

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 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, and Councilmember Trulove. Staff members present included Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Maggs, Mr. Richardson, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Sale, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Wahl, Mr. Behrens, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Cooper, and Ms. Showalter. Councilmember Stockton and Councilmember McKeehan were excused.

Mayor Gainer stated that Mr. Richardson will have an employee introduction during Information Items. He also stated that he would like to add 07-114 – Ordinance U-57 – City Administrator Residency to the agenda as item number 7. Councilmember Overhauser moved to add the item. Councilmember Harris seconded. Carried unanimously.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 11, 2007 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 91824, 91825 and 91852 through 91961 in the amount of \$258,451.59 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts Ms. Niemeier stated that the small contracts are with the Spokane Basketball Officials Association at a cost of \$59 per game and Lexipol at a cost of \$6,000 for police manuals. Councilmember Harris moved to approve the small contracts. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Councilmember Overhauser stated that there will be recurring update charges with the Lexipol contract. Carried with Councilmember Rast voting nay. Councilmember Rast stated that he cannot support something he has not seen.

G. Information Items Mr. Richardson introduced Elisa Rodriguez, the City's new planner. She has worked for the City of Portland and is a Cheney resident. Linda Graham, Spokane County Conservation District, stated that they expanded their forestry program. They have a tree sale every year. The order period starts on Monday and distribution is the end of March. They have about 29 species of trees. They are still on track to have a soil survey update done next year. They will be conducting a tour the end of October to look at some of the projects they have been working on. There are a variety of things they do, including education programs, water conservation, forestry, and tree pruning. They are also working on some model tree ordinances. Mayor Gainer stated that we are looking into becoming a Tree City. Jim Huttenmaier, Greater Spokane, asked for cooperation in moving forward with continued funding at the level of \$10,000. He introduced Jeff Severs, Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Huttenmaier stated that Mr. Severs will be overseeing part of their economic development programs. He congratulated the City on receiving EDA grant funds and stated that they were very pleased to play a supporting role in that. They would be more than happy to begin circulating a site plan as soon as we can get one to them. They have introduced an international company to Cheney and EWU. They are also working with Allpak on possible expansion. Mr. Severs stated that he is a retired Air Force colonel. His focus will be on economic development and public policy. Greater Spokane is an institute for collaboration. The number one issue everywhere is workforce. He stated that economic development is a very long process. They have been working with a French company since 2004 and have introduced them to EWU. There is still a long way to go with this company.

H. Appointments None

I. Citizen Comments None

J. Action Items

1. 07-127 – Resolution D-348 – Purchase of Nighthawk Systems Remote Disconnect Electric Meters
Mr. Behrens stated that this is a request to purchase remote disconnect collars from Nighthawk Systems. This

is a sole source purchase. Remote disconnect collars give us the ability to disconnect the meter and power from the office. This request is for thirteen collars. Councilmember Rast asked if this is for the whole city. Mr. Behrens stated that eventually we will have the whole city done. It will take a while. Councilmember Huff asked if we have a person that does disconnects. Mr. Behrens stated that the whole crew goes out on disconnect day. We do have a meter technician that does a variety of tasks. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-348. Councilmember Rast seconded. Councilmember Trulove stated that he thinks this is a good idea. Councilmember Overhauser asked how many we have and what the timeline is to get this done. Mr. Behrens stated that he would like to have 2,000 meters changed out over the next three years and then he will reevaluate. Carried unanimously.

2. 07-128 – Resolution D-349 – Cheneyfest Beer Garden Mr. Simmons stated that they have had a request to have a beer garden at Moos Field. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-349. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. 07-129 – Resolution D-350 – RCO Grant Application Mr. Simmons stated that this grant is for matching funds for the Wren Pierson roof. It will be turned into a basketball court. This area is leaking and needs to be addressed. Councilmember Huff moved for passage of Resolution D-350. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously. Councilmember Overhauser asked if the dates are correct in Resolution D-349. Discussion followed.

4. 07-133 – Resolution D-352 – Department of Corrections Contract – Airway Heights Inmate Labor Mr. MacDonald stated that this is housekeeping. It allows us to continue the contract for inmate labor. Councilmember Huff moved to approve Resolution D-352. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Councilmember Rast stated that he still opposes this since there could be sex offenders on the crew. Carried with Councilmember Rast voting nay.

5. 07-132 – Ordinance U-60 – 2007 Budget Amendment Ms. Niemeier stated that this budget amendment includes Lexipol for the Police Department, a temporary employee in Court, street construction in the 103 fund, and contributions and donations for Duncan. That money is being sent to SCRAPS. This also includes money for the transformer. Councilmember Overhauser moved for the first reading of Ordinance U-60 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the second and third, and placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Huff seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Trulove. Ordinance U-60 passed.

6. 07-131 – Ordinance U-61 – Interfund Loan Solid Waste Fund to Light Fund Ms. Niemeier stated that the transformer will be delivered in October. The Light Department would like to fund \$350,000 through an interfund loan. Councilmember Huff moved for the first reading of Ordinance U-61 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the second and third, and placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Trulove. Ordinance U-61 passed. Ms. Niemeier clarified that this is at the Cheney substation.

7. 07-114 – Ordinance U-57 – City Administrator Residency Ms. Showalter stated that this has been to Council committees twice. We have 52 applicants from 22 states, including 15 from Washington, 12 from the Spokane area, and 4 from Cheney. The issue is the residency requirement. Option 1 gives the City Administrator one year to move into the city. Option 2 allows the City Administrator to live within a thirty minute response time. Option 3 would allow the Council to waive the residency requirement on a case by case basis. Option 4 does not change anything other than removing the personnel director designation. Ms. Showalter stated that she feels Option 3 would be best. There could be many reasons why the City Administrator may not want to live in the city limits right away. Councilmember Overhauser moved for the first reading of Ordinance U-57 option three. Councilmember Trulove stated that he objects to removing the personnel officer from the City Administrator's duties. He can delegate that authority if he wants to. He does not think there is any reason to change that. People have to make choices. He does not think the citizens would like it that the City Administrator feels it is not good enough to live here. Councilmember Rast stated that he thinks the citizens would be just as upset as if the council did not live here. Councilmember Harris stated that people have other circumstances. We are going to miss good people if we are not a little flexible.

Councilmember Huff seconded. Doug Nixon, 211 First St, asked what happens if we choose option 1 to give the administrator a year to move to Cheney and then he decides he does not want to live in the city. Ms. Showalter stated that it will be in the employment contract. If they decide not to live here the contract is over. Councilmember Trulove questioned why we would want to remove the personnel officer designation. Councilmember Huff stated that we do not list all the other department heads. Councilmember Trulove stated that the city may want to contract that out some day. Carried with Councilmember Rast and Councilmember Trulove voting nay. Councilmember Harris moved to defer this to the next meeting. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

K. Council Reports Councilmember Overhauser asked if anyone is actively involved in the regional water management dialog. Mr. MacDonald stated that he attended a meeting last winter. He perceived this to be an issue regarding the Rathdrum Prairie, but he does have the meeting on his calendar. Councilmember Overhauser stated that the General Government Committee discussed the moratorium and they felt that there is no need for amendments to the findings of fact at this time. Councilmember Huff stated that he has gotten calls from soccer parents about their inability to use Moos Field because of Cheneyfest. Councilmember Trulove stated that at the General Government Committee meeting the committee felt that we should have an answer quickly on water availability and they encouraged long range planning. Councilmember Overhauser stated that they also recognized that staff has been doing long range planning.

L. Staff Reports Ms. Niemeier stated that there is a Public Works & Utilities Committee meeting tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. There is a Council work session on October 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mr. MacDonald provided a press release. We were awarded EDA funding in the amount of \$1.481 million for the Cheney Research and Industrial Park. That is \$100,000 more than we were originally going to receive. Our match will be 55% and Allpak will match 45% of the remaining \$370,400 needed. Preston Gates & Ellis have development the purchase agreements. They have been working on the PDA. Mr. MacDonald stated that he hopes to have the formal agreement for the EDA funding at the next meeting.

M. Mayor's Report Mayor Gainer stated that Cheneyfest is this weekend, September 27-30.

N. Executive Session None

O. Adjournment Councilmember Huff moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Harris seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor