

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Norris at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Combs

Staff Present: Police Chief Bergsma, Fire Chief Hari, Public Works Director Bell, Assistant Public Works Director Love, Engineering Manager Chesterfield, Solid Waste Supervisor Sutherland, Wastewater Supervisor Fullner, Community and Economic Development Director Hanson, Finance Director Huschka, City Attorney Rogerson, Special Projects Administrator Stendal.

Citizens Present: Sixty plus

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of February 20, 2008 Retreat Minutes, August 12 and August 26, 2009 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, and August 19, 2009 Study Session Minutes.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the minutes as stated above. Motion seconded by Councilmember Urban. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Approval of September 9, 2009 Claims Numbered 112544-112546, 112550-112756 in the amount of \$618,879.07

Councilmember Urban moved to approve the claims as stated above. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

- A. Public Works Committee: see Committee agenda and minutes for details.

- B. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Norris stated that tonight's Council meeting is being held in its new location. The remodel was made possible with funds available in the TV10 budget and a generous donation from the Skagit County Commissioners for the seated area for Councilmembers. Building Official Rick Prosser worked very hard to ensure the fast completion of the chambers.
- Mayor Norris announced that on Saturday September 26th Glenn Beck will be at McIntyre Hall. The Mayor indicated that he is wholly responsible for this event and would like everyone to know that City Council and the business community were not involved. This effort started over a year ago. The Lincoln Theatre will receive all of the proceeds from this event and McIntyre Hall will also benefit as the venue hosting

the event. This honor is bestowed upon Glenn Beck for his professional accomplishments not his politics. In regards to the public comment period on the agenda, he reminded the audience to be respectful of others and to realize this is not a debate and to not anticipate comments back.

C. Community Comments:

- Jim Cameron, Skagit County resident, thanked Mayor Norris for the opportunity to speak here this evening. He has known Glenn Beck since childhood and supports this event. Glenn Beck's ratings beat all similar shows combined on the other networks.
- Mary Ruth Holder, Mount Vernon resident, said that this event purports to represent all of Mount Vernon which it does not. This is not about free speech; it is about giving the key to the city to Glenn Beck and declaring it Glenn Beck Day. She urged City Council to do a resolution against Glenn Beck Day and giving him the key.
- Jim Youngsman, Mount Vernon business owner, stated that as a community we need to be open-minded. He has a great deal of respect for Mayor Norris and his stand. He commends his courage for going forth with the event.
- Andrew Oommen, Mount Vernon resident, said he is speaking out against Glenn Beck Day. Glenn Beck is academically dishonest. This event teaches children that they can be honored for stupidity.
- Steven Terwilliger, Mount Vernon resident, said he is appalled at behavior of people here this evening. By Mayor Norris stating that he supports Glenn Beck he must support his views on racism. As a community member he does not agree with racism or Glenn Beck's stand.
- Marc Oomen, Mount Vernon resident, said that Mayor Norris should use his authority for the betterment of Mount Vernon. He does not support giving the key to Glenn Beck. It should be Volunteer Appreciation Day.
- Xitlalic Hernandez, Mount Vernon resident, stated he is not in support of this event. The Grainery has already lost business because of this and the gain for the Lincoln Theatre does not offset the losses that will be incurred around town.
- Richard Bowyer, Mount Vernon resident, supports the Glenn Beck event. He urged council to put a moratorium on city employee raises for a two year time period.
- Valerie Rose, Mount Vernon resident, said that she supports Councilmember Urban's idea to make September 26th Volunteer Appreciation Day. We should thank people who live here, volunteer and work hard in Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon businesses will be hurt from this event.
- Lawrence Pirkle, Mount Vernon resident, stated that in 1915 his grandfather emigrated from Italy. On his 90th birthday he asked him what made him happiest and he said his American citizenship. A key to the city is a symbolic gesture and nothing more. This country is about differences. The difference between a leader and a politician is a leader does what is right. Mayor Norris is a leader.
- Phillip Holder, Mount Vernon resident, said that looking at the agenda there is a lot of business to be done this evening and a debate over Glenn Beck is a waste of time. It is not a benefit for Mount Vernon and will hurt local business. This has made Mount Vernon the butt of jokes. The element of trust is missing in our local government and we need to have something in place to avoid this in future.
- Jim Lyon, Skagit County resident, commended Mayor Norris on his decision to invite Glenn Beck to Mount Vernon.
- Laura Thorpe, former Mount Vernon resident now residing in Snohomish County, thanked Mayor Norris for being firm in his decision to bring Glenn Beck to Mount

Vernon even though there are those that oppose him. It has done a lot for Mount Vernon regardless of what people think. She supports the local businesses and will continue to shop in Mount Vernon.

- Rachel Debellis, Snohomish County resident, said she comes up every year to Christmas to shop and will continue to do so. She supports Glenn Beck getting the key to the city for his accomplishments.
- Alice Holtrup, Mount Vernon resident, stated that her father used to own the City Bakery and sold it to Glenn Beck's father. She is in support of Glenn Beck and very proud he is being brought back to Mount Vernon.
- Penny Lyon, Skagit County resident, said she does not understand why people would boycott shopping here when the local businesses had nothing to do with this.
- Michelle Murphy, Mount Vernon resident, stated that President Obama's speech this evening was valuable and everyone should watch it. She added that when Glenn Beck was on CNN he did a special on how the health care system doesn't work but now that he is on Fox News his views have changed.
- Tammy Oommen, Mount Vernon resident, said that racism does not belong in this community and by inviting Glenn Beck it is inviting racism. She added that she does not appreciate people's rudeness when her sons were speaking.
- Shirley Viscalla, Skagit County Democrats, stated that Mayor Norris should be censored for this action.

D. Councilmember Comments:

- Councilmember Ragan said this issue has brought out a lot of negative views and threats to not shop here. He is concerned about the overall affect on the community. He would like to propose an ordinance to change the Mayor's authority on this type of action. Mayor Norris responded that this is not following procedure for approval of an ordinance and it should be put on a future agenda if Councilmember Ragan would like to request it.
- Councilmember Lindquist stated that this event has been a huge distraction from the City business at hand and he is ready to move forward.
- Councilmember Fiedler agreed with Councilmember Lindquist that it is time to get to business and added that this will most likely not affect Mount Vernon in the long term.

E. Agenda Request:

A ten minute recess was called at 8:05 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Open Record Public Hearing – CDBG 2010 Action Plan: Mr. Stendal explained that the public hearing this evening is to meet requirements of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to establish the CDBG 2010 action plan. The public hearing is to obtain the views of citizens and other interested parties.

Mayor Norris opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments Mayor Norris closed the public hearing. Mr. Stendal said the city is notified in February or March of the city's eligibility and in May or June the dollar amount anticipated is available.

- B. Census 2010 Information Presentation: Mr. Stendal introduced Loretta Olsen from the US Census Bureau. Loretta Olsen invited the city to partner with the Census Bureau to help get the word out about the census and its importance. The U.S. Census is a count of all people living in the United States and is used to allocate money for various programs based on the information gathered. People should receive a census in March of 2010.
- C. Skagit County Solid Waste Transfer and Recycle Station: Mr. Sutherland stated that after studying options for improvements to the Skagit County Recycling and Transfer Station it was determined the best option available is to build a new station at the existing site. It will have no impact on daily operations and will be the most cost effective alternative. This request is to authorize Mayor Norris to vote in the affirmative at the next scheduled Solid Waste Governance Board meeting in support of proceeding with the initial design effort which is anticipated to cost \$500,000.

Councilmember Urban moved to authorize Mayor Norris to vote in the affirmative on this matter. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 6-0.

- D. Professional Services Agreement with Mount Vernon Downtown Association: Ms. Huschka explained that this agreement with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association is a follow up measure to the City's financial commitment of \$25,000 for the Main Street program. The funds are for hiring an executive director and to support administrative costs.

Councilmember Ragan moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association for the Main Street program. Motion seconded by Councilmember McMullen. Motion carried 6-0.

- E. Out of State Travel Request – Community and Economic Development: Ms. Hanson stated that this request is to send Doug Nathe to the Northwest GIS User Group Conference in Oregon from October 14 to 16.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the out of state travel as stated above. Motion seconded by Councilmember Urban. Motion carried 6-0.

- F. Resolution to Declare Surplus Items in the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): Mr. Fullner stated that there are numerous items that need to be declared surplus at this time. Councilmember Fiedler inquired how the items would be disposed of. Mr. Fullner responded that various avenues exist to either sell or scrap the items.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to adopt Resolution 795 approving the surplus of items in the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cheney. Motion carried 6-0.

- G. Supplemental Agreement for LaVenture Road Extension: Mr. Love said this is a supplement to an existing agreement with Reichhardt and Ebe for additional construction survey work for the LaVenture Road extension project in the amount of \$40,000.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a supplemental agreement with Reichhardt and Ebe Engineering for additional construction survey work not to exceed \$40,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cheney. Motion carried 6-0.

- H. Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 1 – College Way/Freeway Drive Project: Mr. Love stated that this amendment with Reichhardt and Ebe Engineering is for construction management services in the amount of \$160,700.

Councilmember Urban moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Reichhardt and Ebe Engineering for construction management not to exceed \$160,700. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 6-0.

- I. Acceptance of Work – Sidewalk and Street Improvements: Mr. Love explained that the Sidewalk Improvements Project surrounding the hospital is now complete. C. Johnson Construction completed the work satisfactorily. During the project additional paving was necessary which caused the final project cost to increase by \$25,055.57 for a total of \$186,011.57.

Councilmember Cheney moved to accept the work completed by C. Johnson Construction for construction of the South 15th and Broad Street and sidewalk improvements. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 6-0.

- J. Acceptance of Work – 2009 Street Overlay Project: Mr. Love stated that the 2009 Street Overlay Project work was satisfactorily completed by Lakeside Industries. The total project cost is \$171,559.15.

Councilmember Ragan moved to accept the work completed by Lakeside Industries for construction of the 2009 Street Overlay Project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Urban. Motion carried 6-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lori J. Kimbriel, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Bud Norris, Mayor