

May 25, 2006

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Tjeerdsma called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members present: Bensen, Doyle, Loving, Aslett, Valentine, Straathof and Montgomery. Staff present: Aarstad, Harmon, Sheahan, and Thomas.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Doyle/Valentine** to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2006 Council meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**AUDIT OF BILLS:**

**Councilor Aslett** presented the bills. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Bensen** to approve vouchers 46611 – 46699 in the amount of \$301,188.93. All were in favor. Motion carried.

|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Current Expense                    | \$ 51,084.82         |
| Current Expense Cumulative Reserve | 26,319.51            |
| Fire Equipment Cumulative Reserve  | 7,104.64             |
| City Street                        | 24,034.76            |
| Library                            | 330.12               |
| Parks & Recreation                 | 7,145.37             |
| Cemetery Fund                      | 193.37               |
| Stadium Fund                       | 2,500.00             |
| Local Capital Improvement Fund     | 146,353.44           |
| Parks & Recreation Reserve         | 16,752.76            |
| Sewer Fund                         | 9,922.21             |
| Storm Drainage Utility             | 9,447.93             |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$ 301,188.93</b> |

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**City Administrator Aarstad** introduced Mr. Michael Harmon, new **Assistant Public Works Director/Engineer** with the City of Burlington. **City Administrator Aarstad** noted that Mr. Harmon came to Burlington with high recommendations. **Assistant Public Works Director/Engineer Harmon** stated that he is pleased to be a part of the City of Burlington. His most recent position was with Whatcom County Public Works Engineering Department.

**City Administrator Aarstad** distributed the current list of issued permits and asked Council if the format used for recently issued permits is useful. Councilmembers commented that they like the format.

**City Administrator Aarstad** distributed information regarding the City Hall and Library construction budget and building progress. He noted that Lewis Architect staff are in Burlington once a week so if council members have any questions regarding construction, please contact him and he would discuss them with the architects when they are here.

**City Administrator Aarstad** presented a Skagit County Public Utility District #1 contract for water service for the new city hall construction. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Bensen** to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. All agreed. Motion carried.

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**City Administrator Aarstad** announced that a Notice to Proceed with construction of the new city hall is being sent to Tiger Construction. They will begin work on June 5, 2006 and have 330 days to complete construction. The completion date will be April 30, 2007. **City Administrator Aarstad** asked Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Tiger Construction for construction of City Hall. The price in the contract is the same as previously authorized by City Council. A motion was made by **Councilors Bensen/Loving** to authorize the Mayor to sign. All approved. Motion carried.

**Councilor Loving** discussed the miniature race car club's first successful event this past weekend. He noted that several children do not have cars so he asked if anyone is part of or knows a service group that might be interested in donating miniature cars for these children to let him know.

**Councilor Loving** discussed the railroad crossing on Pease Road as well as several wooden crossings throughout town that are in poor condition. He noted that the railroad is willing to do the repair work if the City purchases the materials.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL MOTION TO PROCEED WITH THE RAILROAD PARK PROJECT, SUPPORTING FURTHER SITE PLANNING, GRANT APPLICATIONS AND PROJECT FUNDING.**

**City Administrator Aarstad** distributed the updated revision of the site plan for Railroad Park. He described the proposed changes to the 5-way intersection of Fairhaven, Cherry and Cascade Highway. The plan is to close off Cherry Street north of Fairhaven and have Cascade Highway turn south to "square up" the intersection. The Railroad Park will include a building for visitor information and the Chamber that is a replica of the original Burlington train station. The building would also include public restrooms. He noted the changes include a walk way within the park to accommodate sculpture art pieces. There have also been some modifications to the street parking areas. The hope is to complete much of the ground preparation work prior to the 2007 Tulip Festival. The art exhibits would be on display from April until Berry Dairy Days in mid June. Aslett suggested a wall for showing outdoor movies. Jon noted that the old city hall building might be a possibility for that suggestion. Trails would go out from the park to link up with the trail along Highway 20. He noted that there are several grant opportunities relating to transportation and art for cities. Mr. Duane Stowe stated that the City of Burlington merchants are very much in favor of this opportunity and is just what Burlington needs. This would offer public restrooms, a place for visitors and children as well as community residents. It will keep "character" in the town. Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 S. Cherry, spoke in favor of the proposed project. He suggested that local groups be encouraged to gather history of Burlington. He was also in favor of keeping the park with a railroad theme. **City Administrator Aarstad** noted that rail car has been approved. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Doyle** to proceed with pursuit of grant funding for the Railroad Park project. All approved. Motion carried.

#### **TOUR OF THE NEW LIBRARY SITE.**

**Mayor Tjeerdsma** stated that the tour of the new library site would follow the adjournment of this evening's council meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Mayor and Councilmembers adjourned to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss litigation and land acquisition. The Mayor and Councilmembers returned from Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CITY HALL**

**BURLINGTON, WA**

May 25, 2006

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Montgomery** to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.  
All were in favor. Motion carried.

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Richard A. Patrick  
Finance Director / City Clerk

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Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma  
Mayor