

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 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. Richardson, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Sale, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Ault, Mr. Bollar, Mr. Cathey, Mr. Steiner, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ableman, Mr. Wahl, and Ms. Showalter.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of August 22, 2006 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 87515 through 87638 in the amount of \$549,383.58; payroll warrants nos. 51980 through 52025 in the amount of \$42,670.04; direct deposits nos. 20342 through 20486 in the amount of \$210,419.26; claims warrants nos. 87370 through 87401 in the amount of \$242,226.01; and transfers to claims clearing fund for distribution in the amount of \$9,350.64 for a total payroll of \$504,665.95 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages Ms. Niemeier stated that there are none for approval. We have received a claim for \$40 that is being reviewed.

F. Small Contracts None

G. Information Items Joelean Copeland, West Plains Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber received \$12,000 to promote tourism in the West Plains. They sent brochures out to 180 visitor centers and chambers throughout the western states. They also used the money to promote the area in TV ads. This was a successful campaign with over 5,000 hits to the website. They hope to have better numbers at the end of the year. They would like to add signage at Spokane International Airport at the baggage claim area. It costs \$500 per month for five years. The cost would be about \$1,600 per year, per city plus the Chamber would pay a share.

H. Appointments None

I. Citizen Comments None

J. Action Items

1. 06-133 – Resolution D-174 – Renewal of DAPS MOU with Department of Licensing Mr. Sale stated that this is for renewal of our agreement for Drivers and Plates Searches. There is a small fee of approximately \$30 dollars per year for the service. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-174. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously.

2. 06-145 – Resolution D-182 – Award of Contract for Electrical Trenching & Boring Project Mr. Richardson stated that we have underground secondaries west of Presley Dr. and south of Salnave Rd. that are failing. Councilmember Huff moved for approval of Resolution D-182. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. 06-147 – Resolution D-183 – Professional Services Contract with D. Hittle & Associates for Cheney Substation Project Mr. Richardson stated that this is to take care of the property damage that occurred this summer when the transformer and circuit breaker were damaged. Councilmember Huff asked if we are going to do anything about the squirrels. Mr. Richardson stated that we are working on it. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-183. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. 06-150 – Resolution D-184 – Tourism Promotion Proposal Mr. Sale stated that this is a request to provide up to \$1,500 for advertising for Cheneyfest. This would come out of the hotel/motel tax fund. It would be for ads in the Spokesman Review, Cheney Free Press and other publications, and flyer printing.

Odom Distributing donated a banner. They will also do billboards. Councilmember Trulove asked who is sponsoring the activities. Mr. Sale stated that Pathways to Progress is running it, but it is being organized by the City. Councilmember Huff moved for approval of Resolution D-184. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. 06-151 – Resolution D-185 – New Fire Chief Appointment Mr. Schmidt stated that he is pleased to bring forward the name of Michael Winters as the new Fire Chief. Councilmember McKeegan moved to approve Resolution D-185. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

6. 06-152 – Resolution D-185 – New Aquatics Facility Mr. Schmidt stated that Mayor Gainer and Commissioner Harris had a conversation and it was noted that the County is building aquatic facilities. One has been completed in north Spokane County and a South Hill aquatics facility is in the works. There are no definite plans for a facility on this side of the county. Spokane County paid for the bulk of the 2002 aquatics proposal that the Parks Department had done. Our proposal is to ask the County if they would be willing to work with us on a joint project. City staff has already met with the County Parks staff. They are waiting to hear back from the financial officer to see if there are funds available. This would be a \$3 million proposal for the City of Cheney that would go to the voters. It would all be based on whether the County would participate and the citizens would vote for it. Councilmember Trulove stated that the County would have to commit to a dollar figure not to exceed a certain amount. Mr. Schmidt stated that we can have more information at the next Council meeting if the Council chooses to go forward. Our proposal is bigger than what the County has been building. It was sized to the West Plains. There has been an increase in construction costs. Councilmember Trulove stated that he thinks it is a good idea to pursue this. He hopes there would be someplace to actually swim at the new aquatics center. He feels that it makes a lot of sense to get the County to join with us. Councilmember Trulove moved to pass Resolution D-186. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Councilmember Huff stated that he thinks that it is good to put it to the voters. His concern is that we have a levy out there that needs to pass. Councilmember Overhauser stated that we are not anywhere near that point. This is a long process. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

