

12/09/2009

Mayor Lee Webster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council Members present were Kris Dawson, Bob Fateley, Dave Freels, John Scheller and Art Smyth. A quorum was present. Also present were Public Works Director Smith, Chief of Police Ron Oules, Finance Director Pamela Olsen and Deputy Clerk Desha Dawson.

Council Member Freels moved to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting on 11/10/09 as submitted and the Fire District Special Meeting minutes from 10/29/09. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smyth and passed unanimously.

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 12/09/2009 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 #43184 through #43239 in the amount of \$134,559.87. (Skip in check sequence from prior Council - #43183 was a reissued check for a void check #43184, for \$100.00 less. Check was issued with incorrect amount). Payroll Fund voucher numbers #11853 through #11901 in the total amount of \$98,297.18.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

As noted on the Final Agenda – to include: e) Eddie Allen, Rec Center Update and f) 2. USDA Grant, set Public Hearing and F) 3. Stout Vacate, set Public Hearing, c) 3. Airport Update and f) 4. Eastbay Water Rights.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was brought forth.

NCWRCD COUNCIL – SAMANTHA BARTLING:

Samantha Bartling, Program Coordinator for the North Central Washington RC &D, presented to introduce herself and the program she represents. She stated this is a non-profit organization that works with communities on resource issues with economic ties. The program offers a full-time coordinator who works in conjunction with three counties - Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas – to assist in getting special projects going, help obtaining grant monies as well as technical support and project management.

Also present was Jennifer P, from the Economic Development District. This program reactivated in 2003. This group looks at the economic development side of special projects and covers the same three counties. They have a strong focus on entrepreneurship in Washington State. Their focus is helping businesses in these three counties thrive and work directly with them to maintain their livelihood.

They both encouraged the Council and Mayor to contact them at any time if there were any questions, ideas or projects they would like to discuss.

MAYOR WEBSTER:

ORDINANCE NO. 820 – AMENDING CHAPTER 2.56 OF THE BMC:

Council has received and reviewed Ordinance No. 820, which is the amendment to the BMC, Chapter 2.56, and prior Ordinance No. 774, designating the City Public Works Director JD Smith as the Airport Manager. It also outlines that the City Council has concurred the Airport no longer needs an Advisory Airport Commission. As outlined in Ord. 820, some of the code was reworded as well.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 820, which amends the Brewster Municipal Code, Chapter 2.56 and prior Ordinance No. 774, and now appoints Public Works Director JD Smith as the Airport Manager and eliminating the Airport Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fateley and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL BUDGET 2010

ORDINANCE NO. 819 – FINAL BUDGET 2010:

Mayor Webster opened the Public Hearing for the 2010 Final Budget. No Public Comment was brought forth. Mayor Webster then declared the Public Hearing closed.

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve the 2010 Final Budget as proposed. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

EASTBAY WATER RIGHTS:

Mayor Webster stated that the City has been working on the Eastbay Water Rights for the past 3 ½ years and have spent a considerable amount of money to obtain these water rights. The Mayor is frustrated with the DOE process and what it has cost us (time and money) for these water rights. The City had applied for 35 acre feet of water and for what we have spent to obtain these water rights (Attorney fees) we could have bought it outright. Public Works Director Smith reviewed the provisions and restrictions on the agreement from DOE. He would like to challenge this as to how it will affect or existing water rights. The wording is as such that the City would have to meter this water and hire a City Engineer to draw up plans for reduction in water use City wide. He believes these are some pretty significant provisions. The Mayor stated he would be sending a letter to the DOE to go over these areas of concern.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING:

Council Member Freels asked Police Chief Ron Oules if Officer N. Cariker was still scheduled to leave on January 15, 2010. Police Chief Ron Oules stated he did not believe so at this time. Council Member Freels stated it was his understanding that a motion had been made to have a reduction in force in January of 2010, reducing to five (5) officers. Council Member Freels asked if Officer N. Cariker had signed the agreement stating that she was leaving the force in January. Police Chief Ron Oules said an agreement was not signed, and did not recall that one was going to be. Mayor Webster also stated he did not recall any statements regarding any signed agreement by Officer Cariker.

Council Member Freels stated as he understood, the Officers 12% wage increase in 2009 was to come out of the PD 2009 budget, and the car fund would be lost. He also stated that going into 2010, all departments have been asked to operate within the 2009 budget numbers. He does not believe the PD will be able to afford the additional officer or any increases. Council Member Freels states after last year and what happened; the PD needs to "pay the fiddler". They need to reduce their force to five (5) officers – as agreed, and eliminate the DARE Program.

Police Chief Ron Oules stated that the DARE program does not cost the PD anything, it only costs us the officers time. If this officer were placed back on patrol, instead of conducting the DARE program, the time spent in this program is not significant enough to impact patrol times. He also stated that by reducing the number of officers from six (6) to five (5), this would significantly impact the community. The officers are having a hard time handling the calls for service right now with six (6) officers. By reducing the number of officers, things would only get worse with lack of overtime within the budget.

Council Member Freels stated as he understood, the BPD would be reducing their force from six (6) officers down to five (5) in January of 2010. Council Member Fateley disagrees; he does not believe the City can effectively serve its citizens with less than six (6) officers on the force. He asked what responsibility does the City and the Council have to the citizens of this community? Our primary focus is their safety.

Council Member Dawson stated that Officer N. Cariker had stated she was leaving in January of 2010 and that she gave her word on this. Police Chief Ron Oules stated that the original discussion was that Officer N. Cariker had stated she would be leaving her position on the BPD; however, it is her job and ultimately her decision if she decides to leave, or stay.

Police Chief Ron Oules stated that as he recalls, it was not discussed in that manner. He stated that he did not get the car fund monies figured into the budget for 2010; therefore it is not there to take away. He also went on to say he believes that what is being discussed in Council this evening were things that were discussed in a prior Executive Session.

MOTION: Council Member Freels made the motion to reduce the number of BPD Officers from six (6) to five (5) officers, as proposed in a prior motion, to put the money saved from the loss of the one officer back into the budget with part going into the car fund, and the rest into the Airport fund to cover the costs of the lagoon. This motion would also include eliminating the DARE Officer position, with this officer remaining on patrol and use the monies saved from eliminating the DARE program officer to fund cameras for problem areas in the community. He would also like to have an all inclusive annual cost to employ one officer (to include wages, benefits, patrol car maintenance, overtime, etc.)

The motion failed with a vote of two (2) to three (3). Council Member Freels and Council Member Dawson were in favor; Council Member Smyth, Council Member Scheller and Council Member Fateley opposed.

Council Member Scheller asked what the PD car fund looked like at this time. Police Chief Ron Oules stated that there is not one at this time.

Council Member Scheller stated from the way he sees it, the PD is going to have a hard time living within their budget for 2010. He does need more information before he can make a comfortable decision on what is being discussed. However, he did state that he is committed to holding each department within the City to their budgets and not "take" from other departments to keep others running. Each department needs to be responsible and accountable for their own budgets. Public Works Director Smith stated that it was previously addressed that the budget be "revisited" at mid-year, and why couldn't we do this again, with review in June. Public Works Director Smith stated that each department has its own budget, and each department needs to focus on what is happening in their budgets, not other departments. Council Member Dawson agreed with Public Works Director Smith's statement.

Mayor Webster stated that Pateros Mayor, Gail Howe, has expressed an interest in contracting for Police services with Brewster for coverage in their town. Council Member Fateley stated he is interested in this with respect to the amount of money it could generate. Council Member Dawson asked how the City could consider entering a contract with Pateros for Police coverage if, as Police Chief Ron Oules stated prior, we cannot handle our own City's calls for service with the number of Officers we have now? Police Chief Ron Oules stated that the Public Works Department and the PD are very important to the citizens of Brewster. Council Member Freels stated that he believes keeping our City services are important, but does not believe we should be paying for things we do not need, or cannot afford.

Mayor Webster stated he feels very strongly about maintaining the Police Department as it is very important to our City. This is one of the main reasons he became involved in City Government, as well as running for Mayor. Council Member Freels asked how we can work on getting the car fund back into the budget. Council Member Scheller stated this can be revisited. Finance Director Pamela Olsen stated that the budget living document and can be reworked.

FINANCE DIRECTOR PAMELA OLSEN:

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:

Finance Director Pamela Olsen stated that she did not have the Monthly Finance Report available at this time; however, there were no changes from the previous month. She did state that the Park, Pool, Streets and Shops funds are currently in the red. Public Works Director Smith stated that snow removal and the overtime associated with it come out the Streets fund. For the 2009/2010 snow season, costs should be down as the crew will not be called out unless there is at least 3" of snow (compared to call out at 2" of snow) and the backhoe will not be used for snow removal this year as well.

ORDINANCE NO. 818 – AMENDING THE 2009 BUDGET:

Finance Director Pamela Olsen stated that Ordinance No. 818 has been presented to Council, which will amend the 2009 Budget Ordinance No. 808. The budget is usually amended yearly in January/February going into the new year's budget.

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 818, which will amend the prior Ordinance No. 808 for the 2009 Budget. Council Member Dawson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

EDDIE ALLEN – COLUMBIA COVE COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE:

CCCC Director Eddie Allen presented Council with updates. As of 12/9/09 there are 160 individual members, 125 quarterly memberships and 5 family memberships. There are thirteen (13) teams of ten (10) signed up for the indoor soccer league. Taekwondo classes are still being held on Monday and Wednesday. AAU basketball will soon be starting as well.

Director Allen also stated that the recent Taekwondo tournament raised \$1,200. There was an excellent turn out for participants and really appreciated all of the help he received from family members of the participants.

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs are running well. The addition of the Early Head Start program has generated an additional \$800 per month for Rec Center revenue.

Director Allen noted that there were seventeen (17) events at the Rec Center this year (weddings, baptisms and quinceaneras). This also generated close to \$17,000. There are currently four (4) events booked for 2010 already. He also stated that the events at the Rec Center have been going well, and attributes that the security and Police assistance.

Future programs and activities in 2010 include an indoor yard sale on January 9th to raise money to purchase another foosball table for the game room. He would like to check into the feasibility of purchasing a Wii game system, or possibly obtaining one through a donation. He would like to schedule a 3 on 3 basketball tournament and will be checking into holding a 3 day swim camp this summer. There will be a Hunter Safety Course held March 1st through March 5th.

Director Allen stated that in addition to finding ways to raise money for improvements and purchases, they will also be looking for ways to save money as well. He encourages any community input on ways to save, as well as for ideas for programs or events.

He also presented to Council the possibility of surplus the old pool table. This is one of three tables, and it is the oldest one there.

MOTION: Council Member Fateley made the motion to authorize the surplus of one of the three pool tables at the Rec Center. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Director Smith also stated that he is checking into a different security system at the Rec Center. The current system is on an auto-dialer program. The City pays \$1,400 per year for the service agreement. Recently, the auto-dialer was not functioning properly and the service call cost the City \$963.00 for a minor repair. Public Works Director Smith would like to pull out the current system, install hard-wire fire alarms and auto-dialers like those at the WWTP. Our current security system contract expires in March, so he would like for the Council Members to consider this other option prior to the renewal of the current contract.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - J.D. SMITH

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:

Public Works Director Smith stated he did not attend the last Commission meeting, however, stated they are still working on the Title 17 zone maps. Kurt Danison, City Planner, had updated maps which included the de-annexation. There is a meeting next month scheduled with the County Commissioners and the cities of Okanogan County. Council will receive packets and information from this meeting.

USDA GRANT- SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Public Works Director Smith stated the date for the Public Hearing for the USDA Grant needs to be set. Mayor Webster announced that the date for this Public Hearing will be set for Wednesday January 13th, 2010 at 6:00 pm, Brewster City Hall.

STOUT VACATE-SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE: (Jan. 13, 2010)

Public Works Director Smith stated the date for the Public Hearing for the Stout Property Vacate request needs to be set. He also stated that there are infrastructure concerns regarding this vacate request that need to be discussed with respect to the sewer lines that runs through the property. The City is currently working with Mr. Stout and Erlandsen & Associates to get an easement for the City sewer line as well as a relocation of the line. Due to the fact that there is a City line that runs through the property, compensation to the property owner is required. An RCW clause can waive the compensation in order to do the relocation of the line, which is based on the percentage of the property value. This will be discussed with the property owners.

Mayor Webster announced that the date for this Public Hearing will be set for Wednesday January 13th, 2010 at 6:00 pm, Brewster City Hall.

AIRPORT:

Public Works Director Smith stated that there needs to be a change made to the lot lease request submitted by Scott Baker. He had originally requested to lease lots 52 through 63. It was later noted that the Smith's had already leased lots 52 through 54. A change will be made on Mr. Baker's request to reflect that lots 55 through 63 will be leased to him. There will also be an amendment made to the request to extend the lots another 50 feet out towards the runway. Public Works Director Smith asked Roger Erlandsen of Erlandsen & Associates to mark out the property lines for the Baker lots so he will have an exact idea of the property lines and where Mr. Baker will be able to build on those lots.

The FAA funding proposal will be submitted for the taxiway. It will need to be decided if we are going to submit the grant to do the whole length of the runway, or just the stub-outs. As for the east side of the ramp hangar project, the taxiway should be extended out to incorporate the new lots and the existing lots should any of them want to expand.

Public Works Director Smith also noted that the FAA has requested to do a site visit at the Airport, however, has not got a date set and has been playing "phone tag" with them. He will keep Council informed of the date and time once he is able to set this up.

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Darren Moore, City Building Inspector, has been in contact with the local/County EPA. They will also perform a site visit for grant assurances as well as the runway layout plan.

Public Works Director Smith stated that December 11th is the closeout date for the RFQ submissions for the On-call Airport Engineer. He has asked that Council Members Dawson and Scheller as well as the Mayor and himself review these once they are received. Once we have established an On-call Airport Engineer, we can then go forward with application for the FAA Grant in February for the runway project.

The field of view for the new Airport security camera system was discussed.

POLICE CHIEF RON OULES:

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE/STATS:

Police Chief Ron Oules stated that the overtime is in line with normal. Twenty-eight (38) will be reimbursed. Ten hours (10) were for a SWAT call.

Stats are within normal. There were seven (7) burglary calls which is high. But on investigation of some of these, there were not actual burglaries and this put the numbers back in line with normal.

The DARE Program will be over in less than one month. The Annual Cops N' Kids Christmas Program and the Kids Christmas Shoppe will be on Saturday December 12th from 12 pm to 4 pm.

TRAINING:

There was training scheduled for last month for Administrative Assistant Juana Escobar, however this meeting got moved. She will be attending January 4th through the 8th instead. There are no additional costs; it is just that the meeting was moved.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Lee Webster

ATTEST:

City Clerk/Finance Director Pamela Olsen, MMC