

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 25, 2011

Mayor Robert Eaton called the January 25, 2011 Leavenworth City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the City Council in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Robert Eaton, Tibor Lak, Peter DeVries, Elmer Larsen, Cheri Kelley Farivar, Michael Molohon, and Larry Meyer.

Staff Present: Joel Walinski, Chantell Steiner, Connie Krueger, David Schettler and City Attorney Terry McCauley.

Mayor Eaton excused Councilmember Robert Francis who was away on vacation.

Mayor Eaton made a special welcome to Boy Scouts Troop 19 who was in attendance.

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 January 11, 2011 Study Session Minutes
3. Approval of January 11, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. 2010 Claims \$40,086.53, 2011 Claims \$104,872.76

Councilmember Lak motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Meyer and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Lieutenant Bruce Long was present to announce his reassignment to the Leavenworth and Cashmere area. Lieutenant Long stated that he was planning on attending at least one of the two monthly Council Meetings. Mr. Long announced his cell phone number and reiterated to the Staff and Council that if they ever have any public safety concerns that they are encouraged to call him directly.

Mayor Eaton expressed his concern regarding graffiti tagging within the City. Mayor Eaton reported on two separate incidents which involved tagging. One took place over the past weekend at the 8th Street Restrooms, and another was located at the old warehouse which involved the trailer to the Autumn Leaf Float.

Further discussion took place regarding parking violations, tagging, and safety concerns at the Skate Park.

COUNCILMEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Meyer informed Council of the Link meeting which he had attended, he was given the opportunity to tour the facility and let it be known to the Link Director that the City of Leavenworth had representation.

Councilmember Larsen informed Council of the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) committee meeting scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011. Councilmember Larsen requested recommendations from the Council and Staff related to the Transfer Station, or recycling. Mayor Eaton commented on the success of the yard waste program. Mayor Eaton felt that it would be great if the SWAC committee could continue that partnership which would allow the continuation of the composting program. Councilmember Larsen noted that discussion was taking place referring to the expansion of the composting facility. Councilmember Larsen also reported on the two separate events that the County holds related to recycling, one is held at the transfer station which allows the recycling of white goods (metal) free of charge, although there is a fee to remove freon if necessary. The second event takes place usually at the Peshastin Elementary where the County offers removal of hazardous materials which includes; paint, or agricultural waste.

Councilmember Lak reported on the Economic committee meeting which was held earlier that day. Councilmember Lak reported on discussions that took place which involved the placement of tourist generated dollars into future budgets. Councilmember Lak explained that when small projects which enhance the Bavarian theme come to light the City can react and move forward with those projects if the money is available and in place. Councilmember Lak also stated that an informal request has been made by the Lion's Club for the spring of 2012. The Lion's Club will be bringing a convention of 250 people into town and would like the opportunity to use one of the City's days for the Festhalle. Councilmember Lak acknowledged the fact that the City cannot donate the Festhalle free of charge but can donate if for a minimal fee of \$50.00. Councilmember Lak suspects a request will be brought into City Hall by the Lion's Club, and he recommends the Council approves that request. Councilmember Lak also noted further discussions on the golf course sign and the Festhalle.

Councilmember DeVries informed the Council of his report from the Finance Committee noting that the hotel-motel taxes are up 3.2%, and the retail sales tax is up 8.21%. Property taxes are coming in close in comparison to 2009 figures, and the real estate excise tax is up from the previous year which was \$56,000 and this year it is \$75,257. Councilmember DeVries also noted that he has been elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Chelan Douglas Health Board.

MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Eaton reported on the Community Foundation of North Central Washington. Mayor Eaton explained to Council some aspects of the web site which is created by the Community Foundation of NCW. Mayor Eaton stated that there is a funding request for this website of \$1,000 per year for a total of three years. Mayor Eaton has asked Beth Stipe, Executive Director of the Community Foundation to attend future study sessions and describe to Council what this web site does for partner communities that are involved. Mayor Eaton commented on the final leg of the partnership between the City and Russia. Mayor Eaton noted that Andre, the Economic Development Director for Uzivo, Russia, will be arriving at the end of February and will be hosted for one week. Mayor Eaton described the different endeavors that occurred between Leavenworth and Kamchatka over the past three years. Mayor Eaton also updated Council on the two separate appropriations that are currently at the Federal level. The first appropriation for 1.63 million which is through Congressman Hasting's

