CITY OF McCLEARY

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2003

The meeting was called to order with the Flag Salute at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: Mayor Wallace Bentley
Councilmen Jhanson, Boling and Vessey
Councilwomen Portschy and Lake

Staff Present: Attorney Glenn, Administrator Shay, Building Inspector Schlenker and Engineer Cole Elliott

Minutes

It was moved by Councilwoman Portschy, seconded by Councilman Vessey, that the minutes of the last regular meeting be approved as distributed. Carried.

Hearing Examiner Contract

Administrator Shay reported that Phil Olbrecht can no longer serve as the City's Hearing Examiner. Rick Sepler, who has substituted for Mr. Olbrecht, has indicated that he would like to serve in the position. Copies of Mr. Sepler's resume were given to Council members. It was moved by Councilman Boling, seconded by Councilman Jhanson, that the Mayor be authorized to sign an appropriate "at will" contract with Rick Sepler pending approval of the contract by legal counsel. Carried.

Hearing Examiner - Summit Place

There will be a Hearing Examiner Public Hearing on September 30 at 1:00 PM regarding the application for the Summit Place Development proposed by Brogan/Anensen, LCC, It was pointed out that there appears to be an equal number of people who attend whether these hearings are held during the day or in the evening. Attorney Glen said that the City welcomes any comments or questions submitted in writing in advance to allow the Examiner an opportunity to research and prepare answers.

WSAMA Conference

It was moved by Councilwoman Lake, seconded by Councilman Vessey, to share in the costs with three other cities of Attorney Glenn's attendance at the WSAMA Fall Conference. Carried.

Bond Counsel

Two proposals have been received to act as bond counsel for the WWTP Project for the City to sell municipal bonds to Rural Development; one from Preston/Gates/Ellis for $4,500.00 and Foster Pepper & Shefelman for $18,600.00. It was moved by Councilman Vessey, seconded by Councilwoman Lake, to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of intent to hire a bond counsel, as long as it includes all services required by Rural Development and does not exceed $4,500.00. Carried.

Interim Financing - Treatment Plant

Administrator Shay and Clerk Rostedt have met with the manager of Sterling Savings in regards to interim financing for the WWTP project. It was also suggested that the City consider an inter-fund loan from the Light Power Fund to the Sewer Fund. Attorney Glenn said her would bring back such a proposal for consideration at the next regular meeting.

Proposed Zoning and Subdivision

There followed some discussion regarding the proposed zoning and subdivision ordinances and how much longer should be given for public comment. Although there was no agreement to hold further public hearings, public comment can certainly be made at the next few regular meetings. Mayor Bentley said he would like to see citizens submit their questions or comments in writing to allow time for researching and preparing a response. Attorney Glenn said the Council should set a cut-off date for passage of the proposals. It was suggested to set the second meeting in October for passage of the subdivision proposal, and the zoning ordinance by the end of November.

There was a lengthy discussion of a possible 6% utility tax increase on electric utility bills. This would replace the one year levy passed by the voters (which will expire December 31, 2003) to help finance operating costs of the Police and Fire Departments. If such a utility tax is passed, it would continue to fund full coverage in the Police Department and as Councilman Jhanson put it, the City would "continue to keep all areas of public safety at the high levels they are now." If it fails, service levels would be less, including the layoff of two police officers. It was agreed that the matter should go before the voters for their consideration. Resolution No. 491, entitled A RESOLUTION DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF McCLEARY OF A PROPOSITION TO AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE IN TAXES UPON UTILITY SERVICE, was introduced. It was moved by Councilman Boling, seconded by Councilman Vessey, that the resolution be read by first and last lines only. Carried. It was moved by Councilman Vessey, seconded by Councilman Boling, that the resolution be adopted. Carried. Roll call showed all Council members voting in the affirmative.

Resolution No. 491 - Electric Utility Tax

There was a further discussion regarding possible assistance for low income residents on their utility bills. Clerk Rostedt said she would look into the program offered by Grays Harbor PUD. Jennie Reed encouraged those in need of help to contact United Way—as a member of the UW Board, she has worked with the programs for many years. UW does provide utility assistance for the truly needy.

Possible Low Income Utility Asst.

It was moved by Councilman Vessey, seconded by Councilman Jhanson, that the vouchers be paid as audited. Carried.

Vouchers

Councilman Vessey reported that he attended a family reunion at the newly repaired Community Center, and it was a wonderful experience. Councilman Jhanson reported that his high school class had held their reunion in the new park kitchen area, and it was a positive experience as well.

Praise for Community Center and Park Kitchen

It was moved by Councilwoman Portschy, seconded by Councilman Boling, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Adjourned

Mayor: Wallace Bentley

Attest:

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims:

Payroll: