

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2019**

1. OPENING

Mayor Mike Reuter opened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Reuter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers present were Sandra Macias, Mike Dennis Langham, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, and Mary Putka. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Ralph Herrera. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

3. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

A. Workforce Southwest Washington – Darcy Hoffman & Miriam Martin

Ms. Darcy Hoffman made a presentation describing the services provided to both industry and the public through Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW). The programs provide for job training for the disadvantaged youth and adults through several programs. The focus is to train for the manufacturing or blue-collar jobs in the area so employees can be productive and advance to higher paying positions. WSW partners with area employers such as NORPAC or Cowlitz Container and Die Cutting to help build the local workforce. Their Summer works program focuses on high school age students so they learn the soft skills of employment such as being on time and proper dress and basic skills. They work with the school districts in this effort, but also reach out to those 16 to 24 that are not in school. The Thrive program focuses on the poverty level areas in Southwest Washington to get people to work funding by \$1.6 million grant. The purpose in coming before the Council is to get the word out that this is a resource to the Community and spread the word.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Speed Limit Change Kalama River Road/Old Pacific Hwy North

Mayor Reuter opened the hearing at 7:18. Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen stated the first phase of the business park project is nearing completion which includes the roundabout intersection. The reports and engineer recommendations included in the master plan and development documents recommend the area be 25 miles per hour upon peak buildout. During construction the area has been 25mph and additional construction will happen in the future reducing it to 25 mph. It is up to the Council whether it be changed now or wait until more substantial traffic occurs in the area. Port of Kalama Director of Development, Eric Yakovich noted the roundabout will be completed by the beginning of

September. Construction will continue on and off as the development moves forward over the next 15 years. The roundabout is designed for 25 mph and once the park is built out the surrounding roads will need to be 25 mph. City Administrator Adam Smee noted that inevitability it will be 25 mph at some point. Haydu Park is in this area and traffic there will increase once the school starts using the ballfields. He explained there is a mid-block crossing on Kalama River Rd now which also has recommendations for 25 mph as there is no signal nor signage. The area could be set at 25 mph now and the economic development and construction activities will continue. If it remains at 35 mph, every time additional development activity moves forward, a traffic analysis or study will have to be completed and submitted as a part of the permit to determine when it meets the need for the speed reduction. This will be another piece of the permitting process to be required and reviewed. The mid-block crossing 200 feet from Haydu park has sidewalks on both sides and there is another crossing on Old Pacific Highway. There will be the flashing signage and some median landscaping on both roads as traffic calming measures. Councilmember Sandra Macias asked how long is the road areas where the speed will change. It is estimated at about a mile as it would be only the from city limits signs to meeker and the on I5 ramp. It was noted that the traffic will continue to increase as development occurs whether it be during construction periods or due to new activities. If the Council makes the change now, the developer won't have to keep coming back with new studies and the speed will be consistent for those daily users so they can develop the habit of slowing down. There is the public safety issues too as kids and pedestrians will be in the area more.

Mike Lowery, of 145 Avonlee Lane, Kalama asked if he could address one question prior to addressing the speed limit issue. He asked the staff who approved lowering the road and raising the flood plain out in this area. The area is already subject to flooding and still floods. The residents don't need to be in two or three feet of water. Why were that allowed to put that into the floodplain and why was it designed like this. It was explained that it is designed for watershed in this area leading to a stormwater swale allowing for infiltration to drain water away from the road. It was designed to code by engineers and meets the standards. Mr. Lowery noted that there will be ice in the winter that will have cars sliding off the road where it has been lowered. He went to address the speed limit but had used up the 3 minutes of allotted time. He did note he believes the speed limit change is just a revenue generator.

Kim Lowery, of 145 Avonlee Lane, Kalama stated that changing the speed limit now so doesn't go back and forth during times of construction is not necessary. Its been 25 mph during construction which has been inconvenient for residents. It isn't necessary to be less than 35 as there are three 3 lanes in the country. She suggests waiting, in spite of the permitting requirements. Even when traffic increases and the roundabout is opened it isn't going to change anything. The speed won't need to be changed. The road is used by log trucks, gravel trucks and all vehicles and there is not a reason to be slowing down before the roundabout.

John Martelli, of 400 Modrow Road, Kalama stated he is not sure why the Council would do this now for a 20-year project. It is ridiculous and even coming into town at 25 mph isn't necessary. He added that no one going to use the sidewalks so there is no reason for it. It looks to just be a revenue getter. Drivers slow down for curves and even during construction is

okay. He noted that he tows a large trailer and boats and spends the winter in Arizona where even school zones are 35 mph.

