

Chaplain Steve White, Kelso Police Department, gave the invocation. Mayor David Futcher led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Futcher. Councilmembers in attendance were: Futcher, McDaniel, Karnofski, Roberson, Schimmel, and Myers. Councilmember Webb was absent.

**Minutes:** Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Myers, 'Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2011, Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Futcher read a proclamation declaring May 15 through May 21, 2011, as **National Public Works Week** in the City of Kelso. Public Works Director David Sypher accepted the proclamation. Mr. Sypher will give a Public Works Presentation on May 17<sup>th</sup> during the Kelso City Council Meeting.

Mayor Futcher read a proclamation declaring May 2011 as **Mental Health Awareness Month** in the City of Kelso. Eric Yakovich, of Lower Columbia Mental Health Center, accepted the proclamation. He spoke about how only half of the people in this community needing mental health treatment are getting help. We are working hard to keep the services accessible. It is action like this proclamation that keeps mental illness awareness in the main stream and makes it possible to provide the services for people who are in need of treatment.

Mayor Futcher read a proclamation declaring May 15 through May 21, 2011, as **National Police Week** in the City of Kelso. Chief Andy Hamilton accepted the proclamation.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Chaplain Steve White**, a representative of the Longview American Legion Post 155, presented the **American Legion Law Enforcement Trooper of the Year Award to Trooper William Knudson**. Trooper Knudson, who has been with the Washington State Patrol for six years, was chosen to receive this award for his work in the community, on the SWAT Team, and with other law enforcement agencies and the FBI on the shooting case involving Trooper Scott Johnson. Trooper Knudson accepted the award and said it was an absolute honor. Mayor Futcher offered his congratulations.

**National Police Week:** Chief Hamilton gave a power point presentation in honor of the fallen law enforcement officers and gave tribute to Officer Frank Konen, the only law enforcement officer in Cowlitz County to lose his life in the line of duty. He read the names of the Kelso Police Officers and gave their number of years with KPD. He also commended the office staff, Chaplain Steve White and the Cowlitz County Chaplaincy, and

the Kelso Police Reserve Unit for their dedication to KPD. Chief Hamilton called the President of the Kelso Police Association, **Ralph Hines**, to the podium. Officer Hines spoke of the 65 deaths, so far this year, as well as the 158 law enforcement officers who died last year in the line of duty. There has been an increase in calls for services; therefore, the risk to the public is on the rise. The risk that the law enforcement officers take is for the safety of the people. Please consider this risk when deciding what is important to the City's future. Chief Hamilton returned to the podium and spoke of the Police Science Class instructed by Mike Milosevich, a retired Longview Police Officer with over thirty-one years of service. The class, which started this year and consists of Cowlitz County high school students, is only the third one in the State of Washington. The purpose of the class is to provide students an overview of the criminal justice system, expose them to leadership skills, and prepare them for a career in criminal justice. Police Science Class students **Chris Johnson** and **Skylar Lake** expressed their appreciation for the class as well as their instructor. Chief Hamilton said there are so many applications for next year's class that they won't be able to handle the demand. He thanked the City Council and Finance Director Brian Butterfield for their help. Chief Hamilton reminded citizens to lower their flags on May 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of those who put their lives on the line every day for law enforcement.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **S.E.P.A Janitorial Services Agreement Addendum**

Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Approve the Consent Agenda,' motion carried all voting yes.

#### **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**Downtown Streetlight Replacement Project – Additional Construction Contract Funding in the Amount of \$18,101.34:** Public Works Director David Sypher explained that the Energy Efficient Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$148,000 that was awarded to the City of Kelso will not cover the cost of the project. As the project was being designed, it was determined that ten lights were actually needed instead of the original design of seven lights. Additional grant money in the amount of \$34,983 was obtained; however, funds in the amount of \$18,101.34 would be needed to complete the project. If council desires the project, we would need to acquire the balance from the general fund reserves. Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Approve additional construction contract funding in the amount of \$18,101.34 for the Downtown Streetlight Replacement Project.' Lengthy Discussion followed.

**Rod Wright**, 97 Banyon Drive, spoke from the audience about streetlights being more beneficial in the neighborhoods rather than in the downtown area.

Council discussion followed.

**Senior Engineer Van McKay** explained that the project started because the City is having failing lights along this downtown street. We applied for this grant because the wiring is old and often shorts out and needs to be repaired. The project is in four phases so each portion can be done as funds are available. This portion of the project is removing the seven lights and replacing them with ten lights, because the new lights are lower and the extra three lights are needed to illuminate the street. Discussion followed.