office for Pine and Ski Hill is still in process. The second appropriation is through Senator Murray's office for Phase II of the Icicle Station. Mayor Eaton informed Council that the City's request for the \$900,000 has remained intact. Mayor Eaton notified Council of the meeting that he had with County Commissioner, Keith Goehner. Mayor Eaton met with Mr. Goehner in hopes to encourage the County to contribute more funding to the 6 Federal signs being placed on Highway 90, which will direct tourists to Leavenworth. Mayor Eaton also commented on a couple of issues that he received from a constituent involving; air quality during the winter, as well as issues with citizens placing snow in the City streets after plows make their rounds.

City Administrator Joel Walinski informed Council that Chelan County Commissioners presented the City with \$15,000 to go towards the Chumstick Trail. Administrator Walinski commented on the work that will take place in developing an interlocal agreement with the County on ownership and maintenance of the trail. Administrator Walinski stopped by the school board meeting to discuss the area of the trail that will pass through the high school property, Walinski noted that an interlocal agreement will need to be in place with the school district as well. Administrator Walinski noted that the City is moving ahead on the project, although, there is still a lot of ground work that will need to be done in terms of establishing the right of way. Administrator Walinski commented on work that is being done by City Directors towards applying for a transportation preservation grant. Administrator Walinski noted that this grant would not be for reconstruction, but could be applied for re-surfacing or sealing a portion of Pine Street or Ski Hill. Administrator Walinski also reminded Council and Staff of the NIMS (National Incident Management System) training that is being held in the Council Chambers Thursday morning at 8:30.

Community Development Director Connie Krueger reported on the meeting held by the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Director Krueger stated that the committee members met downtown and looked for strategies for the Wayfinding Signs. Director Krueger stated that some of the demo products had arrived and Public Works Director Dave Schettler was able to mount some of those signs along Highway 2. Director Krueger noted that those signs will only be up and available to view for a short amount of time tonight, and asked Council and Staff to consider viewing and responding with any feedback or suggestions. Short discussion took place between Council and Staff regarding material used, size, location, language, and fonts to be used on the signs. Director Krueger reassured Council of the hard work that has been put into the creation of these signs by the Committee.

Public Works Director Dave Schettler reported on the progress of the Cupola project. Director Schettler stated that the wood framing has been completed and was inspected today. Director Schettler reported that the completion date is set for April 15th, which will be three weeks before Maifest. This will allow for time to plan and arrange the ceremony for the re-dedication of the Carillon Bells. Mayor Eaton thanked the Council, Chamber of Commerce, and the Caroline Committee for bringing this project to the fore front. Mayor Eaton expressed his excitement for Maifest and the reintroduction of the Bells to the community.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. Council Committee Assignments

Mayor Pro Tempore Tibor Lak made two official appointments. Mayor Pro Tem Lak made the first official appointment of Councilmember Larry Meyer to the Parks Committee. The second

appointment was made for Councilmember Robert Francis to be appointed to the Public Works Committee.

Councilmember DeVries motioned to approve the Council Committee Assignments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon and passed unanimously.

2. Ad-Hoc Committee Assignments

Mayor Eaton announced the 2011 Ad-Hoc Committee Assignments as follows:

Solid Waste: Elmer Larsen

Link: Larry Meyer

RTPO: Tibor Lak

RiverCom Board: Fire Chief Kelly O'Brien and Joel Walinski

Chelan-Douglas Health Board: Peter DeVreis

Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce: Peter DeVries

Leavenworth Golf Course: Tibor Lak and Robert Francis

Housing Task Force: Elmer Larsen, Peter DeVries, and Robert Eaton

PRSA: Robert Francis

Leavenworth Civic Center Foundation: Elmer Larsen

LAP: Peter DeVries and Elmer Larsen

Art in the Park: Larry Meyer

Economic Development District: Michael Molohon

Residential Advisory Committee: Elmer Larsen and Cheri Farivar

Regional Service Network: Peter DeVries

3. Website Design Applicants Discussion

Administrator Walinski commented on the amount of work Permit Coordinator Nicole Unger has done in preparing for the proposals that the City had received for the web design. In the end, the City had received 12 proposals, which has been reduced to 3 finalists for presentations. Administrator Walinski explained the major differences amongst the companies. Administrator Walinski stated that 11worth Graphics would fall within the City's budget, although, it looked as if it would only be a conversion from our current web site. The second company, Ridgeline Graphics, would be slightly over budget, but would allow for more options. The third company, Civic Plus, came in over budget, but would include all the bells and whistles. Administrator Walinski stated that all three of these designers would bring improvement to our current web site. He then asked the Council what they envisioned the web site to be, and what are they looking for in an end product.

