

**City Council**  
**July 10, 2012**

Mayor Johnson called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Upon roll call the following Council members were present: Boyle Barrett, Howard, Irons, Montgomery, Reed and Tremblay. Also in attendance was City Administrator David Schmidt.

Mayor Johnson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. City Administrator Schmidt stated we have one item, the Hazard Mitigation Raw Water Transmission Main – Change Order #1. **Council member Montgomery moved to add Item #13, the Water Transmission Main – Change Order #1. Council member Reed seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Finance and Public Safety:**

Council member Boyle Barrett stated they had a meeting but she was not able to attend. Council member Reed reported that the items they discussed are on the agenda tonight for discussion.

**Streets and Utilities:**

Council member Tremblay stated they have not had a meeting since the last Council meeting, but they do have the public hearing on the Gas System tonight.

**Community Services and Economic Development:**

Council member Montgomery stated they had a very short meeting and discussed the survey, and Rainier Natural Health design review for changing the front doors.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Johnson stated she has a letter of interest from Laverne Harris to become a Planning Commission member. **Council member Montgomery moved to appoint Laverne Harris to the Planning Commission. Council member Reed seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Mayor Johnson stated she and Council member Tremblay attended the AWC Conference a few weeks ago. Council member Tremblay gave a brief report on the conference.

**Staff Reports:**

City Administrator Schmidt stated that the Gas Department Lead recently resigned his position due to medical and personal reasons. In the interim they have promoted Brian Burbank to that position until the position is filled.

## **MAIN AGENDA**

**Mayor Johnson recessed the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing on the Sale of the City's Natural Gas System at 7:12 PM.**

### **Public Hearing: Sale of City's Natural Gas System**

**Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM.**

**Charles Helmer, 513 Mountain Circle.** He stated at this time he does not support the selling of the gas system. He is a six year resident so he doesn't have any "knee jerk" reaction concerning the escalation of cost. There are two factors he feels needs to be explored to determine if we can get our costs under control. One is to negotiate a better price from a supplier (gas prices are predicted to drop in the near future). The other would be to reduce operating costs by efficiency and wage benefit reductions, for example doing more with less. He would also like to see a one year and five year operation and maintenance program that is quantified as to what will be accomplished by what number of employees and at what cost to determine if a budget can be provided to do that. He has asked several people questions and all he has heard so far is that it is too expensive and too difficult for the City of Buckley to do it. He does have 15 years of budget management and manpower analysis experience and is willing to volunteer to become involved in the process.

**Marvin Sundstrom, 881 Sheets Road.** He stated that at this time he is in favor of selling the gas department. He believes we could get a provider with greater capital access; this could give the potential to serve all the citizens at a lower cost and it will also get us a provider with greater experience in capital markets.

**Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.**

**Mayor Johnson reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:20 PM.**

### **Council Candidates – Review of Applications**

Mayor Johnson stated this is for direction from the Council as to whether the Council would like to do this at a special meeting or at the next Council meeting. Council member Tremblay stated he would like to hold this at a special meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Council member Montgomery moved to hold a Special Council Meeting on July 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM to hold interviews and choose a candidate. Council member Tremblay seconded the motion and the motion carried.** Council member Montgomery stated he believes the last time we did this each Council member had a question for each candidate. Mayor Johnson stated each Council member needs to get their question to Joanne by Thursday.

### **Interagency Agreement – Tree Inventory Project**

**Council member Montgomery moved to approve the agreement between the City and DNR for completing a City Tree Inventory. Council member Reed seconded the motion.** Council member Tremblay voiced his concerns about a tree inventory and having regulations for trees on personal property. Council member Irons stated he is not in favor of anything that is going to cost the City money to regulate. Discussion continued. **Council member Howard amended the motion to state that the definition of public excludes any trees on private property. Council member Montgomery seconded the motion.** A short discussion ensued. **The amendment to the motion carried. The original motion then carried.**

### **Baker – Agricultural Land Lease Extension**

**Council member Howard moved to approve Addendum #2 to the DSHS Agricultural Land Sublease between the City and Dave Baker. Council member Boyle Barrett seconded the motion.** City Administrator Schmidt stated there has been an extensive discussion with the property owner and unfortunately he has been in the same economic times as everyone else. Council member Boyle Barrett stated her concerns regarding the offset of charges when they are not planting the corn and doing the pumpkin patch. Discussion ensued. **The motion then carried.**

### **City Jail Closure**

Mayor Johnson stated this of for the Council to give direction to the City as to what the Council would like to do. Council member Howard stated he would like to allow members of the audience to be able to speak on this item even though this is not a public hearing. Mayor Johnson stated she would like to hear from the Council first. City Administrator Schmidt gave a report of the jail and how it has been operating. Council member Howard stated he is coming to this meeting with more questions than answers. One of his questions is how much money this will cost the City in other ways if we close the jail. He just doesn't want to make a hasty decision of closing the jail and know that we can't open the jail again without it costing the City a lot of money. Council member Tremblay stated he is in support of Council member Howard's concerns. What are the impacts not only on the City of Buckley but other surrounding communities? He also would like to have a Council work session to be more informed about this. Council member Boyle Barrett stated we have had two workshops where we have talked about nothing but budgets and very extensively about the jail. This was talked about extensively at the budget time and we agreed to keep the jail open looking at it closely. Her concern is that the report is extensive and the Council has had a couple weeks to review this. The longer we put it off, the more we are going to have to look at cutting in other departments. Chief Arsanto stated Council member Howard's questions are good questions and he and City Administrator Schmidt have the answers to all those questions. At this point he would like a list of the questions Council members would like answers to. Discussion ensued. Council member Irons stated they have had several meetings to discuss the finances and he knows if anyone runs a business that knows they will have that big of a deficit at the end of the year, he knows they would make changes. It is not

an easy decision but one that needs to be made. Council member Howard stated he doesn't feel we should look at the jail or dispatch as a revenue producing operation, but we need to look at the public safety issue. He feels this really needs to be looked at in more depth. City Administrator Schmidt stated this wasn't the only option, and it is listed in this report, that is why all the departments that are not making money are reported here, the Court, the Senior Center, the Youth Center and the parks are all listed. Council member Tremblay stated there are six options and he doesn't feel the Council can make a decision tonight without more discussion and strategizing; there will not be a consensus. Council member Montgomery stated at the last work session he did ask for numbers; what he wants is true costs. Mayor Johnson asked when are we going to have a work session because every day it gets deeper. **Council member Tremblay moved to have a workshop on Monday at 7:00 PM. Council member Montgomery seconded the motion.** Council member Reed stated when looking at this report it shows there will be a deficit of \$271,000 by the end of the year, and when you look at all six options it doesn't add up to \$271,000, so there is no options 1-6, there is only one option. **The motion then carried.**

Steve Britton stated he recently took a tour of the police and old fire station, and he feels we need to utilize the facilities better, even to the expansion of the jail facility which could enhance our presentations to other communities.

**Agreement: City of Enumclaw for Jail Services**

**Council member Montgomery moved to postpone this item. Council member Tremblay seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Hazard Mitigation Raw Water Transmission Main – Change Order #1**

**Council member Tremblay moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Hazard Mitigation Raw Water Transmission Main. Council member Boyle Barrett seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Council member Reed moved to approve the consent agenda. Council member Howard seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012 City Council meeting.

Claim check numbers 48686 through 48732, in the amount of \$40,176.55, for the period of June 13<sup>th</sup> through June 26, 2012; Claim numbers 48733 through 48819, in the amount of \$448,008.68, for the period of June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 10, 2012; Payroll check numbers 32458 through 32532, in the amount of \$341,418.11; and Treasurer check numbers 11281 through 11297, in the amount of \$36,737.75 for the month of June 2012 are hereby approved and ordered paid this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012.

Council member Montgomery stated the Council is aware there was an Economic Development questionnaire sent out with the utility bills and someone has volunteered to compile those surveys. They would like to do a target mailing to business owners but would need Council approval to expend \$250.00 for that mailing. Discussion ensued. Mayor Johnson suggested attending a Chamber meeting. Council member Montgomery stated he can't but asked if she would ask questions for him. Mayor Johnson stated she would do that.

**Council member Boyle Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Council member Reed seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

  
Mayor

  
City Administrator