

BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 21, 2005

City Clerk Claire Warner called the roll. The following were:

PRESENT: Mayor John G. Idsinga, Deputy Mayor Sandra Barnes and Councilmembers Reinhold, Ciraulo, Ganley, Regan and Walters.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Eric Holmes, Deputy City Manager Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director Brian Carrico, Public Works Director / City Engineer Sam Adams, Finance Director David Reeves, Chief of Police James McDaniel, Police Lieutenant Roy Butler, City Attorney Brian Wolfe, and City Clerk Claire Warner.

PRESS: Heidi Wallenborn, The Reflector.

COUNCIL SENTIMENTS

Councilmember Ganley gave updates on:

- Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting held on November 14, 2005.
- Transportation Improvement Board Meeting held on Thursday and Friday.
- C-TRAN Board Meeting held on November 15, 2005.

Councilmember Reinhold gave an update on the recent election and the Battle Ground Rose Float Meeting, which was held on November 20, 2005.

Deputy Mayor Barnes announced that she resigned from the Chamber of Commerce Board as it was thought that there was a conflict of interest in having an elected official serve on the board. She stated that she could serve as the new City Council Liaison.

It was the consensus of the Council to have Deputy Mayor Sandra Barnes serve as the City Council Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce Board.

Councilmember Walters gave an update on the Fred Meyer Foundation grants that were awarded and noted that \$18,000 in grant money went to the Battle Ground area.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Idsinga gave updates on the following items:

- The City's Time Capsule Burial on November 9, 2005.
- Last Thursday's City of Battle Ground Skate Park Meeting.
- North County Community Food Bank Holiday Food Basket Project.

Councilmember Walters added that the "giving tree" is now up at Fred Meyer.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Idsinga opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to talk about any issue that is not on the agenda.

Karen Poulin, Washington State University Extension,
11104 NE 149th Street, Building C-100, Brush Prairie 98606

Ms. Poulin thanked the Council for the opportunity to have input into Battle Ground's Parks and Fairgrounds Master Plan process. She apologized for not being able to make the last meeting and stated that as, faculty member responsible for WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program in Clark County, she would like to offer general information that she hoped would help inform the discussion related to 4-H as an existing parks user.

Ms. Poulin said that, although 4-H is the youth development program of the nation's public land grant university system, many associate it primarily with agricultural projects and values and, as a result, the value of 4-H to a developing community is sometimes not immediately apparent. Ms. Poulin explained that 4-H has agricultural roots, but it has grown beyond its association with what people talk about such as cows, cooking and country fare. She said it now includes a wide-variety of project areas and whether a 4-H project is about cows, computers or skateboarding, the goal is the same – hands on projects as vehicles for learning life skills, leadership and citizenship. She stated that research suggests that 4-H works, recent studies show that 4-H members appear to demonstrate more leadership behaviors and are more caring towards others than the comparison group, and are less likely to be involved in at-risk behaviors as they enter high school. 4-H benefits our community as well as our young people. Last year, 4-H clubs donated more than 5,000 hours of community service and over \$4,000 in cash to charitable causes in Clark County. She said that over 450 club members live in the greater Battle Ground area and provide services directly to the Battle Ground community, such as the Adopt-a-Highway program on 503.

Ms. Poulin added that 4-H reaches out to the at-risk kids in the community. She said that local juvenile offenders work with 4-H volunteers at the CASEE center to grow and donate fresh produce to the family resource center in Battle Ground. She said that last year 4,400 pounds of food were donated and this year, due to the growing season, 1,700 pounds were donated.

She said that the effectiveness of 4-H relies on its the commitment of its volunteers. Ms. Poulin added that the passion with which they might speak to you about their concerns, reflect their intense dedication to youth in this community.

Ms. Poulin said that Battle Ground 4-H leaders donated nearly 12,000 hours to local youth in 2004. She said that, in closing, she hopes that this information is helpful to Council with respect to the benefits of 4-H to local youth and communities and that they seem as relevant to Battle Ground as they did more than 30 years ago when 4-H constructed the barn in the park. She said she respectfully urges the Council to consider the value of 4-H to the youth and the community as Fairgrounds Park plans move forward.

Page three

Lynn Oldham, President of North County Community Food Bank
17 NE 3 Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Ms. Oldham stated that she is a “thank you card” and a hard copy will follow. She said that she is here tonight to thank the Council for allowing North County Community Food Bank to participate as a community member and a landlord. She explained that a little over two years ago, when the City decided to move locations, there were two buildings that would be put up for sale. Ms. Oldham said that the food bank was a recipient of a two-year contract with the City for the Planning Department Building.

She stated that it has helped so much because “we lived in a closet – two closets, as a matter-of-fact, on Main Street” for seven years. Ms. Oldham said that when they moved into the Planning Department building it was the equivalent to the City moving into it’s new building. She said that they had a “Plan B” when they knew they had a deadline of November 15, to pay off the balance of the building. She said that they did not need Plan B and then she asked Finance Director David Reeves if all the papers had been taken care of.

Finance Director David Reeves said yes.

She thanked Mr. Reeves. She said that, on November 4th, it was her privilege to sign papers to pay the contract off to City. Ms. Oldham added that, in the near future, the organization will have a “mortgage burning” and the President will invite everyone on Council to the mortgage burning. She thanked everyone.

Terri Tweedell, 912 East Main Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Ms. Tweedell said that the holidays are here and the banners are up. She thanked Public Works for putting up the banners. Ms. Tweedell said that on December 3 at 6 p.m. the Chamber will light the holiday tree. She said that the Chamber is sponsoring the event this year and they will also have hot chocolate and cookies at the firehouse afterwards. Ms. Tweedell thanked the Mayor for locating a Santa Claus for the event. She added that Santa Claus would be arriving via a fire engine. She invited Council to attend.

Ms. Tweedell said that the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Luncheon would be held on December 1 and it is an RSVP only event. She said 120 are expected to attend and she hoped Council could attend.

Sandra Bishop, 21300 NE 197th Circle, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

Ms. Bishop asked if this were an appropriate time to ask for financial support for the Highlands little league.

Mayor Idsinga advised her to save her request for later.

Karen Overton, 1218 South Parkway Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Ms. Overton said that she wanted to thank everyone as they have as been really supportive. She said she appreciated everyone’s attentiveness.

Page four

Ms. Overton distributed a handout (attached) and explained various alternatives for the tethering of animals. She said that she would be in attendance at the November 28th Study Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Payroll Vouchers 11/04/05 #24282 to #24298 for \$52,084.68 and DD \$218,069.90
- B.** Claim Vouchers #45308 and #45382 in the amount of \$846,616.47
- C.** Pacific Northwest Interagency Cooperative (formerly GEM) Interlocal Agreement
- D.** Agreement between the City of Battle Ground and Clark County for Delivery of Information Technology Services

Moved by Councilmember Walters and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2006 Budget: 2nd Public Hearing

Finance Director David Reeves passed out a memo (attached) and said that tonight is the night that has been published to hold a public hearing on expenditures for the City. He said that Council can extend this for as long as they want, up until December 5, which is the date that the Council will consider the budget for adoption. He said that the date could be extended to December 6 if Council would like to hold a special meeting. He said that tonight is the time for any citizen to come in and comment on the budget and it's expenditures. Mr. Reeves explained that there are three areas that staff recommends changing in the budget that they adopt:

- The new police facility needs a good phone system. The City's existing phone system can not adequately serve the new facility. To upgrade the current system enough to serve the old police / fire facility and the new police facility, the City would need to incur costs estimated at just over \$40,000. This system would work but would still be older technology based on PBX switching systems. To upgrade the phone system to voice over IP technology (VOIP) and install a new Cisco phone system, the cost is estimated at \$70,000. The VOIP system offers many advantages that staff believes to be worthwhile.
- The Southwest Clean Air agency has increased the per capita fee that they charge and the number of citizens within the City limits has increased. The amount they project for their assessment to the City is \$4,408.20. The air pollution control line item in the Planning / Community Development Department should be changed from #3,012 to \$4,409.
- In anticipation of increased costs, the County's budget for the Salmon Creek Waste Treatment Facility has been amended. There are "long-haul" costs of \$135,000 and an additional \$23,877 in miscellaneous projects included in the amendment. The City will be responsible for 18% of those costs, or around \$28,598. In addition to these costs, there is possible need to lease additional capacity. The budget for County Sewer Charges in the Sewer fund should be increased to around \$500,000.

Page five

Mr. Reeves said that the suggested changes could be provided for as follows:

- In the general fund, department 40 (general government), computer facilities line item there is an estimate of \$200,000 for new financial software implementation. He said that part of that expense has been paid for already in 2005. There will only need to be \$120,000 in the budget for next year's implementation, freeing up \$80,000 in this line. If the money is left in this line, it can be used to fund the police facilities new VOIP phone system. No change is necessary to the budget to fund the phone system.
- Increasing the budget for the Southwest Clean Air Agency can be done by allowing that amount to flow through the general funds budget to its ending fund balance (a reduction of \$1,397).
- The increased costs for County Sewer Charges can also be met through the use of fund balance (a reduction of \$40,000).

Mr. Reeves announced that the City sent out letters to the agencies that have been funded in the past and who might have an interest in being funded this year. He said that they sent these letters to the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Little League, Battle ground Little League, Battle Ground Public Schools District, North County Community Food Bank and Senior Nutrition and Activities Program. He said that responses that have been received are included in the Council packet. Mr. Reeves gave a brief overview of the funding criteria for these organizations.

There was discussion on the Sewer Fund balance versus the General Fund.

City Manager Eric Holmes added that, historically the rates of COLA for employees have been set by the bargaining unit contract. He said that the 2006-year is the first year that the bargaining unit's contracts differ for COLA rates. He said that one contract is set to 2% and one is set to 3%, and that the non-represented employees have their COLA set based on the contract. He said that since the contracts differ, he recommends setting the COLA at 2.5% for non-represented employees.

There was discussion on the CPI with relation to COLA.

Mr. Holmes said that this item can be adopted with the final budget, because the amount is already programmed in the budget.

Mayor Idsinga opened the public hearing on the 2006 Budget.

Sandra Bishop, 21300 NE 197th Circle, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

Ms. Bishop distributed the Highlands Little League tentative budget to Council (attached). She said that Highlands Little League maintains an average of over 300 children playing baseball, softball and challenger league, which consists of boys and girls ages 5 – 15 years old. Ms. Bishop said that Highlands was created when Battle Ground Little League exceeded its numbers of children playing ball. She said, although most of Battle Ground is covered by the Battle Ground Little League, they cover the east end of the City and the north and east rural areas of Battle Ground and Brush Prairie.

She said that Highlands is a non-profit organization and is supported by registration fees, fundraising, sponsorships and donations. She explained that money is used to buy equipment, uniforms, insurance, etc. Ms. Bishop said that Highlands Little League supported Fairgrounds Park last year by improving the fields at the cost of \$18,000. She explained the park improvements; maintenance costs and gave examples of all the users of the park.

Ms. Bishop said that in 2004 their minor league team won the state championship for the boy's all-stars, ages 9 and 10. She said this year they won the district 6 championship. She gave examples of the benefits of little league.

Ms. Bishop said that she would like the Council to consider reimbursing their lease fees, which they pay half of, to support their successful expanding league. She added that this year has been particularly hard to get donations and sponsorships because of the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. She thanked the Council.

There was discussion about the budget she presented.

Paulo Zandemela, 13 NW 20th Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Mr. Zandemela stated that he was glad to be here and, during the last meeting, in which the Council discussed raising people's fees, he was motivated to look at the budget. He said that he spent many hours looking at the budget and added that he has looked at many budgets in his life and he said that this budget is one of the most comprehensive and clear to follow. He said that Finance Director David Reeves has done a terrific job.

He said that, after reviewing the budget, we are getting to the point where it is going to be harder and harder to generate more revenue for the City. He said that he thought raising taxes should be a last option. He said that he would like for the budget to explain why expenditures in certain line items have increased. Mr. Zandemela said that he felt that the only line item where he thought the cost was justified was the Police Department. He said he thought that they actually deserved more.

He posed the following questions from the budget for consideration:

- Legislature Line Item, Personnel Benefits - \$20,000, he asked if Council really needed it.
- Legislature Line Item, Travel, Training and Benefits – Does Council really need to have multiple attendees at meetings?
- General Fund, Bank Services Charges – What is happening in this line item (cost increases)?
- Judicial, Overtime – Maybe someone else can be brought in to reduce overtime?
- Judicial, Personnel Benefits – Is this necessary?
- Executive – He thought that the rates were too high. He clarified that he is not saying that he does not think that they don't deserve to be paid that much, but he suggested freezing anyone's salary who makes over \$50,000 for at least 1 year.
- Executive, Personnel Benefits
- Finance, Overtime

He said that he thought Council should try to cut all expenses prior to increasing taxes. He said that Council would win a lot of people. He thanked the Council for listening.

Mayor Idsinga and Councilmember Ciraulo excused themselves from the meeting at 8:12 p.m. as they serve on the North County Community Food Bank Board of Directors.

The meeting was turned over to Deputy Mayor Barnes.

Elaine Hertz, North County Community Food Bank
17 NW 3 Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Ms. Hertz thanked the City Council for their past support and opportunity to ask for support again. She said that since they have moved into the old Planning Building, the NCCFB's numbers have sky-rocketed. She said that, in the first year, they had a 52% increase.

She gave statistics for the month of October for the Council to consider:

- 301 households were supplied with food.
 - 30% lived within the Battle Ground City limits.
- 31,230.4 pounds of food were given out.
 - 10,282.9 pounds were perishable foods.

Ms. Hertz explained that the NCCFB's request to City Council equals 10% of the actual operating budget, less the in-kind food. She said that 30% of their clients are within the Battle Ground City limits.

There was discussion about the area that the NCCFB covers and other support the food bank receives.

Ms. Hertz gave an example of the NCCFB teaming up with the City.

Mayor Idsinga and Councilmember Ciraulo returned to the meeting at 8:21 p.m. and Mayor Idsinga presided over the meeting.

Terri Tweedell, President of Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce
912 East Main Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Ms. Tweedell thanked the Council for their continued years of support to the Chamber. She said that in the Council packet, the Council should have a letter from the Chamber regarding the design of a contract that would support the Visitor Relocation Center. She said that the \$1,000 the Chamber is asking for covers the cost of copying and purchasing of things they have to mail out to people requesting literature. Ms. Tweedell said that if the packet is large they ask the person to pay for postage.

She said that the other portion that they are seeking funding for is for Economic Development that she and the Board of Directors do on a regular basis, which average 15 hours a month. She gave examples of economic development that the Chamber does. Ms. Tweedell said that the Chamber logs the names of people who visit the office and the addresses that the packets are sent to. She added that once the hotel is functioning and motel tax revenues are generated, that money will not be asked for any longer.

The following topics were discussed with relation to the Chamber of Commerce:

- City expenditures on the Halloween Funfest and Harvest Days
- Possible duplication of services, with relationship to the CREDC
- The Rose Float as a Chamber sponsored activity, generating advertising
- Having the Chamber located in Fairgrounds Park
- The Chamber in comparison to other chambers
- Economic Development as a Chamber function

It was the consensus of the Council to place the Chamber of Commerce request in the 2006 budget.

Jeremy Barr, Battle Ground Little League
2225 SW 11 Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Mr. Barr said that he would like to request continued support for the Battle Ground Little League for the families who cannot afford to pay the registration fee. He said they average about 25 families a year that cannot afford the registration at \$65 per child. He said that this comes out to about \$1,625. He said that any support is greatly appreciated.

Councilmember Walters asked if he had a budget.

Mr. Reeves addressed what the line items were used for with respect to the budget items Mr. Zandemela had discussed.

Mayor Idsinga closed the public hearing on 2006 Budget expenditures.

City Manager Eric Holmes explained that, with respect to the next item on the agenda, Council would be discussing the potential adjustment to utility tax rates and one of the scenarios that is outlined is a way to address the concern over the impact to low – to moderate – income populations. He said that the scenario would change the relationship with food bank. Mr. Holmes said that it would possibly allow the food bank to administer a low – to moderate – income abatement program, which would change the amount the City provide the food bank.

Resolution Amending Utility Tax Rates: Presentation

Finance Director David Reeves gave an overview of the Resolution Amending Utility Tax Rates, which would provide a sustainable resource that could be used in the street fund to repair and maintain streets. He explained each resolution option as presented in the Council packet.

There was discussion about administration of the low – to moderate – income abatement program with relationship to the North County Community Food Bank.

There was discussion about the resolution options and consequences.

City Manager Eric Holmes said that the low – to moderate – income abatement program would be brought before the Council at the December 5, 2005 meeting.

It was the Council consensus to adopt the Resolution identified as “A” in the Council packet.

Moved by Councilmember Ciraulo and seconded to adopt Resolution Number 05 – 23. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a 5-minute break at 9:28 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:36 p.m.

Administrative Reports

Public Works Director / City Engineer Sam Adams gave updates on the following topics:

- Don Risto certification achievement
- Scotton Way opened on Friday
- South Grace Transportation Improvement Board ranking:
 - 153 applications received
 - Ranked 3rd out of 8 projects in Clark County
- Holiday Banners are up for the holidays
- Police facility update

Chief of Police James McDaniel gave an update on the police officer involved in the accident that occurred on November 11, 2005.

Community Development Director Brian Carrico gave updates on the following topics that would come before Council at the next meeting:

- Gold Medal Group Development Agreement
- Vancouver Housing Authority proposal for Mill Creek

City Manager Eric Holmes gave updates on:

- Municipal Court Judge
- Lynne Griffith, C-TRAN meeting
- Poland municipal delegation meeting

Mr. Holmes asked if the Council would like to hold a Study Session in December and reminded Council that the first meeting in January would be on a Tuesday due to a holiday.

It was the consensus of the Council not to hold a Study Session in December.

There was discussion on the Slavic Church in Battle Ground, with respect to the numbers of patrons at the facility.

INFORMATION

Public Works monthly report

Information only.

Public Works Operations monthly report

Information only.

Finance Department monthly report

Information only.

Engineering Department monthly report

Information only.

Police Department monthly report

Information only.

Fire Department monthly report

Information only.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

John G. Idsinga,
Mayor

Claire A. Warner
City Clerk

Meetings of the Battle Ground City Council are recorded on audio tapes. These tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six (6) years.