

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

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 led by Prosser Heights Elementary “Kids that Care” award recipient Joseph Blom.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were City Clerk Shaw, Building Official Morrow, Finance Director Mauras, Finance Manager Yost, and City Attorney Saxton.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Confirmation and Oath of Office – Police Officer Scott Orate

City Clerk Shaw administered the Oath of Office for Scott Orate, in the position of Police Officer.

Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report

Humberto Rodriguez, Executive Director provided a review of the quarterly report and discussed the highlights.

Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Presentation and Quarterly Report

Dena Lodahl, Executive Director provided Council a copy of the 2014 Program Statistic and Facts Sheet and reviewed the quarterly report. After reviewing the quarter’s highlights, Ms. Lodahl introduced Stephanie Castellija, Club Youth of the Year award recipient.

Ms. Castellija recited her Youth of the Year speech and discussed her personal experience at the Boys and Girls Club and the impact the Club has had on her life.

Mayor Warden and Council thanked both presenters.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

[Clerk’s Note: Agenda Item 5b was moved to the beginning of the Council Discussion portion of the agenda to accommodate the citizens in attendance.]

At 7:24 p.m. Mayor Warden recessed the Work Session to take a brief 3 minute break to retrieve items off his desk relevant to the upcoming agenda item. At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Warden reconvened the Work Session meeting.

Crime Free Rental Housing

Mayor Warden provided a handout to Council listing the number of current Crime Free Rental properties and estimated violations and discussed how the program works including the inspection process.

Council discussed in great length the process and the proposed change in inspection fees. Mayor Warden explained that staff could prepare an ordinance with options and bring back for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Council Member Hamilton stated at the September 25, 2010, City Council meeting, prior to becoming a Council Member, he addressed the current City Council about his concerns with the City potentially adopting an ordinance that would enact the Crime Free Rental Housing program. Council Member Hamilton read the meeting minutes from that meeting and reiterated his current concerns with the program.

Mayor Warden explained how the City came to the decision to adopt the ordinance and move forward with the program.

Council Member Hamilton asked Chief Giles if the program was a tool the Police Department used and or needed.

Chief Giles confirmed it was and explained the process.

Building Official Morrow explained how the program works in conjunction with both the Building and the Police Departments.

Council discussed the proposed fee increase from \$30.00 to \$50.00.

Council Member Everett stated he would only support the proposed increase if it would recover costs.

Mayor Warden said staff will draft an ordinance and bring back to the March 24, 2015 City Council meeting for further discussion and potential adoption.

Amplified Sound at City Park

Mayor Warden stated he would like to approach the Port of Benton with an idea to redirect all City events to the amphitheater located on Port property.

Council Member Everett stated the City has a noise ordinance and a decibel meter to gauge noise and the noise ordinance needs to be enforced. He further stated he would not support sending City events to Port of Benton property when the tools are already in place to help with the noise issue.

Mayor Warden said he had explored the issue based on comments from Council Members about a concern with noise related to private events at the City Park.

Chief Giles confirmed all Police Officers have been trained on the decibel meter.

Council agreed to not make any changes to the noise ordinance and further directed staff to enforce the noise ordinance and to utilize the decibel meter.

Personnel Policy Manual Amendment

Finance Manager Yost summarized the proposed changes in Sections 703, 802 and 809 of the Personnel Policy.

[Clerk's Note: Dan Denchel, audience member, approached the podium and invited Council to attend the BMW open house at Desert Valley Motor Sports on March 28, 2015.]

Finance Manager Yost continued her presentation and review of Sections 904 and 910 of the Policy.

City Clerk Shaw stated she is working on a draft of an Administrative Policy related to Information Technology and Electronic Devices that would take the place of Section 906 Computer, Electronic Mail (email), Internet and Technology Use of the Personnel Policy. Once those changes are complete a draft will be brought forward to a future City Council meeting for review and discussion.

Finance Manager Yost said staff is working on drafting an ordinance which if adopted will allow amendments to sections of the Personnel Policy Manual instead of having to bring the entire ordinance to Council every time an amendment is proposed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS CONTINUED

Council Member Aubrey congratulated Finance Manager Yost on the announcement of her promotion to Finance Director.

Council Member Ward inquired of the status of the Drug Free Communities Grant.

Mayor Warden said the application deadline is March 18, 2015. The City will submit the application and should know whether the City will be awarded the grant soon thereafter.

Council Member Hamilton asked about the history of the abandoned railroad tracks on Stacey Avenue.

City Attorney Saxton explained the entire road would have to be reconstructed which could prove to be very expensive.

Council Member Aubrey asked if staff looked into getting lights installed at the recycling bins.

Mayor Warden said the City received a quote that was very expensive and are currently looking into other options. Mayor will report back to Council on his findings at future City Council meeting once he has gathered more information.

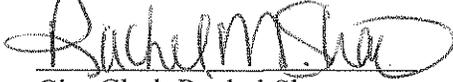
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

