

Public Meeting Observation report
City of Washougal
Regular Council Meeting
October 6, 2008

Members in Attendance: Eight including the Mayor

Staff: Nabel Shawa, City Administrator, City Attorney, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, HR Director, Finance Director, Planning and Development

Media Coverage: Dawn Feldhaus – Post Record

Number in audience: 8

Special Interests or Students: Brent Erickson, Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce presented council with copies of the Business Development Magazine to pass out to the public at City Hall. Also he presented them with a business map of the area for both Camas and Washougal.

Items Approved: Consent Agenda, all items approved. See copy of agenda for this date.

Items Discussed: Mayor's report included a presentation to Joanne Boys, reminder of Oct. 13 joint council and planning meeting, and Oct. 25 retreat/workshop. Both meetings are open to the public. Other items were presented; see minutes from this meeting for details posted on Cities Website.

Correspondence: The Mayor read a letter from the City of Vancouver regarding the EMS changes and the request to form a work group about this issue. The letter was read very rapidly, hard to understand content. The minutes indicate that this letter is attached to the minutes, but no attachment is currently online.

Council Comments:

Council person Greenlee expressed disappointment with the lack of workshops since September, noting the need to talk with other council persons.

Council person Russell reported about a conference he attended for elected officials regarding library funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates foundations at the Skamania Lodge, and he also informed the council about the Harvest for the Hungary fundraising event for the Treasure House on October 22nd.

Did presiding Officer have meeting under control? Yes

Where officials attentive/alert? Yes

Was there adequate discussion of issues? No discussion took place regarding Consent agenda. No copies of each agenda item were available for the public. No reading of each

item took place. All Consent Agenda items were passed at the same time with the same motion.

Decisions “cut and dried?” Yes, see previous item above.

Time for public comment? Yes.

Public Comment Encouraged? Yes, available twice on the meeting agenda. However, no comments were allowed from the officials, no dialog took place, no response or questions. Some issues were to be dealt with following the meeting or another time.

Public comments:

A Clinical Psychologist from Skamania County presented concerns regarding the proposed casino in Cascade Locks. Increased costs with problem gambling, and effect on knowledge based businesses decreased desire to locate in this area (Washougal). His presentation is now attached to the minutes of Oct. 6, 2008. It is excellent information regarding the cost and effects of pathological gambling, with cited references and statistics.

A female citizen who lives on G Street expressed concerns for traffic safety because of various problems, such as narrow road, and speeding vehicles. Council person Greenlee asked that she speak with him after the meeting. Her letter of request is attached to the minutes of Oct. 6, 2008.

A disabled female citizen spoke about her financial concerns and desire to obtain some relief for her utility bill payments, and discovering that the relief is currently only available to people over 65 years of age. The Mayor offered to speak to the Finance Director about this, and reported she would get back with the citizen.

See Agenda for October 6 2008 for outline of meeting.

The Minutes of October 6, 2008 are currently on the City of Washougal Website at:
http://washougal.biz/cow/city_hall/minutes/download/min_10_6_08.pdf