

**FERNDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
10/7/02**

**ALL COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT  
COUNCILMEMBER WILSON ARRIVING 8:00 P.M.  
MAYOR CAROLYN JENSEN PRESIDING**

**MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER WILSON**

It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Elgart to excuse Councilmember Wilson who was expected to arrive later in the meeting. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Councilmember Hansen and seconded by Councilmember Landcastle to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Earl Wilson addressed the Council on behalf of the Jet Oldsters. He stated that a recent article in the Westside Record Journal contained certain inaccuracies. The article noted that the Senior Center served 370 members when in fact the number served is 480. Also, the article stated that the Senior Center was funded by Whatcom County Parks. In fact, funding is from a number of various sources including the City of Ferndale. The Record Journal has been contacted and is to be publishing a correction.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE**

The City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$20,000 by Whatcom County Solid Waste for the purchase of a chipper. The chipper has been purchased and the money received by the City. However, Solid Waste needs to enter into a interlocal agreement with the City to legitimize the payment of the funds. It was moved by Councilmember Elgart and seconded by Councilmember Hansen to approve the interlocal agreement. The terms of the agreement indicate that the City is to make the chipper available to the public two or 3 days per week. Councilmember Cole questioned who is the public. Public Works Director Sperry responded that the public included the fire and school districts as well as the general populace. It was noted that making it available did not mean that any member of the public had a right to just come and use it. It would always be operated by a trained member of the Public Works Department. Questioned also was how the City would make it available. It was suggested that the interlocal be changed to read "make a site available" rather than make the chipper available. The City would provide a site where material could be brought to be chipped. The City would then do the chipping on its own schedule. It was then moved by Councilmember Hansen and seconded by Councilmember Reilly to amend the original motion to include changing the wording to state "make a site" available. Motion passed with Councilmembers Cole and Landcastle voting naye. The vote on the original motion as amended was then passed with Councilmembers Cole and Landcastle voting in opposition.

**QUOTES FOR PURCHASE OF UTILITY TRAILER**

The trailer currently being used by the City is inadequate for the transportation of the backhoe and cat to job sites. A proposed purchase would be out of the Utility and Equipment Fund. \$15,000 has been included in the 2002 budget. It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Elgart to seek quotes for a new trailer. Motion passed.

#### **OBTAIN QUOTES FOR A NEW PICKUP FOR PUBLIC WORKS**

The crew pickup is in need of replacement. An estimate of costs to effect the necessary repairs is \$5,030. This truck is a full size, but can be replaced with something in the size range of a Ford Ranger at an estimated cost in the vicinity of \$12,000. It was moved by Councilmember Elgart and seconded by Councilmember Cole to seek quotes on a new pickup. Motion passed.

#### **SURPLUS OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

The Council was presented with a list of vehicles and equipment which no longer meet the City's needs or are not feasible to repair. It was moved by Councilmember Elgart and seconded by Councilmember Lavine to proceed with surplusing the noted items. Motion passed.

#### **RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO I-790**

The Council was presented with a proposed resolution which would oppose Initiative 790, an initiative which would transfer control of the LEOFF Retirement fund to a board having representation of the members of the retirement system. AWC has presented information which would indicate that the cost to local governments could increase substantially. Councilmember Hansen inquired if all of the notices had been published as required for the Council to take a stand on an initiative. As the City Clerk was absent this question could not be answered in the affirmative. It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle to table the motion to the next Council meeting. The agenda item was tabled as requested. Councilmember Hansen requested that further information be sought setting forth the position of proponents of the initiative.

#### **UNION NEGOTIATION TEAM**

Currently the City Administrator is handling all of the union negotiations for the various bargaining units. It was suggested that a member of the Council be included in the negotiations as an observer and to provide assistance to the chief negotiator who would continue to be the Administrator. A possible team could consist of the Administrator, one Councilmember, the department head when appropriate, and the current employee who provides HR assistance. It was moved by Councilmember Reilly and seconded by Councilmember Cole to formalize such a team. Motion passed with Councilmember Lavine voting naye.

#### **COG TRANSPORTATION LOBBYIST**

Jim Miller of the Council of Governments spoke to the Streets and Utilities Committee regarding Ferndale reinstating its share of funding for the transportation lobbyist, Tom Parker. Ferndale has not participated for the past couple of years as there was a general opinion that Ferndale was not getting anything in return. Jim Miller indicated that they are willing to work with Ferndale to get the City's needs before the legislature. Furthermore, for the lobbyist to be effective, he has to be representing all of the jurisdictions in Whatcom County. It was moved by Councilmember Reilly and seconded by Councilmember Landcastle to provide funding in the 2003 budget. Motion passed with Councilmember Elgart voting opposed.

**STREET LIGHTS FOR MAIN STREET PROJECT**

This item was not originally on the agenda. It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Hansen to add the street lighting to the agenda. Motion passed.

At earlier meetings the choice of lighting had been narrowed to the Acorn design and the Bishops Crook design. The majority of the audience favored the Bishops Crook. It was noted that this style would cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 more than the Acorn style. It was moved by Councilmember Reilly and seconded by Councilmember Elgart to select the Bishop's Crook. Motion passed with Councilmembers Landcastle and Wilson voting naye.

**INVESTMENT INTEREST OF FLOOD TAX DISTRIBUTED TO COUNTY GENERAL EXPENSE FUND**

Councilmember Reilly noted that the investment interest earned by the Whatcom County Flood tax is proposed for use in the County's general expense fund. While this is legal under state statute, the consensus of the Council is that investment interest should be retained by the fund contributing the funds for investment. Staff was requested to draft a resolution to the County Council opposing such use of the funds.

Meeting adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk