

March 9, 2005

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

Minutes were approved as sent for 02/09/05 & 02/23/05.

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 03/09/05 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 38089 through 38177 in the total amount of \$106,696.31 Payroll Fund voucher numbers 21895 through 21926 in the total amount of \$61,211.19.

BREWSTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Keith Johnson, President of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce, was present to discuss a donation to help defer costs for the Visitors Information Center. Johnson reported to the council that the Brewster Senior Center was now running the visitors center from their location. The visitor's center will be open year round. Johnson requested \$500 from the 2% Hotel/Motel Tax.

MOTION:

Council Member Fateley moved to approve the donation of \$500 to the Brewster Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center to be paid out of Hotel/Motel Tax. Seconded by Council Member Lehrman. Motion carried unanimously.

VARIANCE REQUEST

Justin Schober was present to request a variance for his property in the Columbia Shores development. Schober would like to adjust the setbacks at the rear of his property by 10 feet to accommodate a two car garage. Public Works Director Mike Shenyer stated that the property he is referring to is an uninhabited area and borders orchard property owned by George Chapman. George Chapman addressed the council and stated that his main concern was the agricultural chemical drift that may result. Chapman stated that if Mr. Schober and his wife were willing to sign a hold harmless agreement for pesticide over spray damage he would be willing to withdraw his opposition. Mr. Schober agreed to sign the hold harmless agreement.

MOTION:

Council Member Freels moved to approve the variance requested by Justin Schober pending a hold harmless agreement for agricultural chemical drift between Justin Schober and George Chapman in consideration of his orchard. Seconded by Council Member Webster. Motion carried unanimously.

INSURANCE ISSUES

Paul Harrison, Canfield Insurance, was present to go over the services that Cities Insurance Association of Washington provides. Janet Jordan, Pratt Insurance, was present to introduce herself as the City's broker having taken over on September 1, 2004. Jordan reported that her first task as the City's broker was to do an over all inventory of the City's property. Jordan stated that there were some shortfalls in coverage on some properties which has resulted in an increase of the City's premium. Jordan stated that the City's cost would rise gradually over the next three years to avoid an economic hardship on the City. City Clerk Olsen stated that Ms. Jordan had done a great job surveying the City's properties.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY 97 PROJECT

Mike Fleming, representative of the Department of Transportation (DOT), was present to discuss the upcoming Highway 97 project at the North end of the City continuing out to the Okanogan River Bridge. Fleming stated that the project was approximately 3.5 miles with a start date of April 18, 2005 and a projected end date of June 30, 2005. Fleming stated that traffic would be reduced down to one lane during most of the project with one total closure lasting approximately 20 minutes during the work that has to be done on the railroad tracks. Fleming explained that the DOT would also be working on the edge of the Highway just north of the railroad tracks cutting down the existing bank to improve visibility and repairing a culvert near the railroad overpass at the north end of the city during this project.

MILLENNIUM DIGITAL MEDIA – WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS

Public Works Director Shenyer reported that he was still waiting for information from Bob Lam of Millennium Digital Media.

ALLEY CLEANUP

Public Works Director Shenyer asked council if they wanted his crew to do a spring alley cleanup this year. Mayor House stated that she believes that doing the cleanup is a service that people count on and appreciate. Shenyer reported that the one week clean up would cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Council directed Shenyer to proceed with this year's cleanup.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Lt. Kelly Hook went over the monthly report and stats.

GRANT PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Lt. Hook prepared and presented a packet of information regarding a \$2,400 officer training grant available to the police department. Hook explained that the grant would provide gas masks and canisters, coveralls, and gloves for officers in case of an anhydrous ammonia spill. Hook stated that Officer Marcos Ruiz had military training in the use of this equipment as well as a one week training workshop, which would enable Ruiz to train the other officers.

MOTION:

Council Member Lehrman moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$2,400 to be used for officer safety equipment. Seconded by Council Member Freels. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Ernie Moran, Rob and Pam Umberger, and Art Smyth all stated that they want to maintain our own police department. Council Member Fateley stated that the City had already gone to the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office for a proposal. Mayor House explained to those present that she and the council are just gathering information and checking all their options at this point.

Officer Nattalie Cariker was present to express her concern about having a Chief who actually wants to be in a small town and who understands the importance of community oriented policing. Cariker stated that it would be nice to have someone to be able to come into the department and fix the problems that have been going on for a long time. Municipal Court Clerk Juana Escobar and Police Clerk Darlene Gregg both echoed the concerns discussed by Officer Cariker and also stated that it would be a big mistake to hire a Chief internally because there are a lot of internal problems that no one sees on a daily basis. Council Member Fateley urged the public to talk to past and present police officers and police staff to get information. Mayor House assured the citizens present that the issue was not being taken lightly and that her main concern was public safety.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mayor House adjourned into executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss personnel at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor House reconvened into regular session at 7:25 p.m.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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