Councilmember Farivar expressed her concern regarding Civic Plus; she noted that the estimate which was received was out of the City's budget. Councilmember Farivar noted that one of the finalists was a local vendor, which happened to be attending the Council Meeting.

Councilmember Lak questioned Matt Fields about purchasing more service from him, or if this was the baseline of what he had to offer.

Mr. Fields stated that his proposal included a baseline figure, which could include more options.

Mayor Eaton stopped any further comments due to the process of this being an awardable contract and would be an unfair advantage to other vendors. All vendors will be invited back to discuss options with the Economic Development Committee.

4. Parking Violations Fees/Towing

Administrator Walinski noted that all parking fees are \$25.00 regardless of the type of violation that occurs. Administrator Walinski provided Council with a summary of charges from other cities. Administrator Walinski noted that the Council had previously been given incorrect information regarding the \$10.00 parking violation fee. Administrator Walinski corrected that amount in his initial statement to the Council, and at this point questioned the Council with this new information if they were still favorable to increasing these fines?

Councilmember Farivar noted that \$25.00 seems to be more of a deterrent and based on this new information she stated that she would be happy to withdraw her initial request for review. Councilmember Farivar also noted that as long as the City continues to work together with the Chelan County Sheriff's office in writing tickets and eliminating warnings that it should improve the issues that were occurring.

Administrator Walinski reported that towing fees are set by the state's WAC's and RCW's. Director Schettler explained the procedure for impounding and selling vehicles. Administrator Walinski noted that the City would be held liable for all fees incurred with the cost of towing a vehicle if that vehicle is not claimed. Administrator Walinski suggested that the City develop an agreement with a local vendor to help cut costs related to towing to the Wenatchee area.

Council continued discussion on concepts for a contract and alternatives to warnings and ticketing. Mayor Eaton reiterated that this subject is being discussed for public safety and snow plowing issues that arise.

5. Motion to Authorize the Following Design Review Board Appointments

Mayor Eaton announced the Design Review Board Appointments as follows:

Position 1 – Bob Kelly
Position 2 – Fred Dowdy
Position 3 – Gabriele Thorp
Position 4 – Ken Kohnhorst
Position 5 – Mary Morse
Alternate – Lynn Reppas

Councilmember DeVries motioned to authorize the Design Review Board appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon and passed unanimously.

Councilmember DeVries noted that he is pleased to have a full board again. Mayor Eaton added that he is working on the appointments for the Planning Commission and should have those before Council soon.

INFORMATION ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bill Lynn – 9700 E. Leavenworth Rd.: Mr. Lynn informed Council on his election as the Leavenworth Chamber President. Mr. Lynn stated that his goal is to work closely with the City and keep the good rapport going. Mr. Lynn also commented on the suggestion made earlier by Councilmember Lak in regards to budgeting for unexpected projects that may arise throughout the year, Mr. Lynn agreed with his thoughts and proposed that same idea for the Chamber. Mr. Lynn also questioned the status of the noise ordinance.

Mayor Eaton noted that the noise ordinance is being reviewed and should be in front of Council over the next two months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Eaton announced that Council was going to enter into executive session at 7:05 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(A) to discuss Potential Litigation and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) to discuss Property Acquisition for approximately one hour, with no action to be taken.

Councilmember Farivar moved to enter into executive session for approximately one hour to discuss public property acquisitions and litigation with no action to be taken in open session. Councilmember Lak seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilmember DeVries moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Molohon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Councilmember DeVries motioned to adjourn the January 25, 2011 meeting of the Leavenworth City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Meyer and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Robert C. Eaton
Mayor

ATTEST

Chantell Steiner
Finance Director/City Clerk