

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON  
601 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Warden called the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Spencer Humphreys, Troop #649, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members, Chambers, Everett, Poteet, Rainer, Taylor, and Troemel were present. Council Member Becken had requested an excused absence.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** - None

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Council Member Troemel had attended the Prosser Chamber of Commerce luncheon where the guest speaker from Hospice discussed the services they provided. In addition, Council Member Troemel reported the Chamber Director was pleased with Hotel Motel tax revenue and was optimistic about future receipts.

Council Member Taylor said the Regional Transportation Group would be hosting a legislative breakfast.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Taylor to approve Consent Agenda Items A - C.

- a. Approve Council Minutes of September 23, 2008
- b. Approve Special Joint Work Session Minutes of September 29, 2008
- c. Approve Special Work Session Minutes of September 30, 2008

Motion carried unanimously.

## **COUNCIL ACTION**

### **APPROVE THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NOR'WEST ELECTRIC FOR THE "DOWNTOWN ELECTRICAL REPAIR PROJECT" IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,200.96**

Finance Director Cathleen Koch reported Jane Haggerty had raised nearly \$16,000 from the community to add to the Hotel Motel Fund to contribute to this repair project.

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve the bid and authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Nor'West Electric for the "Downtown Electrical Repair Project" in an amount not to exceed \$40,200.96. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Becken).

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a) Water Fund Discussion**

Ted Pooler with Huibregtse, Louman Associations, Inc. provided information for a water rate analysis. Mr. Pooler recommended cancelling a 2008 planned transfer to reserves of \$125,000 as it was not needed in 2008. Also, \$90,000 budgeted for Capital Outlays/Machinery & Equipment had not been spent in 2008. Both of these figures would bring the 2008 budget into better standing at year end.

Mr. Pooler stated water consumption had remained consistent over the years. Mr. Pooler said for regular operations only, not including the North Prosser Expansion Project, a rate increase of 5 percent in 2009 and 5 percent in 2010 was needed for the Water Fund. The other option would be a 10 percent increase in one year.

Council Member Taylor asked about purchasing additional water rights. If the City increased water production, perhaps businesses would be attracted to the area. Mr. Pooler said the City will need water rights around 2020. Mr. Pooler suggested developing a rate structure for high end users.

Council Member Everett asked what other options the Council could consider. Mr. Pooler said the planned meter replacement and hydrant replacement projects could be placed on hold, but costs continue to increase every year. Council Member Everett thought the recent 8 percent water rate increase was all that was needed. Mr. Pooler said an 18 percent increase overall was required. The 8 percent increase was needed just to balance the 2008 Water Fund.

Finance Director Koch noted the Preliminary 2009 Budget contained a 2 percent increase in the utility tax. Mr. Pooler said the staff was to be commended for their work on the Preliminary 2009 Budget.

b) General Fund Budget Discussion

Council Member Taylor suggested postponing this item until all Council Members were present. With no objection voiced, the discussion was postponed.

Council Member Taylor asked about irrigation rates. Mr. Pooler said the City lost money as the annual irrigation revenue is approximately \$200,000, with costs around \$240,000 to \$250,000 each year. Mr. Pooler suggested doubling irrigation rates.

Council Member Everett suggested increasing irrigation rates by 20 percent and increasing water rates by 2.5 percent. City Attorney Howard Saxton first wanted to review the agreement with Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) for compliance issues and/or restrictions before proposing changes to irrigation rates.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Warden recessed the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council to conduct an Executive Session, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i), to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The Executive Session was expected to last for 20 minutes and to include the Mayor and Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, City Clerk, and the Finance Director.

*[Clerk's Note: The Council took a brief at ease and the Executive Session began at 8:18 p.m.]*

At 8:38 p.m., City Clerk Sherry Biggs announced the Executive Session would be extended by an additional five minutes.

At 8:42 p.m., Mayor Warden reconvened the Special Meeting of the City Council and stated that no action or decision had occurred in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

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City Clerk Sherry Biggs