

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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

Taylor Giles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Keith Sattler, President of the Historic Downtown Prosser Association, provided an update of the Association's activities and reported on upcoming holiday events. The Association plans to fully implement the Main Street Program and needs a full time manager. The Historic Downtown Prosser Association requested annual funding from the City of \$25,000.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Everett said the Fire Board was discussing the benefits of forming a fire authority.

Council Member Troemel said the Prosser Chamber of Commerce was pleased with the downtown electrical upgrades.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR (None)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Check Nos. 500587 through 500621 in the Amount of 37,878.97 for the Period Ending November 14, 2008
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 61880 through 61915 in the Amount of \$177,495.13 and the IRS Federal Tax Wire in the Amount of \$9,809.90 for the Period Ending November 18, 2008
- c. Accept Invoice for Operation of the Visitor Information Center and Reimbursable Tourism and Promotional Expenses for the Month of

October 2008 and Authorize Payment for those Services in the Amount of \$5,500

d. Approve Council Minutes of October 28, 2008

Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:23 p.m., Mayor Warden recessed the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council to conduct a public hearing on the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2009. Mayor Warden opened the public comment period with none being offered. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to continue the public comment period until December 2, 2008. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

Mayor Warden reconvened the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council at 7:24 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BENTON PUD AND THE CITY OF PROSSER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,400 FOR DOWNTOWN ELECTRICAL UPGRADE AND REPAIR PROJECT

Public Works Director L.J. DaCorsi explained that Benton PUD must install two new power poles for the Downtown Electrical Upgrade Project. The cost is not to exceed \$1,400 and this is the City's responsibility.

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve the development agreement between City of Prosser and Benton PUD in an amount not to exceed \$1,400 for the Downtown Electrical Upgrade and Repair Project. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2635 TO REPEAL THE ADMISSIONS TAX IN THE CITY OF PROSSER, WA

City Attorney Howard Saxton said this tax was originally implemented in the 1940s and did not apply to existing businesses.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2635 repealing Ordinances 1236, 569, 559, 550 and 410, and repealing Prosser Municipal Code 3.24 to repeal the admissions tax in the City of Prosser, WA. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2636 AMENDING THE 2008 BUDGET FOR FUNDS 130, 403, 451 AND 448

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Chambers to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2636 amending the 2008 Budget for Funds 130, 403, 451 and 448. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

AMEND THE 2008 BUDGET TO ALLOW EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR REMAINING CONTRACTED AMOUNT WITH CALVIN JORDAN ASSOCIATES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,100 FROM THE CITY FACILITIES RESERVE FUND (116)

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Taylor to authorize staff to utilize \$7,100 of the remaining funds in the City Facilities Reserve Fund (116) to complete the work Cal Jordan is doing for the swimming pool bringing their total contracted/paid amount for 2008 to \$27,100. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-_____ AMENDING THE 2008 BUDGET FOR FUND 102 FROM FUND

OR

ADOPT ORDINANCE 08-_____ AUTHORIZING INTERFUND LOAN FROM THE _____ FUND TO THE STREET FUND

Finance Director Cathleen Koch explained that \$400,000 from the General Fund was transferred to the Street Fund this summer for chip sealing and downtown street repairs. \$400,000 was needed to make the General Fund whole again and Ms. Koch had several funding options for the Council to consider.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Chambers to bring this back before the Council at the December 9, 2008 meeting. Motion passed 6 YES, 1 NO (Rainer), 0 ABSENT.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Finance Director Koch discussed various funds in the 2009 Final Budget.

Ted Pooler of Huibregtse, Louman & Associates (HLA), was in attendance to answer questions on water, sewer, and garbage issues. Public Works Director DaCorsi expressed his desire to finish the meter upgrades in 2009.

Council Member Everett was not in favor of the garbage utility tax increase. Mr. Everett was interested in funding recreation items. Council Member Becken suggested the cities of Grandview and Sunnyside work together with Prosser on recreation issues. Council Member Rainer said with the new increases, it would be beneficial to offer the public something tangible, such as new recreation programs. Council Member Chambers did not want new programs.

Council Member Becken said this budget cycle needed to focus on what “had to be funded” not what was wanted. City Administrator Bush said the IS Committee met and recommended major hardware upgrades to the city’s network infrastructure. Council Members Becken and Chambers supported the recommendation.

Kellie Brennan explained the revenue projections for the Recreation Department and the proposed reductions to swimming pool staffing needs. City Administrator Bush said the

FY2009 Budget had 1.5 FTE for front office staff and that could be reduced to 1 FTE, freeing up approximately \$25,000 which could be used for the Recreation Department. Council Member Taylor noted the Recreation Department currently recovered only 40 percent of its overall costs.

Council Member Becken asked the staff to better outline the funding of the Recreation Manager position and to allocate \$50,000 for the IT needs.

Mayor Warden noted that Cascade Natural Gas announced a 23 percent rate increase and wondered if the City would see additional revenue.

[Clerk's Note: The Council took a break from 9:25 p.m. to 9:37 p.m. Council Member Poteet was excused from the meeting at 9:37 p.m.]

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2638 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

City Attorney Saxton said those parcels with an irrigation pipeline in an adjoining right of way, would now be charged a service rate. If access was not available, the parcel would be charged only the base rate.

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Rainer to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2638 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. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

[Clerk's Note: On November 21, 2008, Mayor Warden vetoed Ordinance No. 08-2638 as several technical corrections were needed and a new ordinance was scheduled for consideration at the December 9, 2008 Council meeting.]

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2637 INCREASING WATER RATES BY 4.5 PERCENT

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2637 amending portions of various ordinances and amending PMC Section 13.12.010 by establishing new waters rates as stated in the ordinance. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Becken), 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2639 INCREASING SEWER RATES BY 3 PERCENT

City Attorney Saxton noted the ordinances listed in the title should be included in Section 1. Council Member Everett moved to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2639 increasing sewer rates by 3 percent and to incorporate the ordinances as referenced in the title into Section 1. Council Member Rainer seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-_____ ADDING A LICENSE FEE AND OCCUPATION TAX EQUAL TO 7 PERCENT OF GROSS INCOME FOR SOLID WASTE AND INCREASING THE TAX ON WATER FROM 10 PERCENT TO 12 PERCENT AND SEWER FROM 10 PERCENT TO 14 PERCENT

Council Member Chambers requested staff to present an optional ordinance at the next meeting, eliminating the garbage utility tax referenced in this evening's ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Everett. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Troemel), 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-2640 INCREASING SALARIES FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES BY A COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF 4 PERCENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Rainer to adopt Ordinance No. 08- 2640 increasing salaries for non-union employees by a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in the amount to be determined by the 100% US All Cities Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) June to June, which is an increase of 4 percent, effective January 1, 2009. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON 2009 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

Council Members discussed several elements of the 2009 Budget. City Administrator Bush said a list of revised figures would be available for the next discussion.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 08-_____ INCREASING GARBAGE RATES BY 9.5 PERCENT IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED 4 PERCENT CPI

Council Members discussed the pros and cons of increasing garbage rates with no action taken at this meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT FEES

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Rainer to postpone this item until the December 9, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rainer. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Becken), 1 ABSENT (Poteet).

ADJOURNEMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

City Clerk Sherry Biggs