huff stated that EWU is drilling another well by Rozell. He asked if we have any input with that. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Department of Ecology allows them to drill wells. We do not have any say unless it interferes with our water. Councilmember Huff asked about the status of Bogle and the WGEP reimbursement. Mr. Maggs stated that we filed a suit against Bogle and we are proceeding with that. WGEP is very reluctant to assume any liability. We may have to bring a Superior Court action against them. Councilmember Trulove attended a meeting with other cities in Spokane County to see if there are areas where we could work together collectively. He was pleasantly surprised with the meeting and expects more meetings in the future. When the Care Center was put in, STA bus service was routed along that area. There is no bus service along N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street now. He suggested that the Mayor meet with Keith Fauerso at the Care Center to see if there is something that can be done about that. He feels that bus service in that area is important. Councilmember Trulove stated that we need to redouble our efforts to keep the power from going out.

**L. Staff Reports** Mr. Richardson stated that a squirrel caused the last power outage. We have had approximately the same number of outages this year as we had last year, but the outages are affecting more people. We are looking at what changes need to be made at the substation and at pest control. The cost to replace the equipment damaged in the last outage will probably be about \$100,000. Instead of thinking about investing in a third substation someday, we are going to have to spend the money now to bring this one back up to full capacity. Councilmember Huff asked if we could build a gate to keep the squirrels out. Mr. Richardson stated that some utilities in urban areas build them inside of buildings, but it costs a lot of money. Mr. Schmidt stated that we have full power now using the Four Lakes substation. Mr. Trulove stated that we need to have staff work up a plan for the future. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Seahawks will be here this weekend. They want to have 12<sup>th</sup> man flags flown. He will check with the Secretary of State to see if we can fly one below the American flag. We have been recruiting a new Fire Chief. We will have three candidates in Cheney on July 31. The City Council will probably meet with the candidates at Sweet Savoy at 6 p.m. Mr. Schmidt thanked Mr. Montague for his service.

**M. Mayor's Report** Mayor Gainer stated that the summer concerts are on Wednesday evenings and there will be a movie in the park on Friday.

**N. Executive Session** None

**O. Adjournment** Councilmember McKeehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Huff seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor