

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2010

Mayor Rob Eaton called the January 12, 2010 Leavenworth City Council meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., and led the City Council in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Eaton, Peter DeVries, Tibor Lak, Michael Molohon, Lucky Moore, Elmer Larsen, and Cheri Kelley Farivar.

Staff Present: Terry McCauley, Connie Krueger, David Schettler, and Michelle Brooks.

Mayor Eaton excused Councilmember Robert Francis and Finance Director Chantell Steiner. He asked that Director Steiner be kept in our thoughts and prayers as her father has passed away.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Eaton asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of December 8, 2009 Study Session Minutes
3. Approval of December 8, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. 2009 Claims \$239,229.94
5. 2010 Claims \$175,944.73
6. December 2009 Payroll \$162,676.58

Councilmember DeVries moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lak and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

None.

COUNCILMEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember DeVries reported that the Mayor had appointed him to the Chelan-Douglas Health Board and he had recently attended a meeting at which they announced there will be free H1N1 vaccinations on January 19th, 25th and 26th at their facility. He stated that the Chelan-Douglas Health District has given 31,200 doses of the flu vaccine this season.

MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Eaton reviewed the morning Study Session items for the public, which included a one hour training session on Council Do's and Don'ts presented by Washington Cities Insurance Authority, discussion pertaining to utility rate increases that occurred, cleaning up of the shop area and completion of the chain link fence around the shop, group funding applications, the State Auditor's eight county audit of building and land use fees, an easement request, beneficiary release for Icycle Entertainment, Upper Valley Mend Utility

connection fee waiver request, Wayfinding Signage Strategy Contract, Icicle Brewery Industrial Discharge Contract, and the code amendment update.

Mayor Eaton reported that he had met with Waldron & Company to discuss a potential contract with them for their services of searching for a City Administrator. He explained that the company will be faxing over a proposal and an agreement should be brought to Council by the next Council meeting. Mayor Eaton stated that Waldron & Company seemed confident that the process can be brought to completion within ninety days and that the firm would be ready to begin as soon as Monday.

Mayor Eaton announced that the nationally syndicated Seattle television show "Back Home with Lisa Putnam" will be featuring Leavenworth quarterly.

Mayor Eaton reported that Icicle Station had 500 riders in October, 756 riders in November and 2027 riders in December. He noted that Amtrak had projected 4000 riders from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2007-2008 Audit Management Letter

Mayor Eaton reviewed the management letter from the State Auditor and stated that the 2007-2008 Audit was a good audit with no serious findings.

2. Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Beneficiary Release for Icicle Entertainment

Mayor Eaton explained that this was discussed in the morning Study Session and is merely a housekeeping item.

Councilmember DeVries moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the beneficiary release for Icicle Entertainment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon and passed unanimously.

3. Authorize the Mayor to Sign the State Archives Grant Agreements

Deputy Clerk Michelle Brooks explained to Council the two agreements and clarified the conflicting sections regarding payment as was described to her by Mr. Patrick Williams, Local Records Grant Program Coordinator, State Archives. Mr. Williams explained to Clerk Brooks that the Grant Agreement supersedes the Service Level Agreement. The Service Level Agreement is a blanket agreement, and the Payment section in the Grant Agreement is the process that will be followed.

Councilmember Larsen moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the State Archives Grant Agreements. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moore and passed unanimously.

4. Motion to Establish the Date of a Public Meeting for the Leavenworth Municipal Code Amendments

Director Krueger explained that this was discussed at the morning Study Session and that Council needs to set a Public Meeting date and time for the Leavenworth Municipal Code Amendments.

Councilmember Molohon moved to set a Public Meeting for the Leavenworth Municipal Code Amendments for January 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeVries.

Councilmember Larsen stated that he wants to have a Public Hearing rather than a Public Meeting, and Director Krueger reviewed her explanation from the morning Study Session, and reiterated that the Planning Commission had already held a Public Hearing on the Leavenworth Municipal Code Amendments that no one attended. She also explained that should Council decide to make changes to the proposed amendments the Public would not have time to review or comment on them if this was done at a Public Hearing. Director Krueger recommended against holding a Public Hearing rather than a Public Meeting at this time, stating that if Council made changes to the proposed amendments at the Public Meeting then another Public Hearing would be held for Public comment.

Councilmember Molohon withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Lak moved to set a Public Meeting for the Leavenworth Municipal Code Amendments for January 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon and passed unanimously.

5. Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Interim City Administrator Agreement

Mayor Eaton explained that he had met with Senior Staff and received recommendations from them based on current workload, etc. He stated that based on Senior Staff recommendations he met with former City Administrator Rich Brinkman and has developed an Interim City Administrator Agreement that is now before Council for approval. Mayor Eaton noted that the tentative schedule for Interim Administrator Brinkman would be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday's from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. plus Council meetings, and his duties would be staff coordination with projects, council agendas, calls, emails, basic daily housekeeping needed by a City Administrator.

Councilmember DeVries moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interim City Administrator Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lak and passed 5 to 1 with Councilmember Larsen opposed.

Councilmember Larsen stated that he would be more comfortable with "fresh eyes" coming into City Hall for the Interim City Administrator. He referenced his conversations with Dan McNutt and Mr. McNutt's recommendations. Councilmember Larsen stated that he wants a full time Interim City Administrator.

Councilmember DeVries said that the decision Council has to make is to retain someone as soon as possible for Interim Administrator, and that the cost for a full time Interim City Administrator will far exceed the proposal that Mayor Eaton has developed with former Administrator Brinkman. He also stated that by retaining former Administrator Brinkman as the Interim Administrator there will be no time lost on familiarizing a new person with City Operations. Councilmember DeVries stated that although it may not be the best solution, it is certainly the most advantageous.

Councilmember Cheri Kelley Farivar reported that she had researched by calling other Mayors who have dealt with similar situations and see's it both ways. She agrees with Councilmember Larsen in that fresh eyes may help prepare the City for a new Administrator, but also recognizes the time constraints imposed on bringing a new Interim in. Councilmember Farivar stated that if a new City Administrator can be hired within 90 days as Waldron said was possible than she supports the contract with former Administrator Brinkman.

Councilmember Lak said that he can see the benefit to both options, but reminded Council what the representative from Washington Cities Insurance Authorities told them at the training in the morning Study Session, that the City Council does not hire or fire only the Mayor does.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Steve Demarest, 321 9th Street and 7205 Icicle Road: Mr. Demarest spoke to Council regarding his concerns with his business license application that he submitted to the City in May of 2009 and still has not received a decision on. He presented a timeline of events to Council and noted that his complaint is that he has not received a decision to date on his application, nor has his business license been issued. He feels as though the City has “stonewalled” him.

City Attorney Terry McCauley responded to Mr. Demarest by stating that the City is in the process of completing the interpretation and should be completed by January 26, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Councilmember DeVries moved to adjourn the January 12, 2010 meeting of the Leavenworth City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon, which passed 5 to 1 with Councilmember Lak opposed. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

APPROVED

Robert C. Eaton
Mayor

ATTEST

Michelle Brooks
Deputy Clerk