

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON  
601 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***Crime Free Rental Housing Program Presentation***

Police Chief Pat McCullough introduced City of Prosser Police Officer Mark Cole as the lead Officer looking into the Crime Free Rental Housing Program. Officer Cole provided an overview of the program and advised staff had determined the Crime Free Rental Housing Program is a good way to provide landlords tools to screen tenants. There was discussion regarding crime statistics and a comparison of calls for 2010 through 2011 as well as the need for Officer support due to positions being vacated over the years through attrition.

Detective John Chumley and Courtney Perceval from the City of Sunnyside were present to discuss how the Crime Free Rental Housing Program works in the City of Sunnyside. There was discussion regarding fees associate with a license that would be issued to landlords and how to enforce the license.

City Attorney Howard Saxton reported a proposed Ordinance to adopt the license would be drafted to fit the community of Prosser accordingly.

City Administrator Charlie Bush stated gang prevention is Council's number one priority and through that direction, work has been done on gang prevention and youth outreach through the Boys and Girls Club, the Aquatic Center and recreation programs. Currently there has been a trend shift as a result of suppression of gang activities throughout the region causing an increase in crimes in Prosser. It is staff's recommendation to bring back a budget package that includes an increase in Officer support for the Police Department. Council directed staff to bring back a package with more details at a future Council meeting.

Carol Salazar from the Prosser Branch of the Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee (CAC), provided statistics to Council on increased requests the Prosser office has seen for assistance. Ms. Salazar requested Council consider the Crime Free Rental Housing Program as a tool to assist landlords screen tenants.

***2012 Preliminary Budget Discussions***

Finance Manager Toni Yost presented Council a handout of the proposed 2012 Budget as well as a copy of the power point presentation. There was discussion regarding revenues and expenditures in the proposed 2012 Budget. City Administrator Bush stated the numbers for the Prosser Aquatic Center (PAC) will be updated and brought back at a future Council meeting for discussion.

***Special Event Permit Fees***

City Planner Steve Zetz provided an overview of the Special Event Permit fees. A previously adopted Special Events Permit Ordinance established that cost of staff time and services must be recovered. Staff recommended a fee in the amount of \$250.00 for each application with the option of additional costs based on the applicants required service needs. There was discussion on cost

recovery as well as the timeline. Council directed staff to bring back options for Council to consider at a future Council meeting.

***Initiative I-937***

City Administrator Bush introduced I-937 as an initiative passed regarding renewable energy. City Clerk Rachel Shaw advised Benton Public Utilities District (PUD) approached staff and requested Council take a position on I-937. House Bill 2124 and Senate Bill 5964 created to revise the Energy Independence Act (IEIA) and to protect utility customers by clarifying that if a utility has excess energy, the utility has the option to choose not to buy unneeded energy or renewable energy credits as required by the EIA.

Karen Miller and Patrick Sullivan of Benton PUD were present to discuss the Initiative. Ms. Miller explained both PUDs have already passed Resolutions supporting the Senate and House Bills supported by Legislators.

Council directed to staff to bring back Resolutions at a future Council meeting for Council to consider taking a position on I-937.

***Public Disclosure Request and Tracking System Software License Agreement***

Clerk Shaw advised she had attended a conference in March and heard a presentation on best practices of other cities regarding public records requests. The City of Lakewood created a software application in order to track public records requests and has offered the software to cities for no cost. There was discussion regarding the features of the application and the details of the license agreement.

Council directed to staff to bring back the license agreement at a future Council meeting for Council to consider.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

  
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Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

  
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City Clerk Rachel Shaw

