

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor Boudreau, Councilmembers Fiedler (arrived at 7:20 p.m.) Hulst, Lindquist, Molenaar, Ragan, Quam and Urban

Staff Present: Public Works Director Bell, Assistant Public Works Director Love, Community and Economic Development Director Hanson, Finance Director Huschka, Wastewater Supervisor Duranceau, Street Department Supervisor Tewalt, Human Resources Bartlett, City Attorney Rogerson, Police Chief Bergsma, Fire Chief Hari, Finance Director Huschka, Special Projects Administrator Stendal, Information Services Manager Kleppe

Citizens Present: Nineteen

CONSENT AGENDA

None

REPORTS

A. Committee Report: Public Works: see committee agenda and minutes for details

B. Community Comments:

- Judith Bunnell, Mount Vernon resident, stated that she was attacked by a dog while walking her two Chihuahuas. She said that the City of Mount Vernon fails to protect people against dog attacks on city streets. She has been chased a number of times. It was a bad attack and the person walking the dog was half the weight of the dog. The person stood by while she tried to fight off the dog from herself and her dogs. She was tangled up in the leashes and received a cut on her hand. Last year she called the animal control officer because a dog sprung over the fence and was nipping at her heels until she was forced out into the middle of Fir Street. The laws are not enforced and if people think they will only get a warning they don't worry about it. It was approximately 20 minutes before police responded. The police department responds slowly to dog calls. She was in Edgewater Park today and there were dogs running loose. When she asked the owners to leash their dogs, they told her to mind her own business. Another person there called 911. Twenty five minutes passed before the animal control officer arrived. The animal control officer said she couldn't go over and tell them to leash their dogs. She added that she realizes that it is not nice to get calls about people complaining but it is their job to respond. She requested that the laws be enforced and the animal control officer be more assertive. Mayor Boudreau pointed out Police Chief Bergsma and referred her to him to resolve her issues.

- Richard Bowyer, Mount Vernon resident, inquired if comments for agenda item A were to be held at the time of the item. Mayor Boudreau clarified that comments for item A would be heard in conjunction with the item.

C. Councilmember Comments:

Councilmember Ragan stated that each month there is a meeting of the Law and Justice Council. This month's meeting was about sex offenders in our community. There are a lot of registered sex offenders in the State of Washington and in Skagit County there are 281 registered. He is sharing this to increase the communities understanding. Washington State was the first state to have a notification requirement law. There is a lot of monitoring that occurs on these folks to keep the community safe. There is a sex offender house on South 7th Street. A new facility will be opening on College Way for counseling services.

D. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Boudreau announced that the weekly coffee meeting information is available on the City website. It is a time for the community to share concerns and ideas in an informal setting.
- Mayor Boudreau said that winter driving help is also on the City website and there are links to the State website.
- Mayor Boudreau extended a thank you to the Parks Department for sprucing up the City.
- Mayor Boudreau stated that her communication plan will be available in the next month.
- Mayor Boudreau thanked the staff. She is very proud of them and they are a great team to work with.

E. Committee Agenda Requests:

Councilmember Molenaar requested a traffic safety committee overview.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution Supporting Mount Vernon School District Levy Propositions: Mr. Stendal clarified that Proposition 1 is regarding educational programs and operations and Proposition 2 is regarding technology. Mr. Stendal introduced Dr. Carl Bruner Superintendent of the Mount Vernon School District. Dr. Bruner provided a brief presentation on the two replacement proposition levies. Mr. Rogerson invited any persons opposed to the resolution in support of the levy to speak.

- Richard Bowyer, Mount Vernon resident, urged the City Council to table this item until the next council meeting in order to invite the Mount Vernon School Board to answer questions as to why certain things are being done and certain things are not being done. The median income in Mount Vernon is forty five thousand and in Washington State it is fifty six thousand. Schools have long considered levy's an entitlement and every year they are pushed by the school. The School Board doesn't answer his questions. He has asked how come it takes so much money to provide certain programs. He inquired when they would keep good teachers instead

of letting the bad ones coast through until retirement. He requested City Council to table this item and talk to School Board Members before passing this resolution.

