

## **ORTING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2008

Mayor Cheryl Temple called the meeting to order with the flag salute at 7:00 pm in the Orting Public Safety Building. Roll call found in attendance Councilmembers Scott Drennen, Dick Ford, George Wilson, Joachim Pestinger, Guy S. Colorossi, and David Inge.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

City Employees	City Administrator Mark Bethune, Finance Director/City Clerk Sue Davis, Administrative Assistant Roxanne Walczak, Accounting Clerk II Freda Bingham, Police Chief Bill Drake, Community Services Director Beckie Meek, Fire Chief Randy Shelton, Cashier Beverly Emmons, Accounting Clerk I Jane Heleglien.
Professional Representatives	Parametrix Engineer Dave Roberts, Kenyon Disend Attorney Kari Sand.
Visitors	Margaret O'Harra, Kim Farnes, Dave Harman, Steve Meitzler, Richard Neigel, Brian Thompson, Lisa Littleton, Ken Pick, Barbara Bauml, David C. Goff, Sr. Jolene Hilt.

### **COUNCILMEMBER OATHS OF OFFICE :**

Oath of Office – Guy S. Colorossi Clerk/Treasurer Susan Davis gave the Oath of Office to Guy S. Colorossi.

Councilmember Colorossi took his seats with the Council.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of December 12, 2007.
- B. Approval of December 2007 Treasurer's Report.
- C. Approval of Claims Warrants No. 12156 through No. 12275 in the amount of \$197,801.74 and Payroll Warrants No. 16414 through No. 16531 in the amount of \$209,853.80.

Councilmember Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared. Councilmember Emmons seconded the motion and it carried.

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Utility B & O Tax Cap City Administrator Bethune and Finance Director/City Clerk Davis reported their findings about a possible cap on the recently increased

utility tax of \$50 and \$100. There are currently 14 groups that would benefit from a cap. That includes the City, the School District, and businesses that use significant amounts of energy including restaurants. The City has had an economic development policy that seeks to increase new businesses and remove obstacles. Many of Orting's businesses are marginal and a cap would benefit those with high energy use. Caps are difficult to manage/audit. The City does not have resources to audit the utilities to determine that they are properly implemented. Many cities have caps and there does not appear to be evidence of serious problems on the record.

Councilmember Pestinger moved to establish a \$50 monthly cap on the Utility B & O tax. Councilmember Emmons seconded the motion and it carried. City Staff will prepare an ordinance to institute a \$50 per month cap and present it at the January 30, 2008 Council meeting.

Council Committees

Mayor Temple provided a copy of the new City Council Committee assignments to the Council. The committee assignments, as assigned by the ad hoc Council Committee group, are as follows:

**Parks** Chair: Dick Ford, Co-Chair: George Wilson

**Public Safety** Chair: Ron Emmons, Co-Chair: George Wilson

**Utilities & Technology** Chair: Scott Drennen, Co-Chair: Sam Colorossi

**Transportation** Chair: George Wilson, Co-Chair: Joachim Pestinger

**Finance & Budget** Chair: Sam Colorossi, Co-Chair: Joachim Pestinger

**Schools & Education** Chair: Scott Drennen, Co-Chair: David Inge

**Community Development** Chair: David Inge, Co-Chair: Dick Ford

**Government Affair** Chair: Joachim Pestinger, Co-Chair: Ron Emmons, Dick Ford

Councilmember Pestinger moved to approve the Council Committee assignments as presented. Councilmember Inge seconded the motion and it carried.

Bridge for Kids: Lead Agency

Councilmember Drennen updated the Council on the progress of Bridge for Kids search for a lead agency. If the City were to accept lead agency status the City's responsibilities would include working with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Bridge for Kids to select a Project Manager and ultimately hire an engineering firm to begin design work. The overall estimated cost of the project is about \$30 million. This money will ostensibly come from the state and federal government. If the project goes through the

design stage and uses federal money and yet the project is not completed, the city is held liable by the federal government to repay the federal portion of the monies – about \$800,000. WSDOT states that to date they have never seen a jurisdiction have to pay back money when the causes for no completion are reasonable. WSDOT believes we can complete the project through 30 percent design without using Federal Funds. CTED (state) will not hold the city accountable to pay back its funding as long as we complete the 30 percent design.

Pierce County Public Works has studied the cost of maintaining the bridge. Annual costs could be at least \$30,000 and could be much more if the city accepts the trail maintenance that goes from the east side of the bridge to the Cascadia development.

After discussion Councilmember Ford moved to table discussion of Bridge for Kids to the next Council meeting. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of four to three. Councilmembers Wilson, Ford, Colorossi and Pestinger voted in favor of the motion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Parks Commissioner  
Confirmation: Jolene  
Hilt

Mayor Temple requested the confirmation of Jolene to fill the Parks Commission seat vacated by Marlene Wade. Councilmember Inge moved to confirm the appointment of Jolene Hilt to serve on the Parks Commission. Councilmember Pestinger seconded the motion and it carried

Civil Service  
Commissioner  
Appointment: Leigh  
Place

Mayor Temple reported that she had recently appointed Leigh Place to the Civil Service Commission. Mrs. Place will fill the seat vacated by Councilmember George Wilson.

Valley Water District  
Inter-tie

Valley Water District has approached the City and asked for an inter-tie to our water system south of the City. The intertie would provide Valley Water with enough water (30 gallons per minute for five hours per day) to dilute their water and reduce the amount of arsenic in their water.

The City needs to determine if and when they would like to pursue inter-tie with neighboring water districts. Councilmember Drennen reported that the Utility and Technology Committee is in favor of moving forward with an inter-tie with Valley Water District.

Councilmember Drennen moved to authorize the Mayor and City Staff to move forward with an interlocal agreement and feasibility study for an inter-tie with Valley Water District. Councilmember Colorossi seconded the motion and it carried.

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| School District Reclaimed Water Agreement                | Councilmember Drennen moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a reclaimed water agreement with the Orting School District. Councilmember Pestinger seconded the motion and it carried.  |
| Well No. 3 Filtration Project Scope and Budget           | Councilmember Drennen moved to authorize Parametrix to move forward with the Scope and budget for the Well No. 3 Filtration Project. Councilmember Emmons seconded the motion and it carried.  |
| SR 162 Rechannelization                                  | Councilmember Pestinger reported that the City is pursuing the addition of a two-way turn lane from Washington to Whitsell as part of the State Route 162 rechannelization project.  |
| Resolution 2008-1: National Mentoring Month Proclamation | Councilmember Pestinger moved to approve Resolution 2008-1, a resolution of the City of Orting, Washington proclaiming January 2008 to be National Mentoring Month. Councilmember Ford seconded the motion and it carried.   |
| 2008 City Council Retreat                                | The Council set Saturday March 1 as the date for the annual City Council retreat. Possible topics of discussion include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of the engineering process from Parametrix</li><li>• Festivals</li><li>• Council Goals</li><li>• Planning with Planner Roger Wagoner</li><li>• Urban Growth Area Policy</li></ul> |

**ADJOURN**

Councilmember Ford moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. Councilmember Pestinger seconded the motion and it carried.

**ATTEST:**

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Finance Director/City Clerk Susan J. Davis

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Mayor Cheryl M. Temple