

Pastor Dave Grauer, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, gave the invocation. Mayor David Fatcher led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Fatcher. Councilmembers in attendance were: Fatcher, Karnofski, Slater, Myers, McDaniel, Roberson, and Malella.

Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Approve the minutes of the 2/17/09 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

KSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Jessica Warthen, ASB Vice President: 1) Senior class officers are selling T-shirts to raise money for class activities. The Senior Class is trying to decide on a gift to leave to the school upon graduation. 2) The Junior Class is working on the prom. 3) The Drama Club earned around \$4,000 on the play, *Scaramouch*. 4) Winter sports are finished. Girls' wrestlers took second at state. Some of the boys also went to state. Boys' Basketball went to district and the girls went to the regional playoffs. 5) Spring sports started Monday.

CITIZENS' BUSINESS:

Commissioner Kathleen Johnson, 604 N. 3rd. 1) Spoke about the Government Summit to be held on March 25th. Councilmembers and staff are encouraged to attend the meeting to talk about shared services in government. Discussion followed. 2) Spoke about the potential flooding on the Coweeman and what is being done. 3) Some of her neighbors have asked how they can request getting a speed bump on North 3rd to slow the traffic.

Gaylan Prescott, 2606 Kelso Drive, a staff representative of the United Steelworkers Union, asked Councilmembers to consider passing a resolution to buy American. This is an effort to ask cities, counties, and states to use the economic recovery dollars that are coming from the Federal Government for American-made products and services wherever possible. Discussion followed.

Chuck Clawitter, 1205 S. 3rd, commended the Kelso Police Department for catching the person responsible for the graffiti in his neighborhood.

Rick VonRock, 400 N. 7th, asked about the stimulus money the city is receiving to repair roads. Public Works Director David Sypher said the requirement is to be shovel-ready. Approximately \$290,000 has been allocated to do the overlay of 13th Avenue from Grade Street to Colorado. Discussion followed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Authorize Signature for Police Vehicle Purchase (2009 Dodge Charger): Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase order for a 2009 Dodge Charger police vehicle for a base price of \$22,884.00 plus options, sales tax, and applicable fees.' Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

MOTION ITEMS:

Resolution No. 09-989 – Adding a New Section to the Employee Handbook (Military Leave): The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Myers, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Pass Resolution No. 09-989, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 97-761 BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ENTITLED MILITARY FAMILY LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS.' Mayor Futch said the Family and Medical Leave Act has been amended to include an entitlement for certain eligible employees regarding military family leave. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Adding a Fee of \$10 for Fingerprinting Taxi Cab Drivers: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Pass on 1st reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3016, CODIFIED AS KMC 5.60.090 REGARDING LICENSING FEES FOR TAXI CAB DRIVERS.' This is a new fee the Washington State Patrol is charging the city and the cost would be passed on to the applicant. Discussion followed. Councilmembers Karnofski, Slater, McDaniel, Wheeler, Roberson, and Futch voted yes. Councilmember Myers voted no. Motion passed 6 to 1.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Adding a Fee of \$10 for Fingerprinting for Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Pass on 1st reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3016, CODIFIED AS KMC 5.52.050 REGARDING LICENSING FEES FOR PAWNBROKERS AND SECONDHAND DEALERS.' The Washington State Patrol now charges the city a fee of \$10 for each fingerprint request and this cost would be passed on to the applicant. Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Resolution No. 09-987 – Cancelling Certain Warrants: The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Pass Resolution No. 09-987, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO CANCELLING CERTAIN WARRANTS OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO RCW 39.56.040.' Discussion followed. Finance Director Brian Butterfield said the individuals have been contacted twice, but these warrants still have not been cashed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Water & Sewer Rate Ordinance Revision (Due to a Typographical Error): The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Myers, ‘Pass on 1st Reading, ‘AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 08-3688 DEALING WITH WATER AND SEWER RATES TO CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR AND MAKING THE RATES ADOPTED RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2009.’ Public Works Director David Sypher said a typographical error was made at the beginning causing all the figures to be off. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Resolution No. 09-988 – Designation of Applicant’s Agent (Applying for FEMA Reimbursements): The Deputy City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Myers, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, ‘Pass Resolution No. 09-988, ‘BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO DAVID SYPHER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, IS HEREBY DESIGNATED THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND JESSICA WILLIAMS, PROJECT COORDINATOR, IS DESIGNATED THE ALTERNATE FOR AND IN BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KELSO, A PUBLIC AGENCY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.’ The city is in process of applying for FEMA reimbursements for the flood damages in early January 2009 and the process requires that agent representatives be designated. Motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Dennis Richards: 1) In an effort to clean up the city, we have been working hard to get citizens to clean up or remove abandon cars and trailers from their property. 2) I spoke with the Three Rivers Mall manager about the mall sign not being lit up. He said it would cost around \$65,000 for the repairs. One suggestion would be using funds from the lodging taxes to pay for part of the repairs. 3) Upcoming neighborhood revitalization meetings are March 16, March 30, and April 13. All of the meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. here in the Council Chambers. Councilmember Myers and Councilmember McDaniel are the representatives; however, all Councilmembers are welcome. There will be a Council workshop on April 28 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS:

