

Pastor Wayne Schneider, Kelso United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Mayor David Futcher led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Futcher. Councilmembers in attendance were: Futcher, Myers, Lefebvre, McDaniel, Schimmel, Archer, and Roberson.

Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Lefebvre, 'Approve the Minutes of the 9/4/12 Council Workshop and Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

PUBLIC HEARING – Property Tax Revenue Source, 2013:

Mayor Futcher opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield spoke and presented materials indicating revenues remaining flat over the past four years with sharp drops from 2008. Current economic forecasts indicate revenues will remain flat. Mr. Butterfield proposed asking for the maximum 1% increase on property tax for 2013. Mayor Futcher invited citizens to comment.

Rick Von Rock, 400 N 7th Ave., spoke about the property tax revenue forecast for Kelso. It seems higher than 2011 yet I look at my property tax and see that the value of our property has gone down. So if the value of our property is going down, how would revenues be increased. Mr. Butterfield responded by explaining that as long as the city has not reached the maximum capacity in our levy rate we can continue to raise taxes 1% until that maximum has been reached even though the assessed property values have decreased.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Futcher closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Reserve Officer Award Chief Andrew Hamilton presented retiring Reserve Officer Mike Olsen with a plaque in recognition of 37 years of dedicated service. The plaque stated "In appreciation for your dedicated service to the citizens and City of Kelso Mike Olsen March 1975-December 2012". His service has spanned four police chiefs and he has received numerous accommodations. Officer Olsen thanked Chief Hamilton and the other three chiefs he served under starting with Tony Stout. He has enjoyed being part of an excellent organization and has really enjoyed his time with this great department.

SWAAD Southwest Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities Information Assistant Specialist Director Doug Hooper provided information on the services available to assist older people and adults with disabilities in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties. Services include Senior Information & Assistance, In-home Assistance/Personal Care, Family Caregiver Support Program, Nutrition Services, Transportation Services, Case Management, Kinship Caregiver Support, Legal Services

Long Term Care Ombudsman and Senior Health & Wellness. They are located right next door at 305 S. Pacific in the WorkSource building. He encouraged everyone needing these services to contact them at (360) 577-4929 for information and assistance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Liquor License Renewal:** a) Three Rivers Golf Course, 2222 S. River Rd
b) Yan's Chinese Restaurant, 300 Long Ave W c) Izzy's, 1001 Grade St
2. **Agreement:** a) Parks/Airport Mowing Equipment Contract w/Chinook Sales
3. **Airport Runway Pavement Repair**
4. **Agreement:** a) Cowlitz County Bridge Inspections
5. **Auditing of Accounts:** \$1,472,654.75

Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Myers, 'Approve the Consent Agenda and the Auditing of Accounts in the amount of \$1,472,654.75,' motion carried, all voting yes.

CITIZEN BUSINESS:

Rick Von Rock, 400 N 7th Ave., spoke regarding the crosswalk at 4th and Academy. This crosswalk has completely disappeared and needs to be painted. The other concern is the crosswalks on 4th Avenue where the traffic is coming down the one way. I don't know what can be done to make them more noticeable, but drivers are not slowing down or stopping for these crosswalks. Discussion followed.

Mike Long, I own two four-plex units at 113 & 111 Corduroy Road, spoke about a major concern regarding the deposits required for water, sewer and garbage. Stating that if a tenant does not have perfect credit they must pay a \$350 deposit. He stated they charge first month's rent and a \$500 deposit. It is very difficult for a tenant to have approximately \$1200 up front to cover rent and the water deposit. He called around the local area and found Castle Rock charges \$80, Woodland \$150, Longview \$100 and both Kalama and Vancouver do not charge any deposit. It makes it very difficult to qualify a person to move in. Kelso may want to consider lowering the deposit or revisiting the credit criteria. He stated it is much easier to rent in Longview. Discussion followed.

MOTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 12-3775 - Amend KMC 13.12 to Provide Operation of Airport by Multijurisdictional Airport Board: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember Archer, 'Adopt Ordinance No. 12-3775, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE 13.12 TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL AIRPORT BY A MULTIJURISDICTIONAL AIRPORT BOARD CREATED UNDER INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND TO BRING THE CHAPTER

INTO CONFORMANCE WITH CURRENT STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS.’ City Attorney Janean Parker commented on the revisions from the FAA on self fueling that had not yet been incorporated into the document that went back to the Airport Board and was approved at their last meeting. An additional section was adopted to approve delegation of authority to permit adoption of operational policies and procedures that are consistent with this newest edition. Councilmember Schimmel asked if what was being proposed would permit the Airport Board to make changes to the municipal code or just the regulations. Mayor Futher responded that it would apply to making changes to the regulations. Ms. Parker stated they would not be able to change municipal code but rather clarifies procedures or other things that supplement or are helpful to either the operation of the airport or the implementation of the regulations. Councilmember Roberson asked about the expressive activity language. Ms. Parker said the language had not been updated in sometime. With the recent expressive activity at the Port, the Port Attorney recommended these particular updates. Nothing to my knowledge has occurred at the airport. Motion carried, all voting yes.

WALK-ON ITEM:

Authorize City Manager to Enter into Agreement Joining the Coalition to Appeal the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit: Upon motion by Councilmember Schimmel, seconded by Councilmember Myers, ‘Authorize the City Manager to enter into this interlocal agreement and join the Coalition to appeal the NPDES Permit.’ Councilmember Schimmel asked if this is something that has already started and we are just joining in financially and by name as part of the group. City Manager Steve Taylor responded yes stating this is an interlocal agreement prepared by the various entities. In terms of cost to join it is based on population. Our population level would require a \$15,000 contribution. Mr. Taylor pointed out Cowlitz County did sign on and City of Longview signed on last Thursday evening. Ms. Parker addressed the issue stating these permit conditions are unreasonable and recommends joining the coalition. Councilmember Myers stated he is in support of joining in on this after his concerns for filing deadlines were answered. Councilmember Archer asked where the \$15,000 funding would come from. Mayor Futher responded that the drainage fund would provide the funding because it would benefit from getting the restrictions removed. Councilmember Roberson stated no one wants to pollute the rivers or have street run off go into them but this has developed over years and the Department of Ecology wants to fix it overnight. We should just slow down and use some common sense and try to start making it better. I think the appeal is a good idea to slow them down. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Rick Von Rock, 400 N 7th Ave., spoke from the audience, addressing the Phase II permits and joining the coalition. Kelso is looking at paying \$15,000 based on population where the county just paid \$10,000 based on population. The concern is the difference in the amounts based on population and the possibility there would be further costs involved considering budget restraints. Discussion followed.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Steve Taylor: 1) I do want to point out to the council and the public that the Cowlitz Fire II has issued a recreational fire ban due to extended dry weather and high fire danger. In cooperation with the City they are implementing the recreational burn ban within the city limits of Kelso effective immediately. The burn ban will continue until further notice. 2) Secondly you should have received the email regarding the Association of Washington Cities Regional meeting on October 23rd at the Expo Center. If you have not already RSVP'd and plan to attend, please contact Shelly and she will reserve your spot. Again this is a great opportunity to meet with representatives from other cities in our region and to hear from AWC especially in preparation for the 2013 legislative session and where the cities across the state stand on legislative priorities and how you can be involved and remain informed. 3) We are planning to hold a budget discussion with council at our next two meetings in October. We could do a workshop format and start at 6:00 p.m. or we could have it as part of the regular meeting. Workshop format will permit a more informal discussion of preliminary budget requests. This will enable us to provide general information about our revenue forecast and expenditures. 4) I would like to thank Public Works Director Mr. Sypher and Ms. Parker for their work on the transferring of the governance of the Airport to the Airport Board. I appreciate the work that has been done by our staff and they should be commended for that work. 5) I have been meeting with Department Heads and I have met with all the Council Members and appreciated hearing from each of you. I have kind of pieced together the City's needs and priorities. I'm slowly trying to get around to all the different City facilities and shops and look forward to meeting with all the employees over the next several weeks and months. 6) From the budget side, you should see a message from the City Manager's Office by the end of October. If there are any questions, issues or comments that you have, my door is open. Please feel free to contact me by email or call and I will be happy to speak with you.

STAFF REPORTS:

Janean Parker: No report.

David Sypher: 1) We have been doing a lot of work on the airport regulations and patching, both of which were approved tonight. 2) We have a lot going on at the airport with the small works painting contract. We are trying to finish up before the rains begin. 3) Paxton Road paving occurred today. We have everything almost buttoned up with the exception of some plantings. 4) The Catch Basin Cleaning Program is right on schedule. We have completed about 90% of the town.

Nancy Malone: 1) I would like to announce another opening for the Planning Commission. One of our Planning Commissioners has moved to Longview and it is not in our urban growth area so now we have another opening. I have interviewed two people for the opening, Jared Wade of North Kelso and Larry Alexander. I would like to

recommend appointing Jared Wade to the Planning Commission. Upon motion by Councilmember Myers, seconded by Councilmember Schimmel, 'Accept Jared Wade's application to the Planning Commission.' Motion carried, all voting yes. 2) The Cowlitz Family Health Clinic permit is ready to be picked up. Councilmember Myers stated that they are anxious to pick it up. They have a funding deadline that they have to start services by a certain date to maintain their funding. Ms. Malone responded that the permit has been ready for over a week.

Cindy Donaldson: 1) Tonight was our first Fall Story Time. 2) In October we have a couple of Halloween parties. I was approached by Altrusa to do a Literacy Fair on the 27th of October with free books and some fun activities for "Make a Difference Day". We did a recap of all of our summer activities and we had over 1000 kids participate in the six weeks of programs. That is more than we had last year and I hope it continues to grow. Almost 3500 books were read over the summer. Good job to the kids.

Chief Andrew Hamilton: 1) Officers have been busy this week. We have a couple guys out with sick leave issues. Everyone is keeping busy doing a lot of work in the school zones since the start of back to school. 2) SRO Officer Clark is getting up to speed and has been spending a lot of time out there. He deals with approximately 1700 people on a daily basis by himself. 3) Currently we are short one person due to an officer who left and went to Centralia. We should be okay on overtime taking into consideration that officers wages. 4) Regarding the crosswalk issue, this is the first we have heard about that intersection. We will be happy to address those concerns.

Brian Butterfield: In front of you are the monthly financial statements for August. I will be happy to answer any questions.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Dan Myers: CAP and Council of Governments are both starting their budget cycles. The major cost for these agencies is personnel salaries. CAP is primarily a year to year grant funded organization. Since July 2011, CAP has eliminated or reduced positions. This represents a cut of approximately \$517,000 in salaries, taxes and benefits. They have had no cost of living increases during the last four years so they are proposing a slight increase for staff this year. It has not been voted on yet. At the COG, which is also funded by grants and by membership fees, they are looking for ways to increase revenues. The revenues they receive from membership fees have been relatively flat. They are hinting at trying to do something to increase these fees. As a member of the executive committee, nobody seemed to be in favor of doing that because all agencies are facing severe budget problems. On another subject, the Federal funding for the Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition has been dwindling and they have found it necessary to discontinue the program in its current form. By the middle of October, the one remaining employee will be reassigned. The funding they receive is about \$47,000 annually. They are hoping to keep that in the local community by contracting some local agencies for the

same type of services they had been providing. This change and loss in that agency come at the same time that most of the schools have laid off their substance abuse intervention specialists. With this in mind, the prediction is we may see a large increase in drug abuse or substance abuse problems in this area over the next year or two.

Rick Roberson: No report.

Gary Archer: No report.

Todd McDaniel: No report.

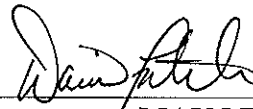
Gary Schimmel: As the 911 Council representative, I wanted to provide a report of what they are dealing with which is mainly the budget. I want to report what was described to me. They currently have twenty dispatchers in their personnel budget. They still have vacant two dispatcher positions and two supervisor positions. Personnel resources are at a very minimum of what they can provide the service. They are trying to minimize expenses where possible. There will be a small group from the council that will take a look at a governance model and the funding for that model. We might see some changes in the future in regards to how 911 will be structured. They also reported that the recent legislative bill that was passed is going to reduce State 911 funding. This brings me to my idea or topic about continuing to try and discuss with our legislators how their decisions are affecting local government. We all need to try and talk with our legislators face to face. Either by going up there or trying to speak with them when they are in town going to meetings. Councilmember Lefebvre stated that on October 1st at Barnes School there would be two of our State Representatives for "Literacy Day".

Kim Lefebvre: No report.

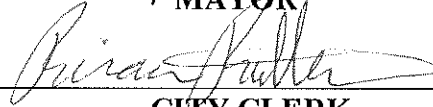
David Fatcher: I would just like to bring everyone up to speed a little more on the airport. As you saw here we have some rules we have been flushing out and I think everything is working really well with the new group. The goal is to officially take over running the airport at the first of the year. The budget plan that the Airport Board has recommended, which I believe we have discussed before, is a \$60,000 contribution from each entity. That is up \$20,000 from what was provided this year. When we originally had the group meeting between all the entities about a year and a half ago, we indicated \$60,000 was where we would need to be. We used the \$40,000 as a step in the process because we were not ready to implement all of the things that we will be doing with the \$60,000. What we will be doing with the \$60,000 is looking for an Airport Manager. The person we have right now is essentially going to run the maintenance. What we will need is someone who can obtain grant money from the FAA. They also need to be able to monitor and supervise the projects that will need to occur if we are ever going to get the runway extended.. What has happened in the past is that most of the cost has been covered by the City of Kelso with Mr. Sypher and other city staff taking these roles. We will eliminate that by sending more money directly to the airport and reduce usage of our

resources here. I think ultimately it will be a savings for us and that action will get our partners closer to paying their share of what happens out there which is not historically what has been happening in my opinion. If we want to get to the next level, we have to have a person out there because once this transition happens we will have one employee at the airport that is taking care of everything. The resources will be pulled back to a large extent. They will also start using some of that money to pay for accounting and administrative services to the city. We will get approximately \$30,000 or so of that back so the City of Kelso is doing okay on what is happening out there.

There being no further business, Mayor Futcher adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK