

Pastor Jay Peach, from the Faith Center, gave the invocation. Mayor Nancy Malone led the flag salute. Mayor Malone called the Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council to order. Councilmembers in attendance were Jeffrey McAllister, Mike Karnofski, Kim Lefebvre, Richard McCaine, Keenan Harvey, Lisa Alexander, and Nancy Malone.

Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Harvey, 'Approve the Minutes of the 2/16/21 Regular Meeting,' motion passed, all voting yes.

CITIZENS BUSINESS:

Kevin Rentner, from the Washington Department of Corrections, spoke about the proposed ordinance agenda item limiting the amount of sex offenders living at the same residence. Mayor Malone ask Mr. Rentner to stay for the discussion portion of the proposed ordinance slotted later in the agenda.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Discussion – Ordinance Proposal Limiting the Number of Registered Sex Offenders and Convicted Felons Residing at the same Location: Councilmember Harvey spoke about a 2017 article from the local newspaper that showed that Cowlitz County had the highest rate of sex offenders per capita in the state. He commented that his concern was that Kelso received more registered sex offenders transferring from prison to the community, through Senate Bill 6157, because Kelso had more affordable housing available than the neighboring communities. Lengthy discussion followed. **Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, 'Direct Staff to bring back a draft ordinance, similar to the City of Puyallup ordinance, allowing for only two sex offenders to reside in one location.'** Discussion continued. Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Table the motion'. Discussion regarding procedure followed. Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Withdraw the motion to table, and motion to postpone it indefinitely.' Discussion continued. Councilmember Karnofski called for the question. **Mayor Malone reiterated the motion, 'Postpone the Motion Indefinitely'. Councilmembers Karnofski, Lefebvre, McCaine, and Malone voted yes. Councilmembers McAllister, Harvey, and Alexander voted no, motion passed, 4 to 3.** Discussion followed. The consensus of the Council was to hold a special meeting, in a workshop format, on March 9th, at 6:30 PM, via Zoom, to allow time for staff to provide information for further discussion toward drafting a document regarding registered sex offenders residing at the same location.

MOTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. (1st Reading) Amending KMC 10.12 relating to Time Periods for Public Parking on City Streets and City Property: The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, 'Pass on 1st reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON AMENDING KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10.12 TO AMEND TIME PERIODS FOR PUBLIC PARKING ON CITY STREETS AND CITY PROPERTY,' motion passed, all voting yes.

Ordinance No. (1st Reading) Authorizing and Approving a Loan Agreement for the Cost of Fuel Farm Improvements at the Southwest Washington Regional Airport: The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Lefebvre, 'Pass on 1st reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY AVIATION REVITALIZATION BOARD AND THE CITY OF KELSO FOR AID IN FINANCING THE COSTS OF FUEL FARM IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL AIRPORT,' motion passed, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hamilton: 1) Welcomed everyone to the first in-person council meeting since the doors were closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spoke about adjustments to the regular council meeting format pursuant to the Governor's Phase 2 Safety Guidelines. 2) Provided a COVID-19 Cowlitz County status update. 3) Reported on various meetings and training he recently attended. 4) Acknowledged Ed Pardue, from the Public Works Department, for his 37 years of service to the City of Kelso. He also mentioned that there was a police officer with 35 years of service. 5) Commented that today was the one day opened to smelt dipping on the Cowlitz River this year. 6) He provided a report from the Library.

STAFF REPORTS:

Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield: No report.

City Attorney Janean Parker: No report.

Chief of Police Darr Kirk: No report.

Airport Manager Chris Paolini: Answering a question from Councilmember Karnofski regarding a recent electrical outage, he commented that they are currently looking for a cost-effective approach to be prepared for this type of situation.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Jeffrey McAllister: No report.

Kim Lefebvre: Reminder that the Lower Columbia Community Action Program is available to help those in need.

Keenan Harvey: No report.

Richard McCaine: No report.

Lisa Knight Alexander: Challenged her fellow Councilmembers to be a good example to the community and take the time to cleanup an area of the street near their home.

Mike Karnofski: 1) Reported that he and Cowlitz Economic Development Council Vice President Lindsey Cope would be meeting with City Manager Hamilton to discuss restarting the Kelso Business Association. He mentioned that one of the first projects that would be considered was a 'City Cleanup Days'. This event would be scheduled in April or May. 2) Announced that the Lower Columbia Investment Network will be meeting the next four Wednesdays, at 11:00 AM, starting tomorrow.

Nancy Malone: Thanked her fellow Councilmembers for their due diligence in taking time to support the City.

There being no further business, Mayor Malone adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK