

Roll Call

Present

Jerry Cole, Mayor
Randy Hamlin
Steve Martin
Ralph Painter

Mike Avent
John Slape
Scott Taggart
Rob Piercy

Others Present

Chad Olsen, City Administrator
Steve Peterson, City Attorney
Michelle Archibald, City Recorder

H.B. Hamilton, Chief of Police
Dwayne Barnes, Public Works Director

Visitors Comments

Bill Eagle, Chairman of Columbia County Parks Commission and a member of Friends of Fox Creek, urged the City to consider the possibility of purchasing the Nice Creek Forrest. He feels it is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the City.

Margaret Barton-Ross, 218 East E Street, Rainier, submitted the attached cover letter that she read regarding her concerns with the issuance and enforcement of building permits in the City of Rainier.

Jill Dale handed out a flyer regarding “Meth Talks” follow up by Shirley Morgan” and encouraged anyone who was interested to attend on October 13, 2005 at the Rainier High School Auditorium.

Lori Baker agreed that Nice Creek would make a nice park and urged the City to consider this area.

Darrell Whipple, Friends of Fox Creek, urged the Council to make it happen, for the City to obtain the seventy-acre area by Nice Creek as a City Park. Whipple had the people attending the meeting show their hands in support of Nice Creek.

Bill Villardi, Nice Creek Owner, stated that he would like to see Nice Creek turned into a park, he also questioned if there had been any ecological studies done on the land around Nice Creek.

Mayor’s Address

Mayor Cole read 91 names of soldiers that have fallen from the last Council Meeting.

“A” Street Parking

Mayor Cole handed out copies of e-mails that he received over the weekend regarding the parking issue on “A” Street. Cole commented this issue came about through a lot of miscommunication on everyones part. Cole stated that on

August 27th there were some signs posted at the City Park asking people not to park in the Saturday Market area. These signs were meant for the boaters because they take up two to three parking spots. The signs were removed because they were not approved signs, therefore vehicles with boat trailers parked in the area of the Saturday Market. Vendors were unable to unload and there was no room for customers to park. Cole added that because of this confusion Sue Drummond, in charge of the Saturday Market, a Chamber driven event, decided to cancel the last three days of the Market and this left many people upset. Cole wished that the parking problem could have been worked out prior to Saturday Market being cancelled.

Steve Hov commented that because Saturday Market was advertised and people are paying for a space they expect that there would be a place to park. Cole agreed that this was an admitted problem and now he would like to talk about how to fix the parking issue. Deb Hov stated that the comment regarding Sue Drummond deciding to close the market was not accurate. She commented that Sue talked with all the vendors and they all agreed to cancel the Market.

Cole would like to bring Saturday Market back.

After more discussion it was agreed that the Saturday Market area be barricaded off to reserve this area for vendors and customers.

Deb Hov added that the parking issue was not the only problem with Saturday Market, but was the straw that broke the camels back.

Robin Ostoj, Saturday Market customer, read the attached letter from Sue Drummond addressed to the City Council stating the problems she had with City Staff. Robin stated that she was at the meeting because she is a concerned customer who does not want the Market to go away.

Painter commented that this year was a practice year and there would be issues to work out.

Cole stated that he received a phone call from Michael Carter, a Chamber member, who commented that he has never had a problem with City Staff. Cole went on to say that he received a rebuttal letter from Kelly Barnes and asked her to speak in regards to this. Barnes stated that she felt everything was going fine and that all the requests from Sue had been addressed and taken care of until this e-mail appeared from Sue that attacked the Public Works Director's character. Barnes commented the Public Works Director volunteered his time on Saturdays to help with Saturday Market by cleaning the restrooms, emptying trash and anything else that needed to be done.

Emergency Ordinance # _____ to Disallow Vehicle With Trailer Parking

Motion by Avent, 2nd by Hamlin to approve an Ordinance to disallow vehicle with trailer parking from the City Park parking lot entrance east to the "A" Street bridge all day on Saturdays.

Martin and Avent stated that there needs to be a work session on the parking issue.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hamlin asked Dr. Fiscus who would be the chair for Saturday Market for the next three days. Dr. Fiscus said that he would have to work on this. He has heard interest from both Kelly Barnes and Michael Carter. Kelly Barnes asked for permission from the Council to use the signs that Sue had made for the parking. Dwayne Barnes stated that he would like Kelly's e-mail made part of the record and added that the e-mail that was received by Staff from Sue Drummond was much more crude than what was read at the meeting. Barnes also added for the record that he has never been slandered as he was in this e-mail. He found the tone of the e-mail to be very offensive.

Motion by Martin, 2nd by Taggart to take a five-minute recess at 9:05 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting came back to session at 9:10 p.m.

Visitors Comments

Randy Peterson, Columbia Fire and Rescue Rainier Station Captain, gave an update stating that he feels the merger with St Helens and Rainier has been working well. He added that staffing has been increased and a new engine has been added to the Rainier station.

Unfinished Business

Approval of August 1, 2005 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Avent, 2nd by Painter to approve the minutes as written with corrections to delete Hamlin from the absent section and add him to the present section of the roll call and change the date of recognition of Library Volunteers from October 3rd to September 6th in Taggart's comments.

Avent abstained because he was absent.

Motion passed.

Council Approval Report: August 2005

Motion by Hamlin, 2nd by Slape to approve the bills as paid. Motion passed unanimously.

Request For More Time To Acquire Longview Fibre Land As A Park

Motion by Avent, 2nd by Painter to support the idea of acquiring the land as a Park and ask Longview Fibre for more time to come up with a financial package.

Cole directed staff to put this in a letter.

