

October 23, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Brunz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Aslett, Doyle, Edmundson, Loving, Montgomery and Valentine. Staff present: Aarstad, Martin, Thomas, Stafford and Thramer.

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Valentine** to excuse **Councilor Bensen** from tonight’s meeting. All agreed. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Doyle** to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2008 Council meeting. All agreed. Motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Montgomery presented the bills. A motion was made by **Councilors Montgomery/Valentine** to approve vouchers 53797 – 53922 in the amount of \$600,336.07. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Current Expense	\$ 100,555.39
Current Expense Cumulative Reserve	5,072.62
Fire Equipment Cumulative Reserve	1,965.10
City Street	436,594.65
Hopper Construction Fund	786.72
Library	77.18
Parks & Recreation	14,680.62
Cemetery Fund	953.65
Local Capital Improvement Fund	3,982.92
Sewer Fund	22,009.79
Sewer Cumulative Reserve	679.80
Storm Drainage Utility	12,977.63
Total	\$ 600,336.07

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Public Works Director/Engineer Martin stated that he received a letter from FEMA regarding a biological opinion regarding flood response organization. He will provide copies to the Mayor and Council members.

Public Works Director/Engineer Martin stated that this past week was Skagit County Flood Awareness Week. He attended several meetings that included representatives from Dike Districts, Skagit County, cities and towns. He noted that each year the organization and preparation for a flood event improves. If a flood event occurs, the City emergency operation center will be located in the upstairs conference room at City Hall. The Army Corps of Engineers will be stationed at the Dike District #12 facility in Burlington.

Councilor Loving stated that he and **Mayor Brunz** have met with Fire District #6 officials to discuss contract proposals. They hope to finish after one or two more meetings. At this time, things seem to be going well.

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City Administrator Aarstad stated that questions have come up regarding the cost of the silo located in the round about on North Burlington Boulevard. A recent news story indicated the cost of the silo of \$200,000 was incorrect. He noted that the cost of \$196,000 included the lighting, the light poles, silo, the lettering around the silo and the landscaping.

INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Greg Reed, Burlington Chamber President, introduced Ms. Linda Aufrecht, the new Executive Director for the Burlington Chamber. She began her duties in early October. Ms. Aufrecht noted that she comes to the Chamber with a high energy level. She is excited to be in Burlington. She is spending about 40% of the time out in the community. She hopes to relocate to the local area soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION, "CERTIFIED LEVEE SEGMENT" CONCEPT.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin stated that during consultant interviews conducted the first week of October, Pacific International Engineering provided some preliminary Flo-2d modeling results of the "Certified Levee Segment" concept, utilizing the hydrology it has developed over the past five years and is now finalizing. This very preliminary work indicates the certified levee segment concept may be a viable approach for the City. He distributed maps showing how water might flow through the city in a 100-year flood event based on a couple of different levee certification elevations. He noted that the concept is encouraging for the levee certification project. The most important factor will be to have correct hydrology.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE FOR COLLECTION IN 2009.

Mayor Brunz opened the public hearing. **Finance Director Thrumer** stated that for cities and towns in the state of Washington, the legislative body (city council) is directed by statute to establish the total amount of revenue to be derived from property taxes to help fund city operations. Although the state legislature has limited cities to collecting 101% of the amount established for collection in the previous year, for many years cities have been allowed to establish a levy amount less than the maximum percentage allowed by statute and "bank" the percentage not taken for future use. Burlington has taken less than the maximum amount allowed in the past, and banked that percentage. The 2009 budget committee recommends taking a 2% increase, which allowing for new construction, is an estimated 1.23 cent decrease per \$1,000 assessed value, from \$1.6750 to \$1.6627. For a \$200,000 home, this amounts to an estimated \$2.46 annual property tax decrease, from \$335.00 to \$332.54. He distributed several documents that outlined the options available and the amount of additional revenue to the city with each. He noted that on levy increase would result in no additional revenue. The City has the option of increasing the levy amount from 1% to as much as 3.89%. Each 1% increase would increase revenue by \$22,604. Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 South Cherry Street, asked if the City took a 2% increase; what would be the maximum the City could levy the next year. **Councilor Aslett** stated that the maximum the City could levy the following year would be 2.89%. Mr. Kramer suggested the City make a good faith effort to save money by purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles. **Councilor Aslett** stated that this is a good item to think about and thanked him for his comments and suggestions. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Doyle** to close the public hearing. All agreed. Motion carried. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Loving** to increase the property tax level by 2% for 2008, for collection in 2009. All agreed. Motion carried.

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REQUEST BY THE EAGLE'S TO CLOSE ONE BLOCK OF EAST VICTORIA AVENUE IN FRONT OF THE OLD FIRE HALL TO ALLOW RV PARKING FOR THE EAGLES OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS FOR THEIR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 4 – 7, 2008.

City Administrator Aarstad stated that the Eagles Club has made a request to close a portion of E. Victoria Avenue for four days in December to accommodate overnight RV parking for their annual meeting. There have been no objections by neighboring residences or businesses. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Doyle** to approve the street closure as requested. All agreed. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was not an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. by **Mayor Brunz**

Greg Thrumer
Finance Director / City Clerk

Edward J. Brunz
Mayor