

MINUTES
Ferndale City Council Meeting
Held Monday, July 1, 2002
City Hall Annex Building - 5694 Second Avenue
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: **Councilmember Albert Lavine**
 Councilmember Mike Reilly
 Councilmember Marianne Elgart
 Councilmember Susan Cole
 Councilmember Jerry Landcastle
 Councilmember Ron Wilson

ABSENT: **Councilmember Mel Hansen (Excused)**

Mayor Carolyn Jensen presiding

STAFF PRESENT : **City Administrator Roland Signett**
 City Clerk Linda Knutson
 Public Works Director Loren Sperry
 Police Chief Dale Baker

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jensen called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following consent agenda was moved for approval by Councilmember Lavine, with a second from Councilmember Reilly:

1. Approval of Minutes of 6/17/2002 Council Meeting
2. Approval of Summary of 6/24/2002 Workshop
3. Approval of Payroll of 06/18/02; Auto-Deposit Amount: \$95,168.27; Checks #21031 - #21048 Amount: \$31,363.24; Total Payroll:\$126,531.51

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Wilson thanked the Council for supporting her attendance to the recent AWC Conference in Yakima, where she said she learned a great deal of good information. She also thanked the Police Department for securing an unlocked church.

Walt Pollman asked for more frequent traffic counts, and for those traffic counts to be made public. Director Sperry stated that comprehensive traffic counts are done every two years, while the downtown core is counted yearly. Council requested that major ingress and egress to the City be counted on a regular basis and provided to the public. Streets and Utilities will review this item.

PUBLIC HEARING - SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mayor Jensen reviewed the protocol regarding public hearings.

Staff Report

Director Sperry reviewed the 2003-2008 list of projects for the City, noting that this years list was similar to the plan adopted by the Council last year. All projects incorporated on the previous STIP are incorporated into the current proposal, with the addition of the Central Main Street Improvement Project. The order of the projects were rearranged slightly to reflect receipt of grant monies, in the case of the Malloy Road project, and the city's changing needs for the completion of roadway projects. In addition, estimated start dates have been re-estimated and funding figures have been readjusted and updated.

As always, projects listed on the STIP have either been awarded grant monies for their completion, or are eligible for grant selection. Grant funds awarded, and city funds required for the completion of the project are also listed as part of the STIP.

Public Hearing Opened

Walt Pollman asked why the list did not include the stretch of road from Vista to Washington past the railroad tracks to Portal Way and the Freeway on-ramps. He felt that making this stretch a 25 mph speed limit with no stops would be a vast improvement and would cost very little to accomplish.

Administrator Signett responded that although it sounded simple, there would be many costs not apparent upon first glance.

Public Hearing Closed

Motion

Councilmember Reilly moved to approve the City of Ferndale Six Year Transportation Improvement Program as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Lavine.

Discussion

Councilmember Cole asked why some projects were excluded. Administrator Signett explained that projects on the list must be grant funded or grant eligible, and some projects did not meet program criteria.

Councilmember Reilly added that some projects needed to be listed in order for the state to keep them under consideration.

Councilmember Landcastle asked about the status of right-of way acquisitions for the Douglas Road and Main Street projects. Director Sperry said that all permits have been secured, and that the City Attorney is now working on the ROW's. This will be reviewed in more detail by the Streets and Utilities Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

CHIPPER BID

Streets and Utilities Committee Action Item

Councilmember Landcastle reported that the Committee reviewed the one bid received for a chipper. Wesspur Company submitted a bid in the amount of \$22,387.09, including tax. The City received grant monies from Whatcom County Solid Waste in the amount of \$20,000 and the balance of \$2,387.09 would come from the Equipment Fund.

Motion

Councilmember Wilson moved to approve the bid from Wesspur Company in the amount of \$22,387.09, with \$20,000 from Solid Waste and the balance from the Equipment Fund. This was seconded by Councilmember Landcastle.

Discussion

Councilmember Lavine wondered if the chipper was mobile or came with a flatbed. Councilmember Landcastle noted that the chipper is equipped with wheels.