Martin stated that his desire is that Longview Fibre gets everything that is rightfully theirs and whatever that price might be. Martin hopes that with this Council's expressions Fibre will hear that the Council would like to see that property become a park and preserve it for generations.

Blake Rowe of Longview Fibre, asked if the City is going to take the lead on the funding or is Darrell Whipple still going to be the lead on the funding and arranging the purchase. Avent stated that his motion would be that the City work with Darrell Whipple and his agencies and put Olsen in charge to use the City's assets and commitments to back this.

Painter stated that he did not think that this is what Whipple was asking for. Whipple was asking for the missing piece of the City's support but it wasn't a funding support from the City.

Avent commented that he is not stating that the funding come from the City but from grants from the City. Avent added that there may be some avenues open to the City that may not be open to Whipple. Avent stated that if they want this for the City it should not be put back onto Whipple, it is time for the City to step up and work on this.

Roll Call

Hamlin	No
Slape	No
Avent	Aye
Martin	Aye
Painter	Aye
Taggart	Aye
Piercy	Aye

Motion passed.

Longview Fibre Temporary Easement/Road Permit

Motion by Painter, 2nd by Avent to grant Longview Fibre a temporary easement permit to the property in question, subject to Olsen and Petersen working with Fibre on approved compensation related to the easement, to check on the impact of the property down the stream from the dump facility, verify the owners of the property near the street and set a termination date of one year.

Martin stated again that the land is Fibre's and it is their right to do with it what they want and he respects that and if there is anyway possible to make something that works for the City's future it would be much appreciated.

Roll Call

Piercy	Aye
Taggart	No
Painter	Aye
Martin	Aye
Avent	Aye
Slape	Aye
Hamlin	Aye

Motion passed.

Riverfront Park Development Project: Phase II: Bid Award

Motion by Martin, 2nd by Taggart to award the Riverfront Park Development Project Phase II bid to Burnheardt Gulf. Motion passed unanimously.

State – Local Agreement: Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Rainier/Open Space Development Project: Special Condition

Motion by Piercy, 2nd by Painter to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the State Local agreement, land and water conservation fund for the Rainier/Open space development project.

Roll Call

Piercy	Aye
Taggart	Aye
Painter	Aye
Martin	No
Avent	No
Slape	Aye
Hamlin	Aye

Motion passed.

Acquisition of Real Property: Exercise Option With Waterfront Development LLC

Motion by Painter, 2nd by Martin to authorize the Mayor to exercise the acquisition of real property option with Waterfront Development LLC with financing to be \$12,960.00 from the Water Fund and \$6,480.00 from the Sewer and Street Funds.

Avent declared a conflict of interest.

Roll Call

Martin	Aye
Hamlin	No
Slape	Aye
Painter	Aye
Taggart	Aye
Piercy	No

Motion passed.

Library Hours

Motion by Taggart, 2nd by Avent to change the library hours to: Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with lunch from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with lunch from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting September 12, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Board Appointment: Jan Kenna

Motion by Avent, 2nd by Taggart to appoint Jan Kenna to the Library Board. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Lindblad Expeditions

Requesting a one time docking permit for October 26th.

Motion by Hamlin, 2nd by Martin to approve a one time docking request at \$1.00 per foot by Linblad Expeditions for the M.V. Seabird on October 26, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Street Vacation: Portion of Rice Street

Barnes distributed copies of a request for a street vacation and stated that this street vacation will need to take place on the first meeting in October because there is not enough time between this meeting and the next meeting in September.

Motion by Painter, 2nd by Slape to accept the street vacation petition from Mike Avent, Rainier Waterfront LLC and set a public hearing date for the first meeting in October.

Avent declared a conflict on interest.

Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Mayor Cole stated that he received a letter from the Eagles requesting approval for the use of the City Park for Days In the Park and street closure of "A" Street from West 6th Street east to the bridge from July 11 – 16. The Eagles are also looking at the area just east of the tennis courts for the carnival because of the new ball field. Cole stated that he did not want action on these items tonight but it would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cole mentioned that he posted a notice on a forum for people to comment on issues they have with the new City boat launch.

Hamilton reported that he ordered a new police car for the department and that there have been thirty-seven citations issued at the boat launch and marina.

Barnes commented that since August 22nd the City has received \$2,996.90 on launch fees. He also reported that the crew in painting pavement markings and the flag is at half-mast in memory of Hurricane Katrina victims.

Administrator's Report

Olsen reported that the elevator project bid closing has been amended to September 13, 2005.

Council Reports

Avent: stated that he would like to meet with Margaret Barton-Ross on the building permit issues and get them resolved.

Hamlin: questioned if there was twenty-four hour police coverage. He also asked Olsen about the cable TV. right of way. Olsen stated that the cable right of way agreement is open ended at the discretion of the City.

Martin: asked if there could be something done about the skateboarders on Washington Way. He mentioned that it might be a good idea for the City to purchase the digital sign that is for sale at the foot of the Lewis and Clark bridge. Martin reported that the City Wide Clean up would be from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Dr. Fiscus' vacant lot. He also asked about the "A" Street downtown rail issue. Martin feels that the \$2.00 launch fee is too generous.

Painter: questioned when the nonunion employees evaluations would be on the work session agenda. He invited everyone to his and Amy's wedding reception at El Tapatio at 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

Taggart: mentioned that he has a request from the Library Board to recognize Ingrid Jacobsen on October 3rd for all her efforts for the library.

Motion by Taggart, 2nd by Avent to approve Ingrid Jacobsen to be recognized on October 3rd. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

Jerry Cole, Mayor

Attested:

Michelle Archibald, City Recorder