

Mayor Lee Webster called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Council Members present were Kris Dawson, Bob Fateley, Dan Smith, John Scheller and Art Smyth. A quorum was present. Also present were Public Works Director Smith, Police Chief Ron Oules, Finance Director Pamela Olsen and Deputy Clerk Desha Dawson.

Council Member Dan Smith moved to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting on 01/13/2010 with corrections submitted, and the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting on 03/10/2010, with corrections per Mayor Webster. The motion was seconded by Council Member John Scheller 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 04/14/10 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 #43469 through #43567, in the amount of \$126,253.37. Payroll Fund voucher numbers #12007 through #12043 in the total amount of \$79,055.82.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Mayor Webster stated he had three topics to add to the agenda. He would like to add:

1. Locust Way Lighting
2. Loucks Lease (Airport Lagoon)
3. Airport Update(s)

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve the Mayor's additions to the Final Agenda. Council Member Fateley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was brought forth.

MAYOR WEBSTER:

LOCUST WAY LIGHTING:

Mayor Webster stated he had spoken to Mrs. Irma Childers, who could not attend the meeting this evening. She has some additional concerns regarding the lighting on Locust Way, which is the street to the cemetery that runs behind her home. Although the City had recently installed three (3) street lights to aid in visibility and safety, at the request of the Locust Way residents, Mrs. Childers has requested that an additional light be installed behind her home. She says that there is a space between two of the street lights that is dark, and is requesting that another light be placed in between them.

Mayor Webster, Police Chief Ron Oules and Public Works Director Smith have all been to this area, at dark, and do not see a need for an additional light, stated that the roadway and Mrs. Childers yard are both adequately lit.

Mayor Webster stated he does not see a need for the additional light, but at the request of Mrs. Childers, he is bringing this request before Council and urges them to go look at this area before making any decisions on additional lighting. Council Member Fateley stated that the City can and will do whatever is necessary to ensure the safety of our citizens, however, we can't fulfill all of them and we need to strongly consider these kinds of requests and their necessity before proceeding.

LOUCKS LEASE (AIRPORT LAGOON):

Mayor Webster stated that the lease between the City and Mr. Loucks for the Airport Lagoon has been drawn up and is ready for signatures. The City will receive a monthly payment for the lease of the lagoon from Mr. Loucks (Blue Water Sanitation). Mr. Loucks stated that all of the permits and applications have been transferred into his business name. Copies of these will be provided to the City for their file. Mr. Loucks also stated that with respect to odor control from the lagoon, he is no longer allowing the grease dumping which was contributing to the odor by not allowing a the crust to form on the top of the lagoon. He has a letter from the DOE which reflects the fact that the grease dumping has stopped and will no longer be allowed.

Council Member Dan Smith asked about the previous lease holder and the requests for improvements that were placed upon him in order to have his agreement renewed by the City. Will these same requests for improvements be asked of the new lease holder? Mayor Webster stated that those requests were made to the previous lease holder and do not apply to the current agreement with Mr. Loucks. Mr. Loucks has made many improvements and will maintain the lagoon as required in the agreement by the City. Council Member Fateley stated he is confident that Mr. Loucks will adhere to the terms of the lease and work with the City to keep the lagoon in compliance with the requirements of the City and State.

MOTION: Council Member Fateley made the motion to authorize Mayor Webster to sign the Brewster Municipal Airport Lagoon Lease between the City and Randy Loucks, owner/operator of Blue Water Sanitation. Council Member Smyth seconded the motion and the motion passed with four (4) in favor, and one (1) abstaining from the vote. (Council Member Smith abstained from voting).

AIRPORT UPDATE:

Mayor Webster gave the Airport update, stating this was information only at this time. He stated that since the Airport Commission dissolved last year, he has made a commitment to ensuring the Airport continues to run smoothly, along with Airport Manager JD Smith. He had previously asked that Code Enforcer/Building Inspector Darren Moore go to the Airport and take pictures as well as addressing any potential concerns. Mr. Moore has contacted the DOE regarding the fuel tanks and spray docks, requesting information from them regarding such. The DOE was on site and did a walk-through of the Airport. At this time, we are awaiting their response, which should be here by Friday April 16th. Mr. Moore will then be able to make the necessary changes.

Scott Baker owner/operator of Versatile Investments, who also leases at the Airport, asked if the issues were going to be taken care of as soon as the report came in. Public Works Director Smith stated that yes they would be, however it would probably not be

until Monday, depending upon whether the report is received by Friday as promised. He also stated that Mr. Moore will only be dealing with issues on the Airport property.

Citizen Dave Smith Jr. asked if Mr. Baker had been allowed to lease additional lots at the Airport. Public Works Director Smith stated that yes he had been, and the lease has been signed. Mr. Smith then asked if Mr. Baker would be responsible for controlling the dust that is blowing around their spray pads from Mr. Baker's hangar space. Mayor Webster stated that this would be addressed at a later date.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:

Mayor Webster stated that he and Police Chief Ron Oules have been attending the regular Consortium meetings with respect to the Okanogan County Jail Fees. At this time, the County is not interested in renewing the current agreement. They are in favor of raising the fees and maintaining the same "formula" used as a base for charging the jail fees to the cities within the County. The Consortium does not want to see a raise in fees and is working to renew the current contract. In order to keep the jail fees reasonable and affordable, all cities within the County are working together to come up with a plan that will work for everyone. The idea of raising the sales tax to help offset some of the fees has been discussed, but has not been decided upon.

At this time, the Mayor would like authorization from the Council to sign the Criminal Justice Interlocal Agreement. By entering this agreement, we join with the other cities in a combined effort to keep our jail fees affordable.

MOTION: Council Member Fateley made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Criminal Justice Interlocal Agreement (Jail Fees Consortium). Council Member Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

MAYORS AWARD:

The Mayors Award is a yearly award that is given to the Citizen who displays outstanding service and dedication to our community. Mayor Webster stated that because of a lot of generosity, time, love and devotion to our local food bank, he has chosen Mr. Mike Lundstrom, Food Bank Coordinator, as the recipient of the 2009 Mayor's Award. Mayor Webster then presented Mr. Lundstrom with a plaque and congratulated him on his award, as well as thanking him for his service to our community. Mr. Lundstrom stated he was grateful for the award and also wanted to recognize the 12+ volunteers who help with the food bank, assisting him. He thanked Mayor Webster for choosing him and stated he does what he can and enjoys helping others in need.

JAIL FEES/MUNICIPAL COURT:

Mayor Webster asked Council for their input regarding the Brewster Municipal Court. He believes this is a very important part of our Police Department. On average, to run the court, it costs the City \$45K-\$47K per year, which comes out of the General Fund. 2009 was a good year for the court, with a total gross of \$90K, half of which goes to the State, the other half to the City (left over goes back into the General Fund for court costs). In 2009, the Municipal Court was in the black for the first time in years. However, in 2010 the numbers will not be as high.

What the Mayor would like to see happen is for the City to come up with a way to fund the court out of the General Fund, with any of the fines and fees monies brought in to go towards beating down the jail fees we currently owe to the County.

Unfortunately, we have only been able to pay \$5K per month, and at this rate – we are not going to make any headway on paying them down. At this point, the Mayor would like a plan, along with a commitment, to get these fees paid.

Police Chief Ron Oules stated he believes that the Municipal Court is invaluable to our community. He does not look at it as a way to “make money” in the sense that he does not tell his officers to go out and write ticket after ticket. The monies the Court receives is a direct result of the officers doing their jobs and doing them well. He would like to see a way for some of the revenues that the court generates go towards jail fees.

Police Chief Ron Oules also recommended that the jail fee charges to be broken out over the entire City budget, not just out of the PD budget. These are not just PD fees, these are City fees (ie: service to the community/City). Council Member Dawson says as she understands it right now, the jail fees do come out of the Police Department Budget, similar to Oroville and Tonasket. Finance Director Pamela Olsen stated although it is not broken out as a separate line item in the PD budget, she can make it a separate line item.

The Mayor stated that this is something he wishes to discuss further, as what we owe to the County for our jail fees is not going away, and we will be facing this billing every year. He would like to find ways, whether it be through a 1/10 of a percent sales tax increase, budgeting strategies or partial coverage through Municipal Court revenues, to get these fees paid down and keep them current.

FINANCE DIRECTOR PAMELA OLSEN:

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:

Finance Director Olsen stated at this time, the General Fund is \$54K in the red, but this should come back into the black after we receive property tax monies, which usually come to us in April or May. We usually receive anywhere from \$75K-\$80K, and \$40K of this will go back into the General Fund. At this time, Finance Director Pamela Olsen has been making an effort to pay \$5,000 each month for past due jail fees, as at this time, the money is just not there to pay the entire balance owed. At the end of 2009, the City had paid \$30K in jail fees.

Public Works Director Smith stated that in April, we will begin to read meters again which should bring some of the Public Works funds up with increased consumption being billed through our regular read months.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - J.D. SMITH

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

1. Public Works Director Smith stated that next week, the crew will begin the annual City Spring Clean-up. We have requested to have four (4) trustees from the Okanogan County Jail to assist the crew with the clean up.