Motion passed unanimously.

THORNTON RD GAP ELIMINATION PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS

Streets and Utilities Committee Action Item

Councilmember Landcastle stated that the Committee has been reviewing these change orders for the past few meetings. The city had asked for a price to be presented in the form of a change order for cold grinding and paving to the centerline of the section of road being improved by the gap elimination project.

The cost for the cold grinding came back at approximately \$13,000. The Committee concurred that the cost is excessive for the benefit to be derived.

The engineer presented an additional proposal for street lighting for the project. The estimated cost for street lighting is \$9,239.64. It was also indicated that the lighting level at the school property west of the project is inadequate. Additional lighting there has an estimated cost of \$2,500. The amounts for both the project portion and the school portion are grant eligible. Director Sperry noted that he has spoken to School District officials regarding a level of participation is reimbursing a portion of the lighting costs.

Councilmember Landcastle moved approval of change orders one and four, with Councilmember Wilson seconding.

Motion passed unanimously.

FORMATION OF NEW STANDING COMMITTEE

Planning and Judicial Committee Action Item

Councilmember Cole, Chair of the Committee related that it had been suggested during the Streets and Utilities Committee earlier in the day that a new standing Committee be formed to deal with ongoing issues and direction concerning City facilities and vehicles. An Ad-Hoc Committee had been formed three years ago to address vehicle needs and issues, and it was suggested that the new Committee, if approved, be made up of those Councilmembers (Councilmembers Hansen and Reilly and one vacancy) serving on the Vehicle Ad-Hoc Committee, thus dissolving the Ad-Hoc, and adding some additional duties for the new standing Committee.

Councilmember Cole moved formation of the Equipment and Facilities Committee and abandonment of the Vehicle Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Reilly stated he would like to vacate his position on the new Committee, as he already serves on two Committees. Councilmembers Elgart, Wilson, and Lavine all expressed interest in serving on this new Committee. The two vacant positions shall be decided upon at the next Council meeting.

LETTER TO FCC

Planning and Judicial Committee Action Item

Councilmember Cole stated that in response to the concerns of Mr. James Kaufman regarding radio interference from the station on Imhoff Road, the Committee was in agreement that Administration should write to the FCC detailing the concerns of many citizens and businesses located in the City, even though the station is located in the County. The impacts include phone, fax, and computer disruptions, at times severe. It was further pointed out that with the construction of a new police facility, extra funds must be expended for cable and line shielding to avoid this interference problem.

Councilmember Cole moved to direct staff to send a letter to the FCC regarding citizen concerns with radio interference, with Councilmember Elgart seconding.

Motion passed unanimously.

Council also asked that copies be sent to the Whatcom County Council, County Executive, the radio station, and Mr. Kaufman.

SET COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There will be no facility committee meeting this week, but will resume next Tuesday, July 9th at 8 a.m. All other Committees will meet at their regular times this Wednesday, July 3rd.

MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Mayor Jensen reported that Neil Clement of Emergency Services had offered to present Council and Department Heads with emergency response information and protocol. Chief Baker will set this up.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Reilly stated that he would like to see the Music Off Main Street Festival held on Main Street this year. It was his understanding the 2001 event was the last time it was to be held on Alder. Recreation and Finance will look at this on Wednesday.

Councilmember Landcastle reported that WTA will hold an open house at their new facility on Irongate Road on Saturday, July 20th from noon to 4 p.m.

Councilmember Elgart said that she attended a dedication to the late Sam Cagey last Friday, along with Councilmember Lavine.

Councilmember Wilson enjoyed attending the AWC Conference in Yakima and felt the classes and presentations were very worthwhile. He also wished to thank the police department for their ongoing good work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further scheduled City business, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carolyn Jensen, Mayor

Linda Knutson, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT "A":

**RECREATION FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 26, 2002**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: RON WILSON, MEL HANSEN
STAFF: ROLAND SIGNETT, LOREN SPERRY, PAT MILLIKEN**

DISCUSSION OF TOSCO STATUS

Pat Milliken reported to the Council on his discussion with IAC regarding the Tosco grant. Our understanding is that the deadline for the grant is the end of November. If the Council proceeds with a bond issue it would likely be in November, which would not give time to enter into a contract for construction work before the grant expires. We will be working with IAC to determine if we can obtain a grant extension.

