

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON  
601 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
BENTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT (PUD)  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Warden called the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council to order at 7:02 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Prosser Heights Elementary "Kid that Cares" Daniela Andrade.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members Rainer, Elder, Everett, Taylor, Hamilton, and Becken were present. Council Member Troemel requested an excused absence.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Lyle Klostemeyer expressed his concerns related to the possible outsourcing of the City's Dispatch services. Mr. Klostemeyer requested the Council really consider the overall impacts of the decision for the entire community.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Council Member Hamilton stated the Prosser Economic Development Association's (PEDA) Annual Meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2012, at 5:30p.m. The meeting was open to the public.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

***Introduction of LightSpeed Network Franchise Agreement***

City Administrator Charlie Bush advised LightSpeed Network Company contacted the City of Prosser with a request to enter into a Franchise Agreement with the City. City Attorney Howard Saxton explained there is a cost recovery associated with granting a Franchise consistent with other Franchise Agreements that have been granted by the City. Staff will bring back the Franchise Agreement at a future meeting for Council consideration.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve Consent Agenda Items "A-G". Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Troemel).

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Check Nos. 502198 through 502212 in the Amount of \$29,119.80 and Direct Deposits in the Amount of \$87,663.45 for the Period Ending March 30, 2012
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Check Nos. 65898 through 68613 and 68615 through 68665 in the Amount of \$543,013.85; Vend Electronic Payment in the Amount of \$436.00, WA Trust Bank Electronic Payment in the Amount of \$6,480.43, and IRS Federal Tax Wires in the Amount of \$42,231.15, for the Period Ending April 10, 2012
- c. Accept Invoice for Operation of the Visitor Information Center and Reimbursable Tourism and Promotional Expenses for the Month of April 2012 and Authorize Payment for Those Services in the Amount of \$5,500.00
- d. Accept Monthly Report by Prosser Economic Development Association for the Month of March 2012 and Authorize Payment for Those Services in the Amount of \$2,166.66
- e. Award Bid to Granite Construction Company in the Amount of \$1,107,554.55, Contingent Upon Approval of the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), for the Reconstruction of

Sheridan Avenue, From 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Wine Country Road, and Resurfacing of 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Sherman Avenue to the BNSF Railroad Tracks

- f. Approval of Shoreline Management Act (SMA) Grant Agreement between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and the City of Prosser for the Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Grant Agreement
- g. Adopt Resolution No. 12-1391 Appointing Council Member Elder to the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### ***SECOMM Dispatch Discussion (Presentation from SECOMM and BI-PIN Representatives)***

City Administrator Bush introduced Southeast Communications (SECOMM) and Bi-County Police Information Network (BI-PIN) representatives Mike Beach, Christy Geyer, Doug Degraaf, Jim Barber and Richland Chief of Police Chris Skinner.

Mr. Bush stated the timeline for possible outsourcing of the City's Dispatch Center and outlined next steps. He explained by the end of May 2012, if it was Council's desire, staff would bring back the item for Council consideration and if the contract was approved, January 1, 2013 would be the implementation date. This item is being brought forward for consideration due to the fact that there is currently a \$200,000 budget deficit in the General Fund that staff is looking to balance. If Council chooses to enter into an agreement with SECOMM to contract dispatch services, it would ease the budget deficit. Mr. Bush thanked staff for their hard work on the analysis and stated at this point staff does not have a recommendation and we are still at the exploration level.

Mayor Warden asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council regarding the matter. Prosser citizen and former Prosser Police Officer, Gary Randles expressed his concern with the possible outsourcing of the City's Dispatch services. Mr. Randles stated he felt the Prosser Dispatch center is a vital asset to the community and that it would behoove the City to maintain services if at all possible.

Jim Barber, Manager Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) provided an overview of the services provided by SECOMM and discussed emergency dispatch call center statistics. Mr. Barber explained the hiring process and stated that it is overseen by the City of Richland.

Doug Degraaf, BCES Information Services (IS) Manager discussed cell phone towers, video streaming and texting related to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) technology.

City of Richland Police Chief Chris Skinner thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and address Council's questions and concerns regarding dispatch services and acknowledged the difficult decision before Council as it related to the community of Prosser. Chief Skinner addressed Council's questions regarding upcoming capital projects and the financial implications of those projects as it related to the possible outsourcing of dispatch services. Additionally Chief Skinner briefed Council on the cost allocation model including built in costs related to the quote previously provided to the City.

There was discussion regarding SECOMM Dispatchers conducting ride alongs with Prosser Police Officers in order to familiarize themselves with the area as well as the opportunity for Officers to sit the SECOMM Dispatch Center.

Discussion ensued around the topic of radio frequencies and whether or not Prosser would share a frequency with other agencies. Chief Skinner explained it is a cost effective method to share radio frequencies and an additional benefit is that it would enhance the working relationship with other agencies such as the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Chief Skinner further explained how the City of Pasco along with Franklin County would work if those agencies were to join as well.

Council Member Hamilton state the public safety is the City Council's number one priority and felt if the City were to move forward with contracting dispatch services that would be a conflict. Council Member Hamilton requested staff set up a public comment period followed by a City Council Work Session so that Council may discuss this item in detail prior to a vote.

City Administrator Bush addressed Council's questions regarding what the next steps would be as it related to the bargaining union agreement.

Prosser Police Chief Pat McCullough discussed data conversion, records management and explained that one of the biggest hurdles to address will be training staff on new technology.

Mayor Warden thanked SECOMM and Bi-Pin representatives for their presentations.

Council Member Hamilton stated he would not be present for the next two consecutive City Council meetings and requested that staff schedule any follow-up dispatch conversion discussions after he returns in May. Council concurred and staff advised they would accommodate Council Member Hamilton's request.

***Potential Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFA) or Annexation into the Fire District***

City Administrator Bush briefed Council on the two options of either Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFA) or annexation. Mr. Bush reported on the meetings he and Fire Chief Doug Merritt have recently had on the issues and explained the challenges of workload and putting together a comprehensive analysis of information for such complex subjects. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of both options. Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director Koch explained city staff has been working with the City's Bond Counsel Foster Pepper on the matter due to the complex nature of the matter. Mrs. Koch further explained levy rates, property tax revenues and the different options for consideration.

Council inquired what the cut-off date was to get this item on the ballot. Prosser Fire Chief Doug Merritt stated August 7<sup>th</sup> or the 13, 2012 in order to get educational material into the hands of the citizens to make an educated vote.

City Attorney Saxton clarified the discrepancies brought forward regarding the errors found in the RFA Plan recently adopted by the Fire District. Chief Merritt addressed the errors and advised the Fire District would work with their attorney and bring back a revised plan for adoption before the Fire Board including a resolution appointing members to the RFA Committee accordingly.

Council directed staff to work with Bond Counsel to develop an analysis of all the available options and bring back a comprehensive packet for Council to consider at a future Council meeting.

**COUNCIL ACTION**

**APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIM CHECK NO. 68614 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,001.25, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING APRIL 10, 2012**

Council Member Hamilton recused himself due to a conflict of interest. A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve payment of claim check no. 68614 in the amount of \$3,001.25, for the period ending April 10, 2012. Motion passed 5 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Troemel), 1 ABSENTION (Hamilton).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:08 p.m., Mayor Warden recessed the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council to conduct an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement. The session was to include the Mayor and Council Members, City Administrator, Deputy City Administrator, City Clerk, City Attorney, and Finance Manager. The executive sessions were expected to last for a time period of 10 minutes.

At 9:18 p.m., Mayor Warden reconvened the Special Meeting of the City Council and stated no action had occurred in the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Attest:

*Rachel Shaw*

City Clerk Rachel Shaw



*Paul Warden*

Mayor Paul Warden