

FIFE CITY COUNCIL
Fife City Hall
Council Chambers
Date: February 8, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

The Fife City Council Meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Johnson, Councilmember Alveshere, Councilmember de Booy, Councilmember Hull, Councilmember Godwin, Mayor ProTem Cerqui, and Councilmember Hulcey.

The following members were Excused/Absent: Steve Marcotte, Assistant City Manager and Carl Durham, Community Development Director

Staff Present: Dave Zabell, City Manager, David DeGroot, Finance Director, Russ Blount, Public Works Director, Brad Blackburn, Chief of Police, Kurt Reuter, Parks and Recreation Director, Loren Combs, City Attorney, Andrea Edwards, Executive Assistant and Kristen LaFrance, Senior Administrative Assistant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Godwin.

CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Hull moved, seconded by Councilmember Alveshere to add item 9B, Council Liaisons, to the current meeting agenda.

CITIZENS COMMENTS (Items not on the agenda)

There were no citizen comments for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

January 11, 2011 Minutes

January 18, 2011 Minutes

January 25, 2011

Claims Vouchers

Payroll Voucher

Approval of Vouchers:

Payroll #47460 - 47486 \$274,310.07

Claims #81905 - 82026 \$781,345.51

Councilmember Hull moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approve the Consent Agenda as is.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Tacoma Power Rate (Blount)

Tacoma Power Rate

Russ Blount, Public Works Director, introduced Ted Coates, Tacoma Power Superintendent to the Council.

Ted Coates reviewed the new Tacoma Power electric rates with a slide show, which will become effective in April 2011, through March 2013. Ted covered the rate adjustment drivers reasoning that includes the decrease in wholesale sales revenues, labor costs, regulatory mandates, the aging infrastructure and the debt service.

The City of Fife receives a franchise fee from TPU that is proportional to its revenues from its customers in Fife. The City of Fife received approximately \$450,000 from this revenue source last year; any increase to TPU's revenues will cause a proportional increase to this revenue to Fife. New rates will be paid by all residential and business customers, as well as by the City of Fife. The City's largest categories of electric use are its general buildings/facilities, pool, street illumination, wastewater pump stations, and parks. Tacoma Power is a Division of Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), and provides electric service to the west portion of Fife; their eastern service territory boundary is generally described as "the east line of those properties fronting on 70th Avenue East. TPU is considering increases to the rates it charges to its customers, including those in Fife, and requested an opportunity to present its case to the Fife Council and public.

Mayor Johnson thanked him for the presentation.

Councilmember Hull asked questions regarding coverage in Fife. Public Works Director, Russ Blount, showed on a map what part of Fife is covered by Tacoma Power utility connections.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui inquired about the use of peak time rates.

Councilmember de Booy inquired about the discount programs to senior citizens and how they can utilize the new grants that are available.

Mayor Johnson inquired on slide #6 regarding residential rates and asked for further clarification.

Tacoma Water Rate (Blount)Tacoma Water Rate

Russ Blount, Public Works Director, introduced Linda McCrea, Tacoma Water Superintendent to the Council.

Linda McCrea reviewed the new Tacoma Water rates with a slide show that will become effective February 13, 2011. Linda covered the elements of Tacoma's water service to Fife including the needs for a treatment plant, covered storage and the transmission of the infrastructure.

Sean Senescall, Rates and Financial Analysis Assistant Division Manager covered the 2011-2012 cost of service findings, the reasoning behind the rate increases and Fife's annual water cost.

Tacoma Water is a Division of Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), and sells drinking water to the City of Fife in accordance with TPU's wholesale customer tariff; Fife distributes water to its customers, meters use, prepares retail bills, and collects revenue at a retail rates established by the Fife City Council.

Councilmember Godwin expressed his opinions on the 30.2% increase in two years.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui inquired about the covered reservoirs.

Councilmember Alveshere would like more information on historical rates.

Russ Blount, Public Works Director, spoke to Council about the programmed increases that we have in place for our customers and how the new Tacoma Water rates will impact them. The Fife City Council adopted Ordinance 1707 in February, 2010, setting Fife's rates increasing in 20 percent increments in 2010, 2011, and 2012, and 3 percent increments in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The rates included in Fife's Ordinance 1707 were based on anticipated increases to TPU's wholesale rate of 10 percent per year. In fact, TPU has raised its rate for 2011 and 2012 by 15 percent each year.

Though TPU's new rates are substantially higher than anticipated when Fife adopted its rates, the new rates are not so much higher that they have created an immediate financial emergency. Fife will still collect enough revenue to cover all operating expenses, and the Washington State Department of Ecology's review of Fife's new well water right has been slower than anticipated, thereby deferring Fife's major capital expense for its proposed new water treatment facility.

COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORT

Councilmember Hulcey stated that he attended the Fife Historical Society Meeting on February 2nd. The Historical Board is waiting on the Barn agreement between the City of Fife and the Fife Historical Society.

Councilmember Hull stated that he has been working on the Fife Historical Barn agreement with Director Reuter and Councilmember Godwin.

Councilmember Hull also mentioned that the Pierce County Regional Committee is having a dinner at Bates Technical College on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui discussed the Valley Cities luncheon and the Budget Retreat that was held last weekend.

Councilmember de Booy mentioned about the Citizens Advisory Board that she serves on. They have been busy the last few weeks with grant awarding.

Mayor Johnson commented on the Budget Retreat and on February 16th and 17th he will be heading to Olympia for CLAC.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ORDINANCES:

#1738 LID Foreclosure Procedures (DeGroot)

Ord 1738 LID Foreclosure Procedures

Senior Administrative Assistant, Kristen LaFrance, read the title of Ordinance #1738.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIFE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ASSESSMENT FORECLOSURE PROCEDURES AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 3.08.160, 3.08.170, 3.08.180 AND 3.08.190 TO THE FIFE MUNICIPAL CODE

Councilmember Alveshere moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approve Ordinance #1738 LID Foreclosure Procedures.

Motion passed 6-1.

NEW BUSINESS**Discussion of State Legislative Agenda (Marcotte)**

Fife City Manager, Dave Zabell briefed the Council on the Legislative bills moving forward this week. He also shared the new look to our City of Fife Legislative Agenda, created by Laurel Potter, Marketing Coordinator.

COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Fife City Council updated the Council Liaison Appointment list. Changes made to the list included updating the Puget Sound Regional Council, listing Councilmember Hull and alternate-Mayor Johnson. The Website Advisory Committee was added, listing Councilmember Hulcey, alternate-Councilmember Hull. The Tree Commission was added, listing Councilmember Hull, alternate Councilmember de Booy.

Councilmember Hull moved, seconded by Councilmember de Booy, to approve the updates to the Council Liaison Appointments.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Fife City Manager Dave Zabell had Director Reuter update Council on the Daddy/Daughter dance that was held on Saturday, February 5, 2011. 40 couples attended this event, making it a huge success.

Zabell updated the Council on the SR167/Puyallup River Bridge lane restrictions that will be in effect February 22, 2011. Under the new restriction, northbound traffic with more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight must use the right lane when crossing the SR 167 Puyallup River Bridge.

Zabell will be attending the Pierce County Regional Council meeting/dinner on February 17th at Bates Technical College.

Zabell will attend the WEDA-Winter 2011 Conference on Monday, February 14th and Tuesday, February 15th, and will be attending the AWC City Legislative Action Conference along with selected Councilmembers February 16-17, 2011.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Alveshere thanked the Police Department for the quick 911 service and response time. He also reminded everyone of the dangers that Correctional Officers and Police Officers face on a daily basis.

Councilmember de Booy reminded everyone of the Milton Way ribbon cutting event that will be held on February 15, at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui inquired about the Arts Commission. He has someone who is interested in serving on that Commission.

Councilmember Hull stated that the City of Tacoma received their first ever Sustainable Community Development award for 2010. He also inquired on the LEAP program to keep jobs within the City.

Mayor Johnson took a phone call from a resident on Freeman Road. He wanted to know why trucks are still using Freeman as a detour now that Valley Avenue is open. Director Blount stated that it is still a detour because of the construction on 70th. Once that is complete the restriction will be put back in place for Freeman Road.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments for this meeting.

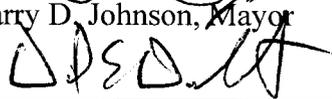
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Hull moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.



Barry D. Johnson, Mayor



for _____
Cindy L. Dunn, CMC, City Clerk