STREET FESTIVAL

When the concept of a street festival was originally conceived, it was anticipated that the location would be on Main Street and traffic would be routed around by Alder. While it is too late to make the shift to Main Street this year, the Committee was in favor of working with the merchants on Main Street to try to locate it there next year.

ATTACHMENT "B":

**STREETS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
June 26, 2002**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: JERRY LANDCASTLE, MEL HANSEN
STAFF: ROLAND SIGNETT, LOREN SPERRY, DALE BAISE, ENGINEER**

CHIPPER BID

The only bid received for a chipper was from Wesspur Tree Equipment in the amount of \$22,387.09, including tax. The chipper will be used by the Public Works Department and Parks for general maintenance and will also be used a couple times per year for community cleanup. The city will receive \$20,000 from COG toward the purchase, leaving a balance of \$2,387.09 to be picked up by the city. *It was moved by Councilmember Hansen and seconded by Councilmember Landcastle to recommend acceptance of the bid and to pay the city share of the cost from the equipment fund. Motion passed.*

THORNTON ROAD GAP ELIMINATION PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS

The city had asked for a price to be presented in the form of a change order for cold grinding and paving to the centerline of the section of road being improved by the gap elimination project. The cost came back at approximately \$13,000. The Committee concurred that the cost is excessive for the benefit to be derived. The engineer presented an additional proposal for street lighting for the project. The estimated cost is \$9,239.64. It was also indicated that the lighting level at the school property west of the project is inadequate. Additional lighting there has an estimated cost of \$2,500. The amounts for both the project portion and the school portion are grant eligible. *It was moved by Councilmember Hansen and seconded by Councilmember Landcastle to add the lighting, but drop the extra grind and include just the extra 2' section of grind and overlay which is part of the street project. Motion passed.* Formal change orders will be presented to the Council for approval.

CITY HALL ROOF

It has been recognized for sometime that the City Hall roof is in need of replacement. Staff will get firm quotes for the work. It will then be a question of how this is to be paid for as it is not currently within the City budget.

ATTACHMENT "C":

**Planning and Judicial Committee
Held Wednesday, June 26, 2002
City Hall Conference Room
1:00 p.m.**

COMMITTEE: Councilmembers Susan Cole and Marianne Elgart

STAFF: Roland Signett, Tom Black, Linda Knutson, Loren Sperry

FORMATION OF NEW STANDING COMMITTEE

Staff related that it had been suggested during the Streets and Utilities Committee earlier in the day that a new standing Committee be formed to deal with ongoing issues and direction concerning City facilities and vehicles. An Ad-Hoc Committee had been formed three years ago to address vehicle needs and issues, and it was suggested that the new Committee, if approved, be made up of those Councilmembers serving on the Vehicle Ad-Hoc Committee, thus dissolving the Ad-Hoc, and adding some additional duties for the new standing Committee.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the full Council that a new standing Committee, the "Equipment and Facilities" Committee, be formed, and the Vehicle Ad-Hoc Committee be dissolved.

Councilmember Elgart expressed interest in serving on this new Committee, if approved.

LETTER TO FCC

In response to the concerns of Mr. James Kaufman regarding radio interference from the station on Imhoff Road, the Committee was in agreement that Administration should write to the FCC detailing the concerns of many citizens and businesses located in the City, even though the station is located in the County. The impacts include phone, fax, and computer disruptions, at times severe.

With Council concurrence, staff with draft a letter to the FCC regarding this matter, and send copies to the County Council and County Executive.

OTHER

Director Black stated that two items will be brought forward in the near future for Committee consideration. First, the FMC provides for Fire Marshall services, which the City is not currently performing. Second, the establishment of an official City street name list.