- Luanne Burkhart, Mount Vernon School Board Member and Mount Vernon resident, stated that it is important to provide great education. Times are tough but the school must have enough funds.
- Jackie Beamer, Skagit County resident, said she is shocked at the level of accounting that is required of the schools. She has seen the cuts our schools have taken and they deserve these levies. The kids deserve these levies. Technology is necessary in schools. Please support this resolution.
- Grant Odden, Mount Vernon resident and 5th grader, stated that education is important and asked for support of this resolution.
- Bob Carey, Mount Vernon resident, quickly added that he encourages support of this resolution. It is a social and moral duty to support this. Kids deserve an enriching educational experience. Schools have had cuts and they need this support.

Councilmember Fiedler said that the City has a strong history of supporting the school levies. Dr. Bruner is an incredible communicator and keeps the Council updated. He wholeheartedly supports the schools. It is important to chase every nickel to keep education intact. Councilmember Lindquist added that a lot of things cause a school to request levies and a major one is cuts in State funding. He supports the levy and this resolution. Councilmember Urban said he regrets not being able to attend school board meetings because they meet on the same night as Council meetings, and this requested levy is not out of the norm. He supports the levy and this resolution. Councilmember Ragan agree with the prior three statements. He added that unfunded mandates and State funding reductions make this necessary. He is very supportive of these levies and this resolution. Councilmember Quam agrees with the other Councilmembers and because the City didn't take the property tax increase he hopes people will support the school levies. Councilmember Molenaar supports the levy and agrees with the previous comments. Councilmember Hulst agrees with and supports the levies.

Councilmember Hulst moved to adopt Resolution 842 in support of the Mount Vernon School District Levy Propositions 1 and 2. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 7-0.

- B. Ordinance – Public Defender Services: Mr. Stendal stated that this ordinance sets standards for the delivery of public defender services based on a consultant's report, repeals Chapter 2.62 of the Mount Vernon Municipal Code, establishes the Request for Proposals (RFP) and draft Contract format as attached exhibits. If approved, bids will be accepted until February 24th, the selection process completed in March and the new public defender would begin April 1st. Mr. Stendal added that there are a few typos that will be corrected in the final document.

Councilmember Urban moved to adopt Ordinance 3556 with stated corrections setting standards for

the delivery of public defender services. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Election of a Mayor Pro Tempore: Mr. Rogerson explained that after a municipal election the Mount Vernon Municipal Code requires the election of a mayor pro tempore.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to nominate Councilmember Urban as Mayor Pro Tempore. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

- D. Interlocal Agreement with Mount Vernon School District: Mr. Bell stated that this Interlocal Agreement with the Mount Vernon School District would allow for the City to provide sand and/or salt to the Mount Vernon School District. Councilmember Hulst inquired if there would be any cost to the City. Mr. Bell stated there would be no cost incurred by the City. Councilmember Urban inquired if there would be procedures in place to meet state auditor requirements. Mr. Bell explained that an invoice would be created.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Mount Vernon School District as stated above. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

- E. Acceptance of Work – College Way and North 26th Street Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Project 04-17: Mr. Love stated that Sail Electric, Inc has completed work on the College Way and North 26th Street Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Project. The final construction cost was \$106,884.37.

Councilmember Quam moved to accept the work completed by Sail Electric, Inc on the College Way and N. 26th Street Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Project in the amount of \$106,884.37. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 7-0.

- F. Acceptance of Work – Freeway Drive Improvements Project, Phase 2: Mr. Love said that C Johnson Construction has completed work on the Freeway Drive Improvements Project Phase 2. The final construction cost was \$827,548.71 which is \$138,042 under the estimated budget for the project.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to accept the work completed by C Johnson Construction on the Freeway Drive Improvement Project Phase 2 in the amount of \$827,548.71. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was convened into executive session at 8:06 p.m. and estimated to last approximately 50 minutes.

G. Executive Session – Enforcement Action and Potential or Pending Litigation:

The meeting was reconvened into regular session at 8:56 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lori J. Kimbriel, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor