

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON  
601 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dominick Legones, Troop #649, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members Becken, Chambers, Everett, Poteet, Rainer, Taylor, and Troemel were present.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

James Tavary, Prosser Memorial Hospital CEO, was scheduled to appear before the Council. Mr. Tavary was unable to attend and submitted a written request for funding.

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Council Member Troemel was pleased to have the roadway striping completed on Bennett Avenue.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

City Administrator Charlie Bush had met recently with Ashley Probart of the Association of Washington Cities. Mr. Bush was going to begin drafting the City's legislative priority list.

City Administrator Bush was scheduled to meet later in the week with representatives from the railroad to discuss the Lee Road crossing.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Rainer removed Item E from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Chambers to approve Consent Agenda Items A – D and Item F.

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Check Nos. 500445 through 500513 in the Amount of \$123,711.78 for the September 30, 2008 Payroll
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 61614 through 61721 in the Amount of \$332,144.77 and the IRS Federal Tax Wire in the Amount of \$42,229.78 for the Period Ending October 14, 2008

- c. Accept Invoice for Operation of the Visitor Information Center and Reimbursable Tourism and Promotional Expenses for the Month of September 2008 and Authorize Payment for those Services in the Amount of \$5,500
- d. Accept Monthly Report by Prosser Economic Development Association for the Month of September 2008 and Authorize Payment for those Services in the Amount of \$2,166.66
- f. Approve Special Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2008

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Rainer asked for additional information on the requested increase for the Arculus Design and Technical Services contract. City Clerk Sherry Biggs said the Council had previously awarded this contract for Phase I and Phase II of the design services for the Library Reroofing and HVAC project. However, the consultant prepared the contract with only Phase I listed and the City had overlooked the error as well. This appeared to have been a mutual mistake and a correction was now needed.

A motion was made by Council Member Rainer, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve Item E.

- e. Request for \$3,300 Increase to Prosser Library Roof/HVAC Consulting Contract with Arculus Design & Technical Services.

Motion passed 6 YES, 1 NO (Troemel).

### **COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08- 2630 AMENDING PROSSER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 21.04 “NOISE REGULATIONS IN CITY PARKS”**

City Attorney Howard Saxton said the Council had recently made changes to this chapter. Upon codification, an error from 2004 was brought to light, along with a sentence that needed to be reworded. Ordinance No. 08-2630 would correct this.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Chambers to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2630 amending Prosser Municipal Code Chapter 21.04. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO.

Council Member Everett requested that in the future, changes of this nature be pointed out in the ordinances.

## **ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 08-1255 ADOPTING AN IDENTITY THEFT POLICY**

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Resolution No. 08-1255 adopting an Identity Theft Policy. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **a) General Fund Discussion**

Council Member Taylor asked if irrigation issues were open for discussion. Attorney Saxton was reviewing the matter and asked that this be brought up at a future budget discussion.

Finance Director Cathleen Koch explained the proposed figures for the Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund revenues. The decrease in "Retail Sales and Use Tax" was based on the closing of an auto sales business in Prosser and the general decline of the economy.

Council Member Poteet suggested changing the proposed figure of \$875,000 to \$750,000 for "Retail Sales and Use Tax."

The Council Members also discussed proposed increases to utility taxes; water and/or sewer rate increases; the benefits of utilizing a franchise attorney; a vehicle tax; and the need for a sales tax audit.

Ms. Koch said the City would be receiving property tax revenue from the County later in October.

Council Member Taylor recommended keeping the proposed figure of \$875,000 for "Retail Sales and Use Tax" and review the projected carryover and the property tax revenue figures at a future meeting. Council Member Taylor complimented Ms. Koch for her work on the preliminary budget.

Mayor Warden said the streamlined sales tax and mitigation figures from the state were a critical piece of the budget, but remained an unknown amount at this time.

*[Clerk's Note: The Council recessed at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened at 8:57 p.m.]*

Council Member Everett suggested discussing City expenses. Council Member Taylor offered the idea of an equipment reserve for each of the major funds. Mr. Taylor said a certain percentage of the reserve balance could be designated for needed replacement items.

Council Member Everett expressed his concern with the large decrease in the Recreation Department. Mr. Everett felt it would be impossible to maintain the existing programs on such a limited budget. City Administrator Bush said Kellie Brennan, Research and

Program Development Manager, was already developing recreation programs for 2009. Finance Director Koch said discussions had included recreation fee increases with possible scholarships for low income households. Council Member Everett wished to subsidize or expand recreation programs.

Other recreation topics discussed included an analysis of existing programs offered by the City; partnering with the Chamber of Commerce for Sportsfest; and resident vs. non-resident fee schedules.

Council Member Chambers wished to first see the analysis and continue with programs that paid for themselves.

Council Member Taylor inquired about animal control costs and staffing needs. Mr. Taylor said this continued to be a problem for Grandview and Sunnyside also. Benton County was looking into animal control issues as well. City Administrator Bush said the Prosser Code Compliance Officer spent over half his time on animal control during the summer. Mr. Taylor asked about the Police Department's involvement with animal control issues.

*[Clerk's Note: City Attorney Saxton was excused from the meeting at 9:38 p.m.]*

Finance Director Koch said the City's policy on nights and weekends was to seek assistance from the Police Department for dangerous/vicious dog reports, not for stray animals. City Administrator Bush said Grandview and Sunnyside staff members were meeting at Prosser City Hall later this week to discuss a regional approach on animal control problems.

The Council also discussed contracting for city planner services; the Main Street program; Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rate for all employees; vacation buyout options; and charging vendors for power usage downtown.

Council Member Troemel noted the late hour and suggested the discussions come to a close.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

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City Clerk Sherry Biggs