**Finance Director Brian Butterfield** gave a brief synopsis of the City's financial situation. He spoke about the factors that were considered when the 2011 budget was adopted. The City eliminated nine positions to help balance the budget. In addition, the City budgeted to spend down \$179,000 in reserves. To date, only eight of the positions have been eliminated. If the ninth position isn't eliminated, we will probably need to go into reserves by approximately \$200,000. Also, we have an obligation to pay back \$900,000 with future revenues. We could be in bad shape if things don't progress down south. Discussion followed.

Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Move to amend the previous motion by awarding the bid but limiting the total expenditure to the amount that we received from grant sources.' The motion to amend carried, all voting yes.

**Mayor Futcher reminded Councilmembers of the current motion, which is to award the contract, not to exceed the amount we received in contract funding plus our match.**

**Rod Wright**, who spoke from audience, asked how it is decided what grants are needed when the City needs to update almost everything. He spoke against the City putting more money into the streetlight project. Mayor Futcher clarified that the motion is to keep the project expense within the amount of the grant.

Motion carried, all voting yes.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Dennis Richards:** 1) I have been in law enforcement for thirty years and find it interesting that National Police Week and Mental Health Awareness Month fall in the same month. The two are actually related because law enforcement officers have to deal with people on a daily basis who have mental health issues. Working as City Manager, I have also learned that there is a lot to be thankful for concerning the Public Works staff.  
2) Altrusa has been very supportive in their donations to the teen area at the library.  
3) The Senior Center has done a first-class job on their kitchen and will be able to prepare "Meals on Wheels" for those who are in need of this service. Special thanks to Len

Johnson for all his volunteer work. 4) We are decorating the front of City Hall with six flower baskets. If anyone would like to help, we are accepting donations. 5) Enjoy the weather, with no rain!

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**David Sypher:** 1) The Ross Street sinkhole should be finished this week. Since the street was totally destroyed, we will end up with a brand new overlay for that section. 2) We have applied for two airport grants. One is a county grant and the other is a Department of Transportation Grant. If awarded, this will give us a completion of our \$700,000 for a runway stop-way to the south. 3) The waterline projects that were approved at the last Council Meeting started today. 4) Things are happening on the property at the wye. They have completed their gravity sewer work, force main work, and the water main work began Monday. They have also done a lot of road work. 5) The contract for the Burcham stairs was awarded at a cost of approximately \$9,000. At this time, there are no plans to reestablish the stairs.

**Michael Kerins:** 1) The Brownfield cleanup grant came through and we have been approved for the funding. The request for proposals has gone out and the deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>. 2) I have been in contact with one of the executive officers of a bank in Oregon that owns the old Juvenile Justice Center. He is in agreement that demolishing the building would be in their best interest. He will contact me within a couple of weeks with their plan to demolish the structure.

**Cindy Donaldson:** 1) The library passed the 500 mark for cards issued since January 15, 2011, compared to a total of 638 issued for all of 2010. Our circulation is up 14 percent compared to April of last year and for the entire year it is up 8 percent. 2) The Friends of the Library are working really hard to complete our meeting room kitchen.

**Andrew Hamilton:** 1) The Citizens Academy graduation is Wednesday, May 11th, at the county building. 2) Two officers are currently on sick leave. Other than that, things are going as expected.

**Brian Butterfield:** 1) We are in the middle of our audit. They worked on the federal programs last week and they are getting the financial statements tomorrow. 2) I want to remind Council if you want to pursue a levee lid, a deadline needs to be set. It should be given to the County prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Traci Howard:** No report

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Rick Roberson:** I am in awe of the young people who were so brave as to jump in a helicopter and go on such a dangerous mission in Pakistan. I appreciate the veterans of

WWII and what they had to go through. I also think about the police and all their contributions and risks. I feel we have a good generation of people.

Gary Schimmel: No report

John Karnofski: No report.

Todd McDaniel: CUBS has a new Transit Manager. He will be the first manager we have hired who has some experience.

Dan Myers: 1) While attending the annual CWCOG meeting, I began to wonder how many millions are paid in executive salaries. I think there is some redundancy between the two organizations, so I would like to see some kind of ~~matrix~~<sup>matrix</sup> showing their accomplishments. 2) Please join us at the Kelso Depot for "National Train Day" on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special ceremony beginning at 2:00 p.m. with pictures, displays, model trains, and some refreshments.

David Futcher: I will be privileged to welcome the Alliance for Community Media to town this weekend for an event at the Kelso Theater Pub. KLTV won a few awards including "Overall Outstanding Station of the Year for the Northwest Region".

There being no further business, Mayor Futcher adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

  
MAYOR

  
CITY CLERK