

November 9, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Tjeerdsma called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Bensen, Doyle, Valentine, Straathof and Montgomery. Staff present: Aarstad, Anderson, Bowers, Martin, Patrick, Sheahan, Thomas, Lambert and Vivanco.

A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Doyle** to excuse **Councilors Aslett and Loving** from tonight's meeting. All approved. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Valentine** to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2006 Council workshop and the October 26, 2006 Council meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Bensen presented the bills. A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Montgomery** to approve vouchers 47971 – 48086 in the amount of \$1,179,915.35. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Current Expense	\$ 54,160.41
Current Expense Cumulative Reserve	202.11
Fire Equipment Cumulative Reserve	3,767.83
City Street	286,661.37
Library	6,531.35
Parks & Recreation	6,636.35
Cemetery Fund	207.39
Stadium Fund	18,616.91
Local Capital Improvement Fund	760,325.32
Sewer Fund	39,113.61
Sewer Cumulative Reserve	3,022.20
Storm Drainage Utility	670.50
Total	\$ 1,179,915.35

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 S. Cherry, read a letter stating his interest in being considered for the vacancy on the Board of Adjustment.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Public Works Director Martin requested that consideration of an emergency resolution be placed on the agenda. The purpose of the resolution is to correct a drainage design problem to prevent city water from running onto private property and into a business along Burlington Boulevard. A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Valentine** to approve the emergency resolution. All agreed. Motion carried.
(Resolution # 17-2006)

Public Works Director Martin distributed letters he prepared for Skagit County, Dike & Drainage District 12 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers thanking them for their efforts during the flooding event of this past week. He asked that the Mayor and Council members sign where indicated and he would mail the letters.

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Public Works Director Martin stated that **Building & Grounds Supervisor Tingley** is overseeing the replacement of siding on the Community Center building. The contractor is doing good work and the project is on schedule.

Public Works Director Martin introduced his father, Mr. Jim Martin to the Mayor and Council Members. Mr. Martin served for many years as a council member for the City of Washougal, Washington.

City Administrator Aarstad distributed information to the council regarding the Building Industry Association of Washington Return on Industrial Insurance Program. The BIAW has invited the city to join this program. He has contacted other cities that currently participate in the program and found that most have received refunds at least equal to the annual BIAW Program membership fee.

City Administrator Aarstad announced that the Skagit River Impact Partnership will be making a presentation prior to the next Mount Vernon City Council meeting (5:00 p.m.) on November 29, 2006. The Burlington City Council members are invited to attend. The speakers will be Harry Hosey and Chal Martin.

City Administrator Aarstad distributed the list of 2006 Council Committees and asked that Council members start thinking about what committees they would like to serve on during 2007. Please return the 2007 form with committee requests to him no later than December 1, 2006.

City Administrator Aarstad reminded the Mayor and Council members that the 2007 Legislative Conference will be February 14 – 15, 2007. Anyone who would like to attend should contact him very soon so that reservations can be made.

City Administrator Aarstad announced that contract negotiations are underway with the Burlington Firefighters (International Association of Fire Fighters). The current agreement ends December 31, 2006.

City Administrator Aarstad reminded everyone that the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday November 21, 2006.

Accounting Manager Lambert stated that there have been some problems with the utility bills being mutilated and torn when going through the U.S. Post Office sorting machinery. City staff is looking into the cost to change the format from small perforated cards to 8 ½" x 11" invoices sent to customers in envelopes and will keep Council informed as to projected costs to change format.

Fire Chief Anderson reported 140 emergency responses in the month of October (93 City, 41 Fire District #6 and six mutual aid). He noted that the 911 dispatch center has changed the way they dispatch fire so that not all responses are with lights and sirens. He thanked the fire fighters (full-time and volunteer) for their willingness to assist with possible evacuations during the flood event this past week.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

UPDATE OF THE INTERSTATE-5 MASTER PLAN.

Mr. Todd Harrison of the Washington State Department of Transportation – Burlington Office. Mr. Harrison reported on the master plan for Interstate 5 through the Burlington area. He invited the Mayor, Council Members and citizens to attend an open house regarding the proposed changes to the I-5 / Chuckanut Drive interchange. The open house will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday November 16, 2006 at the Burlington Edison High School cafeteria.

Mr. Dick Irwin of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce provided an update of the Chamber activities over the past six months. He noted the number of visitors and calls to the Visitor Information Center as well as Chamber activities to increase tourism in Burlington. He stated that the Burlington Chamber has 90 new members, with total membership at nearly 400.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2007 BUDGET & SALARY ORDINANCE.

Mayor Tjeerdsma opened the Public Hearing. **Finance Director Patrick** gave a quick review of the funds within the 2007 budget. He thanked the Mayor's Budget Committee for their hard work. He and **City Administrator Aarstad** are suggesting that a separate line item be set up for expenses related to Harvest Festival and Berry Dairy Days. He stated that in years past, the costs for personnel and supplies to accommodate city festivals have come out of several departments that are involved with set-up, clean-up and traffic control, etc. Having one section in the budget for the festival expenses would allow for better oversight of the costs for these events as well as reducing the impact on department's budgets for expenses not necessarily related to their department daily functions. He noted that the budget can be approved as proposed; the festival section can be added at a later date without changing the overall budget.

Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 South Cherry, asked if an additional Police Officer will be included in the 2007 budget. **Finance Director Patrick** confirmed that an additional officer position is included in the 2007 budget. Mr. Kramer objected to an additional officer based on data in the Capital Improvement Plan that indicates only a slight increase in calls each year. He does not believe that information is enough to justify an additional position.

Mr. Steve Sexton, 109 South Section Street, asked that the City construct sidewalks on his street. He noted that he came to the City Council last year and recently submitted a petition signed by many neighbors requesting sidewalks. He asked what would be the next step to get sidewalks. **City Attorney Thomas** indicated the neighborhood could form an LID to fund construction of sidewalks. **Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin** stated that he has not yet had time to review Mr. Sexton's request for sidewalks and the Capital Improvement Plan. He will be looking at this issue in 2007 and would like to plan to get together with Mr. Sexton to discuss sidewalks on Section Street.

Finance Director Patrick noted that the 2007 Budget & Salary Ordinance does not include a cost of living allowance for the Burlington Fire Fighters union as the current contract expires December 31, 2006 and they have not yet come to an agreement with the City for the following year.

A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Doyle** to close the public hearing. All approved. Motion carried. A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Valentine** to adopt the 2007 Budget & Salary Ordinance. All approved. Motion carried.
(Ordinance # 1614)

REQUEST FOR STREET USE PERMIT ALONG HIGHWAY 99 FOR NORTH COUNTRY MOTORS.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin presented a request from North Country Motors to use a portion of the City right-of-way to display recreational vehicles in front of their retail establishment along Old Highway 99 North. This permit would be for one year. A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Valentine** to approve the application of North Country Motors to display merchandise in front of its retail establishment along Old Highway 99. All agreed. Motion carried.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SKAGIT COUNTY DISTRICT COURT PROBATION FOR 2006 SERVICES.

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City Administrator Aarstad stated that this agreement is being removed from tonight's agenda at the request of District Court Judge Svaren. He will be sending a revised agreement that has one calculation for services for the first half of 2006 and a slightly different calculation for the second half of 2006.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SKAGIT RIVER IMPACT PARTNERSHIP REGARDING THE FUNDING OF A FLOOD STUDY OF THE SKAGIT RIVER.

City Administrator Aarstad stated that this interlocal agreement will replace the previous agreement of the partnership. This agreement will allow the partnership to administer funds secured by and allocated to the partnership for the purpose of implementing flood reduction measures along the Skagit River. The prior agreement did not allow the partnership to receive or apply for funding for the purpose of flood reduction measures. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Doyle** to approve the interlocal agreement of November 2006 among the Skagit River Impact Partnership and authorize **Mayor Tjeerdsma** to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Burlington. All agreed. Motion carried.

SKAGIT RIVER HYDROLOGY ISSUE: RESPONSE TO AGENCY MISCHARACTERIZATION OF THE TECHNICAL WORK CONDUCTED BY PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin reviewed a letter he sent to the new District Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District. In the letter he stated his concerns as to the Corps General Investigation process for developing a flood project for the Skagit Valley. He stated that the hydrology information is based upon incorrect information that will result in overstating the 100-year flood event for the Skagit River. He noted that information the County and the Cities continue to bring forward is not being considered in an independent manner. He indicated that this letter along with other recent actions by the Skagit River Impact Partnership establishes a formal position for the City regarding the technical flood study work regarding the Skagit River.

City Administrator Aarstad thanked the City employees for their great efforts during this week's flood event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was not an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Montgomery** to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Richard A. Patrick
Finance Director / City Clerk

Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma
Mayor