7. 06-148 – Resolution D-187 – SRTC Arterial Street Applications Mr. MacDonald stated that this authorizes us to submit applications for Federal Highway Administration funding. This is the first call for projects that the Spokane Regional Transportation Council has had since 2004. We received funds in 2004, but there was a change in the criteria for ADA ramps and asphalt costs have gone up. We have to revise the scope. EWU has verbally committed to contributing up to \$60,000 for curb cuts. The proposal is to remove G Street, Presley, N. Second, and Oakland from the scope and resubmit them under the 2006 call for projects. We would ask for 86.5 percent in federal funding. We also want to submit the N. 8th St. project. In this project, N. 8th St. would be extended to intersect Golden Hills Drive. Councilmember Huff asked how much asphalt has increased. Mr. MacDonald stated that it went from \$38 to \$65 per ton and we have been told that may be too low. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-187. Councilmember Harris seconded. Carried unanimously.

8. 06-149 – Resolution D-188 – Cheney Research and Industrial Park: EDA Pre-Application Mr. MacDonald stated that it has almost been one year since the Council authorized submittal of a CEDS application. We have submitted several times to CEDS and have been rated as a priority, but we have never gotten this far. This application is different because we previously were asking for funds to remodel the Honeywell building. The EDA said that they do not want to help with the building, but they are willing to look at helping us get infrastructure to the thirty-eight acres. The thirty-eight acres could be subdivided into ten lots. Acquisition would cost \$414,000. The total cost would be \$926,000 from EDA and \$926,000 from the city. If we do this, we would have the option to decide later if we want to follow through with it. Councilmember Trulove stated that this is a good opportunity. You have to be listed to be able to qualify, but just because you are listed does not mean you will get money. Councilmember Trulove moved for passage of Resolution D-189. Councilmember Rast seconded. Councilmember Huff asked about the matching funds. Mr. MacDonald stated that fifty percent would come from Solid Waste and fifty percent would come from the General Fund. We would look to sell the land after the infrastructure is there. Mr. Schmidt stated that there should be a huge increase in property value. Carried unanimously.

9. 06-153 – Resolution D-189 – 2006 Wastewater I&I Abatement Project – Bid Award Mr. MacDonald stated that Michel's Pipe Services which was previously Gelco was the low bidder. They have done all of the

work. This has been a very successful program. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-189. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

10. 06-146 Resolution Opposing Initiative 933 Relating to Regulations of Private Property Mr. Richardson stated that if I-933 passes, it would have a big impact on the city. Councilmember Trulove stated that he thinks we should have a public hearing on it. Even if you agree with the initiative, it is so poorly drafted that it cannot work. There are sections that would absolutely bankrupt the city. We might decide to take a position after the public hearing. Councilmember Trulove moved to set a public hearing regarding Initiative 933 for September 26. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously.

K. Council Reports Councilmember Rast stated that he met Duncan last week. Councilmember Overhauser thanked Ms. Copeland for attending the meeting. Councilmember Trulove stated that he attended the Governor's Economic and Job Force Development Conference in Vancouver last Thursday. Governor Gregoire was very passionate about economic development in Washington. He thinks that there may be some help for cities like Cheney that are interested in economic development.

L. Staff Reports Mr. Schmidt stated that the audio system in the Council Chambers is a work in progress. We now have hearing devices. Councilmember Trulove stated that they are difficult to put in your ear if you have a hearing aid in. Mr. Schmidt stated that there will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on September 19th at 7 a.m. The budget should be easy this year.

M. Mayor's Report Mayor Gainer stated that it is nice to see the Eastern students back.

N. Executive Session None

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

City Clerk

Mayor