2. The PUD recently replaced the lights at the upper reservoir that had been shot out.
3. City-wide pothole repair has started with repair of the larger potholes first, then the smaller ones later on. The City will be using an EZ Street product, which is a good cold mix material and was recommended by the City of Twisp. This was purchased from a company in Issaquah. John LaBree, Public Works Department, went and picked up the cold mix which saved us money on delivery costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-03 – BACKHOE BIDS:

Public Works Director Smith presented Council with Resolution No. 10-03, from the USDA which outlines our loan requirements. The City is to receive \$45,000 in grant monies from the USDA to go towards a replacement Backhoe. The City will then acquire a \$22,000 loan to assist in covering the cost, as well as the paying \$29,000 from our Public Works vehicle reserve fund. He stated by approving this resolution, we will be accepting the USDA agreement (acceptance of funds).

MOTION: Council Member Smyth mad the motion to approve Resolution No. 10-03, accepting the USDA agreement (acceptance of funds) for the Backhoe replacement funding. Council Member Scheller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

BID AMOUNTS – BID OPENER FOR BACKHOE:

Public Works Director Smith stated that the bids for the Backhoe closed at 3 pm on Friday, April 9th. Four (4) companies submitted bids, which were sealed and recorded on the date of closing. The companies submitting bids were Pape Machinery (John Deere 410 J at \$96,348.42), Jet City Equipment (Terex 860B Elite at \$62,196.75) and NC Machinery, which placed two (2) bids (Primary: Cat 420 E at \$87,256.39 and Alternate: Cat 420 E @ \$89,603.17). Public Works Director Smith has been working with MRSC during this bid process. After review, it was determined by Director Smith that all bids were responsive (met requirements, per bid specs). Council had received copies of all of the bids for review. Public Works Director Smith asked if they had made a decision with respect to which company will receive the bid, based on meeting all requirements. Council stated they have made a decision.

MOTION: Council Member Scheller made the motion to accept the lowest base bid, which was submitted by Jet City Equipment, for the Terex 860B Elite Backhoe, on the USDA Grant. Council Member Smyth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE NO. 822 RE: STOUT STREET:

Mayor Webster opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 822 regarding the Stout Street Vacation request.

Public Works Director Smith reviewed the Staff Report, stating it recommended that Council approve this street vacation.

No public comment was brought forth for the public hearing. Mayor Webster declared the public hearing closed.

MOTION: Council Member Smyth made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 822, approving the Stout Street Vacation. Council Member Fateley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF RON OULES:

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE/STATS:

Police Chief Ron Oules reviewed the incident reports for the month of March. A majority of the malicious mischief reports were for graffiti. Three individuals have been arrested for this, with one of those being the one responsible for the graffiti done on City property. There is another person who the department believes is responsible for about 80% of the graffiti being done around town, but they need to be able to link him with these incidents in order to apprehend him. Via information given to the department regarding this individual, the town he moved here from had the same problems with him.

Police Chief Ron Oules also stated that overall, the numbers are a little high this month, but believes this is due to the amount of junk vehicles the department has been checking into. He also stated that the agency assists (County) are down considerably and that the suspicious person/circumstance calls are up and he is pleased with this, as this indicates people are calling when they suspect something suspicious ie: graffiti, prowling, etc.

With respect to overtime, his officers spent 6-hours assisting in the investigation with the planned school shooting, as well as for miscellaneous graffiti calls. Nine (9) hours will be reimbursed through the State.

PUBLIC HEARING – USDA GRANT FOR PD VEHICLE:

Mayor Webster opened the public hearing for the USDA Police Vehicle Grant application.

Police Chief Ron Oules stated that he has applied for a grant with the USDA for a Patrol Vehicle. The grant is in the beginning phase, and he has been in contact with Rose Running of the USDA. He has applied for \$28,000 in grant money. If the USDA grant is approved, this money will be used along with the \$10,000 the department has available through the Homeland Security Grant, which the PD has already been approved to receive. The only caveat is that with the Homeland Security Grant, the money must be used to purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Police Chief Ron Oules has researched available vehicles, and is interested in purchasing a Chevy Tahoe, for a total price of \$38,000.

As stated, he has been in contact with the USDA (Rose Running) and the application is being reviewed.

No public comment was brought forth for the public hearing. Mayor Webster declared the public hearing closed.

04/14/2010

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Lee Webster

ATTEST:

City Clerk/Finance Director Pamela Olsen, MMC