John Stanfill of 296 Elm Street, Kalama asked Police Chief Herrera if based on the engineering reports if trucks would have issues in slowing down from 35 going down to 25 and any concerns with the approach to the roundabout. Chief Herrera noted that roundabouts can be challenging for some drivers and can bottleneck in the beginning. As the public safety officer, he believes that slower is better. He addressed the earlier revenue generator comments inviting anyone to come take a look at the records on the traffic stops. Eighty percent of stops result in a verbal warning. They use the stops as a tool to educate and a deterrent not for revenue. The officers use traffic enforcement to make contacts. In areas where there is a change in the speed or other regulations, they do a little more patrol and enforcement to educate the public about the change. It was noted that the slight reduction in speed will not extend trips in the area to an unacceptable length as it would probably be a minute or less.

Tanaja Gravinia of 125 Nectarine Drive, Kalama noted that coming down around the corner on Old Pacific Highway North it will be difficult to slow down quickly and causes wear and tear on the vehicles. She suggested looking at the locations of where the decrease begins.

Mr. Mike Friechs, Kalama, suggested the Council give the benefit of the doubt the drivers know how to drive a car and know what they are doing. Lowering the speed limit is nuts and just not right.

Connie Dean of 1115 China Garden Road, Kalama, asked about the proposed median down middle of the road. Port Development Director Eric Yakovich stated these would be on both Kalama River Road and Old Pacific Highway. It was asked if Meeker Drive be 25 all the way to Kalama River Road. Director of Public Works Rasmussen stated no, Meeker would be 35. This is a different zone than in town or the development area. Residential zones are usually 25, but Meeker is a more rural area so is at 35 mph. Ms. Dean asked if the zones weren't set by the amount of people in the area. It was explained that traffic analysis is based on trips per day.

Mike Lowery addressed the speed limit claiming is just a revenue generator. The limit has been fine at 35 and there is no reason it should be less. It should be 40. There is no justifiable reason for Kalama to reduce the limit in this area.

Dennis Dunlap, Modrow Road resident stated that he has experience driving in all conditions and all over the country where they have roundabouts. The speed limits prior to the roundabouts are usually 35-40 mph until about 75-100 before then the speed will drop for the roundabout. Heavy traffic area in Woodland where the new roundabout went in and it works there. It was also noted that it is more difficult for drivers to hold the speed at 25 mph coming from a 35mph zone.

Councilmember Mike Langham noted he has driven roundabouts in England and Europe

where they work very well. Those are wider and have more lands but the speed only drops a few hundred feet and not miles before. He noted that there are no accidents in roundabouts.

It was asked when the Port would be building on the site. Port Development Director Eric Yakovich stated it could be some in the next year. The area will see gradual growth and they can address the traffic thresholds as they move forward. It is projected to be built out in 15 years but it can change. One tenant or it could take ten to bring it to the threshold to reduce the speed limit. The hearing was closed at 7:54pm.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Stormwater Project – Geranium and North First Street – Award Bid

Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen reported on July 23rd the City received six bids for the Geranium and North First Place stormwater project ranging from \$144,472.71 to \$198,384.94. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$152,052.68. He is requesting the Council award the bid to the low bidder Tapani, Inc out of Battle Ground who has met all the requirements. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola made a motion the Council accept the bid from Tapani Inc in the amount of \$144,472.71 for the Stormwater project at Geranium and North First downtown. Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Community Building – Fee Waiver for Meet & Greet of Candidates

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained that based on the policy set out for the operations of the Community Building, staff is unable to waive the fee and this would need to be a Council decision. The person who rented the building is neither a public nor governmental entity as allowed for in the policies. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola noted that all the candidates that were there could easily pay a portion and therefore repay the sponsoring individual. Mayor Reuter read RCW 42.17A.555 which clearly states that elected officials cannot authorize the use of public facilities for political purposes. The Council agreed this is very clear. Ms. Marrene Jenkins, the sponsor of the event, stated this was an educational event for the citizens providing an opportunity for them to know the candidates that are running, held in a public building which is paid for by citizens' taxes. All the candidates attended and it was open for everyone. She noted that it is not a matter of the cost but that it was a public service. The "community" building means it is for the community to use. It was explained there has to be a process and this doesn't fit into the parameters. It is a community building and the event was a community service to educate the public. John Flynn stated that this was an event attended by all the candidates and was a benefit to the community and he believes the City should waive the fee. If not then he asks the candidates to cover the expense.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Intent to Annex – Connie Guffey – Set Date for Meeting

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained the City has received an intent to annex

property on Meeker Drive. The process requires the City Council to set a meeting with the applicant to discuss the proposal. It can be on either of the next two Council meeting agendas, August 15 or September 5, 2019. The Council requested it be on agenda for August 15, 2019.

8. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No. 1425 – Speed Limit Kalama River/OPHwy North

Ordinance No. 1425 was read by Title: An Ordinance of the City of Kalama, Washington amending Kalama Municipal Code Chapter 10.04 Vehicle Code to address speed limits on Kalama River Road and North Old Pacific Highway. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola made a motion to table Ordinance No. 1425 until the traffic meets the needs by code as designed in the master plan. Councilmember Mary Putka seconded. City Administrator Adam Smee asked if the Council wanted staff to bring back a revision that will address the speed limit for the roundabout itself to be 25 mph. The Council requested staff to revise the ordinance for next meeting. The motion carried.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mel Kamarath, Tenth Street resident asked about the intersection of Elm Street and East Frontage as it intersects with the I5 offramp. Her husband is a jogger, and almost been hit in the area several times. She and her children also walk in the area and it is a blind corner with poor visibility. She also noted that she doesn't think the idea of making it one-way is a good one. City Administrator Adam Smee noted that he too has also almost been hit in this area and the City recognizes the concern. Rapid flashers like they have at the Port may be considered as one solution. The work on Elm Street will include a crosswalk across Elm Street at the restrooms which may help. The one-way street proposal is only a concept within the Downtown Economic Plan. It would require a very public process, and a traffic impact study, before it would be given serious consideration. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola noted that WSDOT will eventually have concerns with stacking at the short off ramp and removing the turns would be one possible tool. Ms. Kamarath also reported that the Library put on a great star gazing night. It was an amazing even and the staff there is doing a great job.

10. CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. MAYOR'S REPORT & COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

- A.** Mayor Mike Reuter requested everyone get out and vote for the primary next week.
- B.** Position is vacant.
- C.** Councilmember Sandra Macias reported on the meeting with web designer with the first peek at the final design. The new site will be much easier to navigate. Public Works has been getting some paving projects completed on Tenth and portions of Birch, Eighth, Sixth and Seventh using the \$40 car tab TBD funding. The Post Office paved their lot as well.

D. Councilmember Mike Langham had no report.

E. Councilmember Rosemary Siipola noted the city is sending a letter of support for the Census count project. The City will allow the Library to be a central location for those people who need access to computers to complete the process as well as help. Census workers only come out to the homes when you don't respond.

F. Councilmember Mary Putka reported the Tourism committee is up and going with members Linda Dolph, Carol Day, Matt Salsman, Liz Newman, Taryn Nelson and Eric Nerison along with herself and Clerk Coni McMaster. They will work to draft a policy for how to determine events to be funded as well as what other tourism related functions such as an information kiosk would benefit the community. She noted that the Library stargazer event was just one success the Library has had this summer. They had 70 kids in the summer reading program and 49 attend story time. Patrons of the Library have increased from 492 cards both inside and outside the City limits to 576 as of now. The staff and the volunteers are doing a great job. Citizens will be seeing a survey from the Library Board in September which she hopes they will complete as the Board really wants to hear what the public wants from the Library. She added that she helped to write a grant for additional shelving for \$2000 from Blue scope through Envision Kalama.

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. City Administrator Adam Smee reported continue to work with the developers as well as local real estate people to look at how to the meet the needs for local housing.

B. Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen presented his written report. The crew has graded off the site for the Maruhn Memorial on Meeker. The memorial will be put in place along with the flag poles. There are several concepts being considered including one to make it mostly concrete with planters and benchers to make it a nice place for the public.

C. Police Chief Ralph Herrera presented his statistical report of 211 calls with 18 reports. The one vehicle break-in was an unlocked car, so he noted "take your stuff and lock your car." Generally, there is a low crime rate in Kalama. He continued that his officers did spend some time at the stargazer event and it was well attended. The City hosted the Joint entity meeting at the Police Department earlier in the week providing an opportunity for additional community members to tour the facility. The National Night Out event is this Tuesday, August 6th. There will be live music, free food, fire and different trucks or safety apparatus, the County's boat, the cement truck and much to do for the family. This is the department's opportunity to expand the outreach to address public safety and crime prevention He is working with McMenamins on the upcoming Brewfest where there will be 25 taps and three bands, which should draw a large showing. On September 5th there will also be a Country music event.

D. Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster reported they have chosen a person for the new position and are conducting a background check to finalize the selection.

E. City Attorney Sam Satterfield was absent.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Mary Putka made a motion the City Council approve the Consent Agenda including:

Claims and Payroll Warrants #40598-40647 plus ACH/EFT payments for the Month of July in the amount of \$254,124.35 and

Approval of Minutes of the July 18, 2019 City Council Meeting

Councilmember Mike Langham seconded, and the motion carried.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reuter adjourned the meeting at 8:46p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

Mike Reuter - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer