

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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

Cameron and Colby Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Richard Comes inquired about a Tri City Herald article which stated the City of Prosser's 2009 budget was going to be \$1 million more than the current budget. Finance Director Cathleen Koch said that was an incorrect statement and the 2009 budget was actually less than the 2008 budget.

Richard Wallace encouraged the Council to allocate \$25,000 annually for the Historic Downtown Prosser Association. The funding would be used toward hiring a full time manager, an element needed to acquire full "Main Street Program" status.

Council Members expressed their desire to separate the functions of the Prosser Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Downtown Prosser Association. It was suggested that the proposed duties of the downtown manager be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Troemel attended the State Auditor's Entrance Conference with the staff on December 3rd.

a) Information on Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD)

City Administrator Charlie Bush said both Lake Forest Park and Edmonds had established Transportation Benefit Districts. The City of Olympia was in the initial process. The City of Prosser could hold a public hearing on the issue at the January 13, 2009 meeting. City Attorney Howard Saxton noted that specific projects needed to be identified for TBD funds. Chip sealing and road repairs were allowable items.

b) Introduction of Ordinance No. 08-_____ Amending Ordinance 1586 to Extend the Franchise Agreement (Charter Communications) to December 31, 2009.

City Clerk Sherry Biggs said introduction of the ordinance was an RCW requirement. The ordinance was scheduled to be before the Council at the December 16, 2009 meeting.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator Charlie Bush informed the Council that two items were submitted for the Federal Stimulus Package: Sheridan Avenue Improvements and North Prosser Water and Sewer Improvements. For the State Transportation List, Sheridan Avenue Improvements and the Wamba Road Project were submitted. Council Member Taylor stated the partners in the Wamba Road Project needed to be mentioned.

Mr. Bush had met recently with representatives of the Mid-Columbia Library on a technology grant proposal.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Taylor to amend Item E, 2009 State Legislative Agenda, as follows:

Add to General Government:

Sales Tax Options: We support legislation to allow cities to levy the .3 percent voter-approved public safety sales tax, independent of county action, and removing supplanting language and the requirement that one-third of funds be spent solely for criminal justice purposes.

Long Term Care Costs: We support legislation that would reform regulations related to the obligation by a city to pay medical costs for retired LEOFF 1 employees.

Motion to amend passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve Consent Agenda Items A – E, as amended.

- a. Approve Payment of Claim Check Nos. 61916 through 62016 in the Amount of \$560,443.65 and the IRS Federal Tax Wire in the Amount of \$39,617.85 for the Period Ending December 9, 2008
- b. Approve Council Minutes of November 12, 2008
- c. Approve Council Minutes of November 18, 2008
- d. Approve Work Session Minutes of December 2, 2008
- e. Approve 2009 State Legislative Agenda (Grandview, Prosser, and Sunnyside)

Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

Council Member Taylor wished to revisit the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) in January of 2009.

COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVE CONTRACT FOR TOURIST INFORMATION AND PROMOTION SERVICES WITH THE PROSSER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Council Member Chambers said it was unfortunate that no one from the Chamber of Commerce was present to answer questions. Finance Director Koch explained the increase from \$65,000 to \$72,000 was to be used for participation in the Washington State Visitors Guide. Council Member Taylor did not want a duplication of services among the Chamber, the Historic Downtown Prosser Association and the Prosser Economic Development Association.

Ms. Koch said the Hotel/Motel Committee had discussed the City's possible funding of the Historic Downtown Prosser Association, but the Committee had no written proposal to comment on. Some members of the Committee felt it would be a duplication of services and some thought it would enhance the community.

Council Member Taylor asked if the Chamber of Commerce had a year-end report or presentation for the Council. Ms. Koch said reports were due to the State at the end of the year and Mr. Milne did have a PowerPoint presentation that the Council should view. Council Member Everett asked if Mr. Milne could be available for the December 16th meeting.

Mayor Warden said quarterly reports were needed from the Chamber of Commerce.

A motion was made by Council Member Troemel to approve the contract for Tourist Information and Promotion Services with the Prosser Chamber of Commerce. With no second from the other members of the Council, the motion was not up for consideration.

Council Member Chambers requested the materials from the Chamber of Commerce be distributed to the Council before the next meeting, with Chamber representatives in attendance to answer questions.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to postpone this item until the December 16, 2008 Council Meeting. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Troemel), 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Finance Director Koch discussed the financial statement and said she expected the Streamlined Sales Tax Mitigation to be approximately \$30,000. Ms. Koch pointed out the receivables of \$16,000, mostly for past due irrigation accounts. A collection agency

had just been selected to begin collections for the City. Council Member Taylor suggested that policies and procedures be established for the collection process.

Council Member Taylor was pleased to see year-to-date expenses below the current revenues and thanked the staff for tightening their belts in this tough economic stretch.

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Chambers to approve the November 2008 Financial Statement. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2641 AMENDING THE 2008 BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND (001) FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVE FUND (115)

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2641 amending the 2008 Budget by transferring \$400,000 from the General Fund Reserve Fund (115) to the General Fund (001). Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2642 SETTING RATES FOR IRRIGATION WATER AND MAKING CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S IRRIGATION SYSTEM MANDATORY WITH A PENALTY EQUAL TO THE SERVICE RATE FOR FAILURE TO CONNECT

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to set rates for irrigation water and make connecting to the City's irrigation system mandatory with a penalty equal to the service rate for failure to connect. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2643 INCREASING THE LICENSE FEE AND OCCUPATION TAX ON WATER BUSINESSES FROM 10 PERCENT TO 12 PERCENT AND ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL BUSINESSES FROM 10 PERCENT TO 14 PERCENT

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Poteet to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2643 increasing the license fee and occupation tax on water business from 10 percent to 12 percent and on sewage disposal businesses from 10 percent to 14 percent. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2644 AMENDING THE TERMS OF AN INTERFUND LOAN TO ULID 99-1 FUND (232) FROM THE WATER FUND (403) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000 TO EXTEND THE REPAYMENT DATE TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Taylor to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2644 amending the terms of an interfund loan to ULID 99-1 Fund (232) from the Water Fund (403) in the amount of \$2,000 to extend the repayment date to December 31, 2009. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2645 AMENDING THE TERMS OF AN INTERFUND LOAN TO GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FUND-FIRE STATION (229) FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVE (115) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 TO EXTEND THE REPAYMENT DATE TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Taylor to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2645 amending the terms of an interfund loan to General Obligation Bond Fund-Fire Station (229) from the General Fund Reserve (115) in the amount of \$5,000 to extend the repayment date to December 31, 2009. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2646 FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009 AT THE FUND LEVEL AND AUTHORIZE POSITIONS AND SALARIES

Council Member Taylor was concerned with transferring specific road monies into the Street Fund, thereby eliminating previously earmarked projects. Council Members had questions for Finance Director Koch on the Information Technology budget, day camp councilors, and the amount allocated for the Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Everett agreed with Mr. Taylor and asked that, with the exception of the \$3,000 transfer for a 1999 bond, the earmarked project money remain as dedicated and not be transferred to the Street Fund. There was no objection voiced by the other members of the Council. Mr. Everett complimented the staff on their hard work during this budget process.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2646 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 at the fund level and authorize positions and salaries. Motion passed 4 YES, 2 NO (Becken, Troemel), 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

City Administrator Bush said he would prepare a media release on the City's 2009 Budget.

ADJOURNEMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

City Clerk Sherry Biggs