Janean Parker: No report

David Sypher: 1) A new contract for janitorial service will be presented at the next Council meeting. 2) The stormwater line on Burcham is finished. 3) Due to sickness, we have been shorthanded. I’m glad to have employees coming back. 4) FEMA reimbursements are coming along well and we anticipate getting some money for the January floods. 5) This year \$100,000 has been budgeted for projects. Some chip seals will be done in preparation for the major overlay scheduled next year. 6) Councilmember

Slater said the street in front of the Kelso School District Administrative Offices at 600 Crawford is really deteriorating. 7) Councilmember Slater voiced his concern for the two girls that were hit while walking in the crosswalk that crosses four lanes of traffic on Allen Street. There is a need for a blinking light for pedestrians to use when crossing at this intersection. Public Works Director Sypher said this is a state highway, so he will need to contact them.

Michael Kerins: 1) The Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing to discuss zoning subdivision ordinance revisions. 2) In an effort to beautify the city, courtesy notices have been mailed to citizens asking them to clean up their property. Councilmember Malella asked if the nuisance abatement ordinance is tough enough to allow the city to take the action needed when citizens don't comply. Lengthy discussion followed. 3) Concerning our plan of action for the neighborhood stabilization program funding, we have isolated North Kelso as the area we will be working on. Thirty-eight homes are in dyer need of renovation. Approximately nine homes are vacant and a couple need to be demolished. I will be meeting with the Housing Authority representatives tomorrow to determine which program these homes fit into and how to allocate the funding.

The following people spoke from the audience:

Chuck Clawitter, 1205 S. 3rd, asked how many people are taken to court concerning nuisance abatement issues.

Nancy Nazarath, 602 Academy, spoke about the need for cement trash cans around the city.

Further discussion followed.

STAFF REPORTS CONTINUED:

Cindy Donaldson: 1) The library has one of the cement trash cans and Waste Control is called when it needs to be emptied. 2) This week we are celebrating literacy week. Over 200 kids and their parents attended our first activity, "Saddle Up and Read," which was held at LCC on Sunday. Western-type activities will be held at the Kelso Library throughout the week.

Andy Hamilton: Chief Nelson will retire March 31st and we are in process of getting ready for the transition. Some testing for promotional purposes is in process.

Brian Butterfield: 1) Recently there have been some requests concerning the \$35,000 we have received from the county for the document recording fees. Residential Resources wants to put in a heat pump for a new group home they are putting in, Emergency Support Center needs money for maintenance and operations, and the Kelso

Housing Authority needs money for a new roof. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Council to wait until 2010, as there will be more money to work with.
2) Councilmember Malella asked for an update concerning the casino. Brian said River Casino has made all payments per agreement and the agreement is now in writing.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Dan Myers: There was an editorial in Sunday's paper by Barbara Saunders about the importance of the writers. Without them, we could lose our local newspaper.

Todd McDaniel: The Cowlitz Transit Authority (CUBS) is working on goals and a mission statement. At the next meeting on the 25th, the budget will be the main topic of discussion.

John Karnofski: No report

Alan Slater: Thanks for trimming the hedge on 4th & West Kelso. It has provided better vision at the four-way stop.

Gerald Malella: I attended my first Council of Governments meeting. There were a lot of negative comments concerning the economy. It sounded worse than what I am hearing at our meetings. Hopefully things will pick up everywhere.

Rick Roberson: 1) The skate park was discussed at the community meeting at Wallace School a few weeks ago. Someone also mentioned having a bike path. Since a lot of dirt will need to be excavated to construct the skate park, perhaps some of it can be used to make a bike path. Discussion followed. 2) Citizens were encouraged to attend the Community Government Summit on March 25th.

David Fatcher: KLTV has a new program, Local Matters, beginning tomorrow night on Channel 29 at 7:00 p.m. I will be their first guest on this program that will air every Wednesday night. Each week a different city or the county will be featured and citizens are invited to call in and ask questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council convened into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss property acquisition. At 8:54 p.m. the Council reconvened into Regular Session.

There being no further business, Mayor Fatcher adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK