

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Norris at 7:05 p.m.

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

Staff Present: City Attorney Rogerson, Police Chief Bergsma, Fire Chief Hari, Public Works Director Bell, Assistant Public Works Director Love, Information Services Manager Kleppe, Parks and Recreation Director Otos, Finance Director Huschka, Special Projects Administrator Stendal.

Citizens Present: Nineteen

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of December 9, 2009 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and December 2, 2009 and December 16, 2009 Study Session Minutes:

Councilmember Urban moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

- A. Public Works Committee: see Committee agenda and minutes for details.
- B. Community Comments:
- Richard Bowyer, Mount Vernon resident, welcomed new councilmembers Quam and Molenaar. He said that when speaking with them prior to the elections they promised to have more interaction with the citizens of Mount Vernon. He added that council meetings are also an appropriate place to interact with citizens. He asked them to remember that they represent the citizens not the administration.
- C. Councilmember Comments:
- Councilmember Quam gave his thanks to Mayor Norris and staff for the informative session on Monday. Councilmember Molenaar agreed.
- D. Mayor's Report:
- Cancellation of January 27, 2010 Regular Council Meeting: Mayor Norris stated that several councilmembers including himself will be gone and he is requesting the meeting be cancelled.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the cancellation of the January 27, 2010 regular council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilmember McMullen. Motion carried 7-0.

- Mayor Norris introduced Gerald Childress and his two sons, William and Gerald Childress Jr. from Troop 100 of the Boy Scouts.

E. Committee Agenda Requests:

- Councilmember Ragan requested a discussion on impact fees so that the new members could get an understanding of them.
- Councilmember Fiedler noted that Alicia Huschka would give a financial update at next week's Parks Committee meeting, since the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for January 27th would be cancelled along with the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Citizen of the Year: Mayor Norris announced John Cheney as the recipient of the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award. Mayor Norris said that he is well deserving of this award. John Cheney has exhibited excellent community service. He has served on many local agency boards including Skagit County Community Action and Skagit Transit (SKAT), and served as a City of Mount Vernon councilmember for twenty-four years. Mayor Norris presented a plaque to Mr. Cheney.

- John Cheney said that he has worked with many councilmembers and city staff over the years and counts himself lucky to have had the opportunity to be involved with the City. It has been a pleasure to serve as councilmember for the past 24 years.
- Larry Otos stated that John Cheney is a stellar individual who is always well prepared. He has been a great friend to the Parks Department. He has contributed many hours to Parks Department projects and kept the projects within budget. He has appreciated his commitment to the City of Mount Vernon and the Parks Department.
- Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County Commissioner, said he has had the privilege of working with John Cheney on the SKAT board. He is a strong advocate of public transportation. This award is very well deserved.

B. Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County Senior Services: Ms. Huschka stated that each year the City of Mount Vernon budgets for and provides funding to the Skagit County Senior Services Department. These funds cover operational support, nutrition services, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and coordination and delivery of supportive services for the citizens of Mount Vernon. The interlocal agreement confirms the City's funding commitment. The 2010 funding amount is \$53,856 which is the same amount as 2009.

Councilmember Ragan moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Skagit

County Senior Services for 2010. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County: Mr. Kleppe said that this interlocal agreement with Skagit County is to provide television production services to Skagit County. The copy right paragraph has been updated to allow Skagit County to retain all copy rights on their productions. This interlocal agreement does not conflict with any City production projects.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Skagit County for annual television production services not to exceed \$10,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember McMullen. Motion carried 7-0.

- D. Proposed Ordinance: Councilmember Ragan had requested that this item and ordinance be place on the next available agenda. Mr. Rogerson presented the item. Mr. Rogerson explained that previously Councilmember McMullen first requested a discussion on a potential ordinance that would restrict all city officials including elected officials other than City Council from issuing proclamations or other ceremonial titles or symbolic acts in their official capacity. As a result the City Attorney researched this issue and first presented his findings at a committee meeting in December where he stated that this is not an advisable course of action. The validity of any such ordinance would be in question and could potentially cause legal ramifications in the future that might require the hiring of special legal counsel. The best course of action would be to engage in communication prior to any actions occurring. Councilmember Ragan said that city council has a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of Mount Vernon. This ordinance would insure that a discussion would occur prior to any event. It is important that the previous event not be repeated. Councilmember McMullen stated that he was satisfied with the discussion that occurred at the committee meeting. Councilmember Urban added that he does not feel this ordinance accomplishes the task of limiting city financial burden for events and will not support it. Communication should be the focus of any future event. Councilmember Molenaar inquired if special legal counsel would be at the cost of taxpayer dollars. Mr. Rogerson explained that it would. Councilmember Fiedler stated that city council has financial control measures that may be used. The previous event was a learning experience for all involved. Councilmember Lindquist said this should be remedied by using the financial controls afforded city council. Councilmember Quam inquired if the presented ordinance could be altered to say any event which presents a cost to the city. Mr. Rogerson said it could be altered but he would not be prepared this evening to provide the appropriate wording.

Councilmember Ragan moved to adopt Ordinance 3464. Motion not seconded. Motion failed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lori J. Kimbriel, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Bud Norris, Mayor