



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Monday – February 17, 2009
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Asay called the regularly-scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present were Beaudry, Borek, Drotz, Heddlesten, Neal, Sanderson, and Whalen.

STAFF PRESENT

City Administrator Wilson, Police Chief Rhoads, Public Works Director Neal, Fire Chief Jaques, Finance Director Pierce, and Finance Technician II Short were present.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS

Mayor Asay deleted the executive session.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizen comments were made.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance and Resolution – 2009 Water and Electric Rates and Fees

Mayor Asay introduced the public hearing on an ordinance and resolution for the 2009 water and electric rates and fees, and stated that she would be presenting an additional option. She asked Michael Wilson, City Administrator, to introduce the original proposal. He explained that the ordinance has been modified to refer to the Utility Rate and Fees Schedule that is attached to the resolution, and proceeded to review the proposed changes to the schedule, which are necessitated by revenue deficiencies in the water and electric utilities.

Mayor Asay reviewed her recommendation to Council, which takes into consideration comments received from them. She explained that the transfer of \$1 million for the Milton Way

project has already been completed and does not need to be accounted for again, and stated that there is no recommended increase in the Electric Utility at this time; however, there would be the CPI increase at the beginning of 2010. She informed Council that her recommendation includes a 20% increase in the water rate for residential as well as commercial customers, with no tiered rates or "out of town" surcharge. She then reviewed budget figures for the two utilities.

The Council commented on the new proposal. Mayor Asay stated that the proposal had been presented to the Finance Committee that afternoon and it was their recommendation to have it brought forward at the public hearing. She said that her intention is to take public comment tonight and continue the public hearing at the first meeting in March.

Mayor Asay opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Jean Waldherr, 2104 87th Ave. Ct. E. – Ms. Walder stated that she agrees that a rate increase is needed, however does not agree with the surcharge for out-of-town residents.

Jacquelyn Whalen, 1605 13th Ave. – Ms. Whalen said that she appreciates the Public Hearing being continued to March 2, and recommend raising the threshold rather than implementing a tiered rate. She thanked the City Administrator for taking on this challenging project and stated he will be missed. She also raised a concern regarding the City's bills, saying that she has provided the City with a copy of a Puget Sound Energy statement and would like to see the City's bills show more detail, similar to that shown by PSE.

Dick Hilton, 706 5th Ave. – Mr. Hilton questioned if the City of Milton should be in the Utility business. He stated that when comparing Milton's water rate with another utility, that Milton's was 50% higher.

Milton Loflin, 1810 11th Ave. – Mr. Laughlin stated that he is disappointed in Administration. He commented that there are lower rates out there, and that the City should have contacted Tacoma Power to purchase the City's electric utility. He also stated that Lakehaven should be contacted to see if they would be able to provide citizens a cheaper water rate.

Rob McDonald, 1308 15th Ave. – Mr. McDonald voiced his concerns about the inequality of the rate for out-of-town residents, and felt that raising the rates would lower the usage. He spoke about the compounding effect of a rate increase and commented on an article in the paper about the City getting a refund from Puget Power. He also asked about the actual cost to install the radio read meters.

Dianne Tomaso, 1709 Milton Way – Ms. Tomaso felt it would be more economical to purchase water from an outside source, and said that if the Council is unable to make that decision, it should be put to a vote of the people.

Dave Chapman, 1200 26th Ave. Ct. – Mr. Chapman said that he does not understand why it costs so much to maintain the City's water system, and asked if the figures are accurate.

Gerald Morgan, 2205 88th – Mr. Morgan is an Edgewood resident, and stated that he does not agree with the out-of-town surcharge.

Sig Nicholson, 2607 94th Ave. East – Mr. Nicholson said that he does not agree with the surcharge for out-of-town residents.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Asay continued the public hearing to Monday, March 2, 2009, at or about 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

AB09-006 – Ordinance and Resolution Adopting New Water & Electric Rates

Council responded to comments from the public, and stated that the City purchases electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration, not Puget Power.

AB09-007 – Approval of Interlocal Agreement – EMS Management Services

Fire Chief Jacques introduced the agreement and stated that the attorney had no changes to the services.

Jacquelyn Whalen, 1605 13th Ave. – Ms. Whalen asked for clarification on the percentage breakdown between Fire District 8 and the City of Milton.

COUNCILMEMBER DROTZ MOVED to authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County Fire Districts #8, 18, and 22 to provide for Emergency Management services. Councilmember Whalen seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

AB09-008 – Suspension of rate increase for Community Development Fees

Community Development Director Nicholson introduced the agenda bill and explained that this is a deferral of the 2009 annual fee adjustments for Community Development related items.

Jacquelyn Whalen, 1605 13th Ave. – Ms. Whalen said that she does not support this and encouraged Council to take a look at other city's fees. She felt that the City of Milton should be more comparable.

COUNCILMEMBER DROTZ MOVED to defer the 2009 annual fee adjustments for Community Development related items as adopted in City of Milton Resolution #08-1756 Section V – Zoning, Land Division & Environmental and section VI – Building and Fire Safety. Councilmember Sanderson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

AB09-009 – Approval of Planning Commission Work Plan

Community Development Director Nicholson introduced the agenda bill and asked Council to approve the Planning Commission work plan as provided.

COUNCILMEMBER HEDDLESTEN MOVED that the following items be approved as the Planning Commission 2009 Work Plan in the priority as listed:

- Completion of the Regulatory Reform project that was begun in 2008.

- Development of a Planned Unit Development provision in Title 17 of the MMC. This project is a carry over from last year's work plan.
- Building Height definition refinement.
- Density definition changes that will help to facilitate achievement of Buildable Lands Goals.
- Additions to the Home Occupation requirements of MMC 17.44.090 that address a broad range of concerns, i.e. traffic generation and licensing requirements.
- Landscape ordinance.
- A Temporary Encampments ordinance.
- Respond to City Council direction & requests within budget constraints.
- Housekeeping errors; i.e. date corrections for maps and footnote references in Title 17.

Councilmember Beaudry seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

AB09-010 – Cell Phone Policy Adoption

Finance Director Pierce introduced the agenda bill and presented the policy to Council. Council commented on the policy.

COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED to adopt the Personnel Policy and Procedures regarding the use of cellular telephones provided for clarification for the purchase and use of said phones and to establish the protocol for reimbursement by employees for personal use of City of Milton cell phones. Councilmember Beaudry seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 6-1 (Drotz).

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the February 5, 2009, payroll direct deposits, checks, and benefits, in the amount of \$240,735.27, and February 17, 2009, checks/vouchers, numbers 17033 – 17104 and check number 16988, in the amount of \$329,160.79, and Requisition (PO #56773) for Altec Industries Inc. for \$34,769.22.

COUNCILMEMBER BEAUDRY MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Heddlesten seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Neal reported/commented on: 1) a newspaper article on Councilmember Jim Heddlesten.

Councilmember Sanderson reported/commented on: 1) a newspaper article about real estate taxes; 2) BPA rate increase proposal for 2010 and 2011; 3) permit issued by the Department of Ecology to the Department of Transportation regulating stormwater runoff; 4) meeting with

Rainier Communications and discussion of franchise agreements; and 5) updating the Reader Board.

Councilmember Whalen reported/commented on: 1) Water system in regards to the Birch Street crossing and the number of customers; 2) his appreciation for the time put into informing the Council in regard to right-of-way acquisition; 3) the expiration of a commissioner's term in May; 4) minutes from the Planning Commission; and 5) asked that the Directors' reports be placed back in the packets.

Councilmember Heddleston reported/commented on: 1) he filled in for the Mayor at the Cascade Regional Award Services dinner and award notification; and 2) he would like all Councilmembers interested in being a part of the water rate study group to let him know in the next few days.

Councilmember Beaudry reported/commented on: 1) the Public Safety/Public Works/Community Development committee meeting; and 2) the City of Seattle just put a surcharge on their water due to an overcharge to the citizens on the fire hydrants.

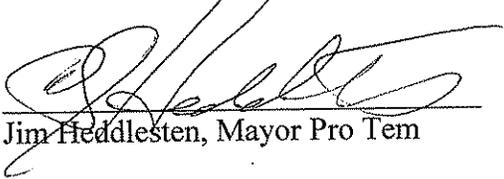
In response to a request from Councilmember Drotz for clarification on the ad hoc committee to review the utility rates and fees, the Mayor explained the purpose of the committee and other Councilmembers added their comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Asay asked Finance Technician II Cathy Short to explain the spreadsheets that she put together comparing the old meters to the new radio read meters. The Mayor commented about the PCRC meeting on Thursday and stated she will be in Olympia on Wednesday and Thursday.

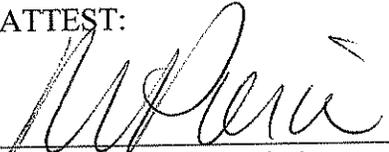
ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER BEAUDRY MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Councilmember Heddleston seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0



Jim Heddleston, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Maria Pierce, City Clerk