

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ENTERING A NEW TERM OF OFFICE

Finance Director/City Clerk Cathleen Koch administered the Oaths of Office to Mayor Paul Warden, Council Member Becken, Council Member Chambers, Council Member Poteet, and Council Member Taylor.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Warden said he is planning to hold a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on January 29, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. He would like to hold it at the Fire Station or Benton PUD.

City Administrator Fred Stouder asked if there were Council Members interested in taking a tour of City facilities. Some of the Council Members were interested but Council decided to wait to conduct the tour until the vacant Council seat was filled.

Council asked staff to place an advertisement in the newspaper soliciting applicants for the vacant Council position. They also requested that it be included in the next newsletter with the utility bills. The position will be closing on February 15, 2008.

A special meeting will be on February 2, 2008 for a goal setting session at 8:30 a.m.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE JOHNSON ANNEXATION

City Attorney Saxton said that a meeting needed to be set to discuss whether the Council wants to consider annexing the Johnson property. It was decided that Council would consider the annexation on January 22, 2008 if the notice of intent to annex was received.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND CITY CLERK RECRUITMENT

City Administrator explained that both agenda items for the City Administrator and City Clerk recruitment were intended for Council action but were not noticed as such. Council asked if staff would be involved in the process. The process utilized for previous recruitments was explained. The contracts will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENTS AND THE FINANCING OF THE NORTH PROSSER WATER TOWER

Council Member Chambers asked if the water tower was needed for growth and asked whether there are issues with water pressure today. Mayor Warden said that Desert Valley Motorsports is already close to having flow issues. City Administrator Stouder said that it is primarily a fire flow issue. Council Member Taylor explained that a water tower makes it more attractive for developers to put in more homes. Council Member Poteet asked if sewer rates would also have to be increased. City Administrator Stouder stated that the need for more sewer capacity or higher rates depends on the use. A 60 unit housing development would have different needs than a fruit processing company. Council Member Troemel suggested that the Mayor appoint a community committee to help sell the water tower to the community.

Council asked the administration to bring back a 3% to 5% increase in water rates using alternate #5 to distribute the costs between residential and industrial users with a smaller impact on large users.

Council Member Poteet asked what the City has in place for the water tower to involve the community. Council suggested having community meetings at another location to better inform the community.

ADD ON ITEMS

Finance Director/City Clerk Koch reminded Council that their Public Disclosure Commission Statements (F-1) are due by April 15, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

City Clerk Cathleen Koch