

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
February 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Norris at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor Norris, Councilmembers Cheney, Combs, Fiedler, Lindquist, Ragan and Urban.

Absent: Councilmember McMullen

Staff Present: Human Resources Director Bartlett, Police Chief Bergsma, Fire Chief Hari, Finance Director Huschka, City Attorney Rogerson, Library Director Soneda, Special Projects Administrator Stendal, Solid Waste Manager Sutherland.

Citizens Present: 2

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of February 4, 2009 Study Session minutes and February 11, 2009 Regular Council minutes.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the February 4, 2009 Study Session and February 11, 2009 Regular Council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fiedler. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Approval of February 2009 claims numbered 109764, 109776 - 109975 in the amount of \$701,085.33.

Councilmember Urban moved to approve the February 2009 claims numbered 109764, 109776 - 109975 in the amount of \$701,085.33. Motion seconded by Councilmember Combs. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

1. Finance Committee: see Committee agenda and minutes for details.
2. Community Comments:
3. Councilmember Comments: Councilmember Ragan reported that he has presented information about the proposed Veterans Memorial to Skagit County and asked them to review it and process it through their site selection process.
4. Mayor's Report: Mr. Rogerson asked Council to adjourn to an executive session to discuss potential litigation. Executive session is expected to take no longer than 25 minutes.
The meeting was convened to executive session at 7:19 p.m.
5. Executive session to consider potential litigation.
Session resumed at 7:40 p.m.
6. Agenda Requests: Councilmember Urban asked the Public Safety Committee review door to door sales regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Emergency Ordinance 3442: Mr. Rogerson introduced an emergency ordinance that establishes interim controls and regulations regarding the extension of municipal utilities to unincorporated urban growth areas. This reaffirms and further recognizes the City's discretion to approve or deny a request to extend utilities to unincorporated urban growth areas and identifies some policies and criteria needed to make such decisions in order to promote orderly, contiguous and timely planning and growth for expansion of these services.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve Ordinance 3442 granting Council immediate interim control of utility connections in unincorporated urban growth areas. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cheney. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Amendment to the Personnel Handbook: Ms. Bartlett presented a proposed modification to the City of Mount Vernon employee handbook that deals with the reimbursement of business expenses. The proposal would increase the daily meal allowance from \$39 per day to \$54 per day. The Office of Financial Management of the State of Washington established new rates and this proposal is in the middle range of these rates.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to approve Resolution 784 changing the reimbursement rate for employees to \$54 per day. Motion seconded by Councilmember Combs. Motion carried 6-0.

- C. Interlocal Agreement with City of Burlington: Mr. Soneda presented a proposal for authorization to establish reciprocal borrowing privileges for library cardholding residents of Mount Vernon and Burlington as a permanent agreement. A fifteen month study period has been a success and both libraries recommend adoption of a permanent agreement.

Councilmember Ragan moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Burlington establishing permanent borrowing privileges between resident library card holders in both cities. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 6-0.

- D. Out of State Travel: Chief Bergsma asked for Council approval of out of state travel for a detective to attend computer forensic training in Pasadena, California March 16-20, 2009.

Councilmember Combs moved to authorize out of state travel for a detective to attend training in Pasadena, California March 16-20, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilmember Urban. Motion carried 6-0.

- E. Parking Zones: Mr. Stendal presented a request for Council approval of an ordinance updating Mount Vernon Municipal Code Chapter 10.20, Parking Zones. This change will bring the Code more closely into compliance with the actual parking signage. This ordinance does not make any substantial change to current practices or restrictions.

Councilmember Cheney moved to approve Ordinance 3443 updating the Mount Vernon Municipal Code Chapter 10.2, Parking Zones. Motion seconded by Councilmember Combs. Motion carried 6-0.

- F. Interlocal Agreement: Mr. Rogerson presented a request for authorization for the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Skagit County, cities and towns of Skagit County and various public agencies within Skagit County to partner in efforts to achieve greater flood storage capacity in Baker Project.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement to partner in efforts to increase Skagit River flood water storage. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was convened to executive session at 8:06 p.m. The estimated length is 30 minutes.

- G. Executive session to consider real estate.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Rebecca J. Wade, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Bud Norris, Mayor