

December 10, 2003

Mayor Bonnie House called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council Members present were Wayne Lehrman, Bob Dewey, George Webster and Dave Freels.

Minutes were approved as sent for 11/12/03 and 11/17/03.

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the City Council.

As of this date 12/10/03 the Council, by a majority vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the voucher payment list and further described as follows: Claims Fund voucher numbers 36582 through 36880 in the total amount of \$106,736.92 Payroll Fund voucher numbers 21194 through 21236 in the total amount of \$69,872.05.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE #750 – REGARDING 2004 FINAL BUDGET

Mayor House opened the public hearing to discuss Ordinance #750 regarding the 2004 final budget. There was no public input. Mayor House closed the public hearing.

MOTION:

Council Member Lehrman moved to approve Ordinance #750 as presented. Seconded by Council Member Webster. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #751 – AMENDING THE 2003 BUDGET

City Clerk Pam Olsen discussed Ordinance #751 amending the 2003 budget. Olsen explained that she needed to increase the 2003 revenues slightly for Columbia Cove Community Center and the Swimming Pool in order to be in compliance of State Law.

MOTION:

Council Member Webster moved to approve Ordinance #751 as presented. Seconded by Council Member Lehrman. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY TAXES

City Clerk Olsen reported that the Okanogan County Commissioners had contacted her asking if the City would agree to allow the county to do a Road Levy Tax Shift. As soon as the assessor has completed the final numbers in the buy down, they will notify all cities.

MOTION:

Council Member Freels moved to accept the Okanogan County Commissioners proposal to float a road levy tax shift. Seconded by Council Member Lehrman. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #749 – REGARDING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE/OKANOGAN COUNTY SOLID WASTE CONTRACT

Public Works Director Shenyer discussed the proposed Okanogan County Solid Waste Contract. Shenyer explained that the county is required by Washington State to have a solid waste plan and has until December 31, 2003 to comply. Council Member Freels asked if the management of the transfer stations in the county would be changing? Freels stated that poor management has been a huge problem. Shenyer stated that all of the cities in the county are going to need to sign the agreement in order for the county to be able to run the waste program efficiently and keep the rates down and that the agreement will be overseen by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Council Member Dewey voiced his concern about having to sign a 5 year contract. Council was in agreement to have Dick Howe, Sunrise Disposal Manager and SWAC member come down on December 17, 2003 to a special council meeting to answer the councils questions.

Public Works Director Shenyer explained that Ordinance #749 contained a proposed change to the current City of Brewster and Sunrise Disposal contract in regards to where the City of Brewster can dispose of their solid waste. Council agree to consider Ordinance #749 at their December 17, 2003 special meeting.

MAIN AVENUE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Public Works Director Shenyer reminded council of the open house at the Columbia Cove Community Center December 18, 2003 at 5:30 to discuss the Main Avenue Project.

CITY OF BREWSTER/BREWSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SOCCER FIELD LEASE

Council Member Freels stated that he and Council Member Fateley had attended a school board meeting to discuss the soccer field lease. Freels stated that since the city is going to proceed with the construction of the soccer fields on the current field he suggested that the City not charge the school a fee for the 2003-2004 school year for using the field.

MOTION:

Council Member Freels moved to waive the \$4,500 fee for use of the soccer field and to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2003 – 2004 Soccer Field Lease between the Brewster School District and the City of Brewster. Seconded by Council Member Webster. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mayor House and the council welcomed Chief Pfundheller and he reciprocated by stating he was excited to be here. Police Chief Brent Pfundheller discussed the monthly stats and suggested a format change. Pfundheller stated that the work being done on the current stats is work intensive and he feels that the information could be presented in a more effective way. Chief Pfundheller shared a list of projects that he is currently working on or will be in the new year, such as the Explorer Program, boosting participation in the Reserve Officer Program and starting a volunteer police program. He explained that Community-Oriented Policing is very important to him; stating that the better the relationship is with the community the better the police department will be.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS

Council Member Fateley was unable to attend the council meeting but provided a letter recommending to the council a 2.75% wage increase retro-active to January 1, 2003. Fateley's recommendation was based on the work he had done negotiating with the Police Department and their Union Representative. Council Member Freels wanted to go on record as being opposed to the wage increase for the Police Department and stated that he was tired of "it" meaning the way that some of the police department employees have conducted themselves and continued to perform their duties poorly with little regard to the council's instruction.

Council Member Webster feels that although there have been mistakes made in the past in regards to documentation of disciplinary issues in the police department that we owe Chief Pfundheller a clear slate to prove to the council that he will run things differently. Webster also stated that he would be interested in seeing the stats in a graph form. Council Member Dewey stated that he feels that we are headed in a positive direction in regards to the police department and that he is looking forward to a fresh start. Dewey also stated that he thinks that the Police Committee consisting of him and Council Member Fateley should start meeting on a monthly basis with Chief Pfundheller. Council Member Freels feels that the city needs to send the union a message and the only leverage the city has is money. Chief Pfundheller says that he has met with the officers and that the ball is now in their court to prove themselves to him.

MOTION:

Council Member Freels moved to lay one officer off and give the remainder of the police officers a 2.75% wage increase. Motion died for a lack of a second.

MOTION:

Council Member Lehrman moved to approve a 2.75% wage increase for the police department retro-active back to January 1, 2003. Seconded by Council Member Dewey. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned.