ROLL CALL
Mayor Frank Cox, Monica Masco, Julie Mayfield, Robert Muth, Moli Thomas, Amy Weissfeld

STAFF
Nick Hogan, Ben Shumaker, Eric Hansen, Kenneth Woodrich

GUESTS
Mary Repar, Chief Wayne Martin, Phillip Watness, Scott Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Sciacca, Casey Roeder, Pat and Jeff Hood, J.P. Hollstrom, Bonnie Heemeier, other public present not introduced.

6:00pm Meeting Called to Order by Cox

MINUTES
Weissfeld motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes as written for January 16, 2014 with a second by Muth. Unanimously approved

CONSENT AGENDA
The following items were presented for Council approval.

Water adjustment – Wendy Peppiatt (meter No. 104100) requests a water adjustment of $64.97 for broken water lines which they have since repaired.

Liquor license renewal – A&J Select Market

Liquor license application in lieu of current privilege – Columbia River Wine Sellers

Liquor license application - Iron Man Strong Ale Festival (SBA)

Masco moved to adopt all items on the consent agenda with a second by Thomas. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Repar said the fairgrounds look very bad. She said it’s their walking area and there must be a way between the city and county to make the city look nice. The county dumped old straw from the barn and left it. She said the straw will compost, there is a lot of standing water right now. She said she hopes that the city has a say on how the fairground area looks.

As Grange Master for 121 she wanted to share that the legislature wants to capitalize on hemp, SB5954. She said that at the grange they support hemp. Repar said the US is importing hemp from Canada and wanted to know why it couldn’t be grown here. She clarified that you don't smoke hemp to get high and urged everyone to support local farmers. She explained that hemp can be used for food, construction, biofuel, a lot of purposes. Repar asked city council to support this bill to let them grow hemp in our own country.

Thomas said she supports what Repar says about the fairgrounds. She said there is swastika graffiti in the children’s bathroom and it should be cleaned up. Repar said she noticed the graffiti too. Sciacca said
they walk that area daily, and the county should support the park. They have a work day to donate work
and remove blackberries on Saturday, May 31st.

Thomas made a motion to write a letter to the county to remove offensive graffiti, make the grounds
functional and usable, including the bathrooms with a second by Mayfield. Unanimously approved.

Sciaccas was on agenda to address 2nd Street. He said he hasn’t ever seen an issue like last week that was
handled so orderly (speaking of I-84 closure, with heavy traffic being routed through Hwy 14). He said if
WSDOT didn't have an issue about the truck traffic being rerouted through the city, he is surprised the
city doesn’t have a procedure in place. He said they are proposing a fraction of that onto 1st street and are
in favor of it happening sooner than later. He asked why we even need a public forum. All they are
complaining about is east bound trucks. It could take a long time for the master plan. That road was built
for the trucks. Cox said it was built for two way couplets. Sciaccas said it is capable to handle trucks with
two way traffic and that is what they are proposing. He hopes city council will talk to WSDOT with
future ideas. Sciaccas said speeds are out of control. At their coffee shop vehicles are going by at hwy
speed. He called WSDOT to see if they could do something about it, a digital sign or solar radar speed
limit signs. He explained that many communities are using these and are seeing good results. He said that
they need signs on the crosswalk if they expect the speed limit to be followed. He called the sheriff’s
office to see if they could come to this meeting. Dave Cox called him back and explained that it's a tough
place to pull people over and their department is undergoing cuts.

FIRE DEPT UPDATE
No Update

OLD BUSINESS

Truck traffic on 2nd Street

SBA President Anderson said he believes something bad is going to happen with the current traffic flow.
There has to be a better way to deal with the truck traffic. He said that eastbound trucks on 1st street is one
suggestion, and that he heard lots of positive feedback for feeding truck traffic through town during the I-
84 closure. Hansen said WSDOT called him and said I-84 was shut down. He said he was going to route
traffic around and they were receptive. Muth asked why Sheriff Dave Brown doesn’t have two deputies
there pulling speeding vehicles over. Muth said we have to keep OR trucks on OR side. They get away
with mileage rate on WA side and it’s a huge issue. Anderson said he didn't want to go project or idea
specific just that they are behind any efforts to ease traffic. Hogan said his plan so far is to talk with
WSDOT about what’s possible and then hold one or more community meetings to learn what the
community would like to see happen with Hwy 14 through Stevenson. Mayfield said if we take traffic off
of Hwy 14 aren’t we just moving it. Shumaker said you are taking traffic off of Hwy 14 and onto city
streets which we have to maintain. Woodrich said at one point there was a turn back provision to turn
back to the state hwy department because wear and tear would be astronomical. Hogan said that is part of
the issue - the city currently owns it and the state won't accept it. Hansen said his understanding that the
city didn't go through the correct steps at the time. Hogan said it was long enough ago they are going to
start over. Heemeier asked who sets the speed limit on Hwy 14. Hansen said the city does in town. She
wants to request that the trucks drive slower through town. That might also help reduce noise.

Right of Way Permit Application

Hogan said this was cancelled and will be brought up at next month’s meeting.
Shorelines permit for Sewer Outfall Extension

**Shumaker** said the Shorelines Permit Sewer Outfall contractor is worried about finishing on time. The state and feds are granting leeway on completion of the fish window if so, then modification of the permit. **Hansen** said the consultant may need extra time to complete the job. **Mayfield** said we did have record setting winds. **Thomas** asked if it costs money. **Woodrich** said he doesn’t believe this is a substantive change to the permit. He said that city council is not granting an extension. City council needs to recognize that the original contract needs to be revised. All city council members were in consensus.

Letter of Support for Bridge of the Gods Pedestrian lane

**Shumaker** said **Hendricks** sent over a letter of support that city council can send to the port. City council was in consensuses that they should send the prepared letter.

Fire Hall

**Hogan** said progress has been slow, at the last meeting council asked him to talk to the original architect and see what could be done with the existing fire hall. He toured the fire hall several times; and called to talk to **Dave Fergus**. **Fergus** has worked on a lot of fire halls and told **Hogan** the fire hall is approaching the end of its life, and to look for new one. **Hogan** asked if a new modern hall would fit on the existing space. The architect said yes, but with no parking. We can improve or add on a little without parking. If we knock it down completely and add parking, it will not fit where it is now. **Mayfield** asked if that was because of the current parking ordinance. **Shumaker** said yes. Establishing a new fire hall would go to planning commission and we’d go to best practice. There is no exemption for Fire Halls. **Thomas** said parking can’t be the only driver for changes in our city. **Cox** they have permission from the Eagles to use their parking. **Shumaker** said shared parking options is only for 2/3 onsite and 1/3 off site within a certain number of feet away.

**Hogan** asked **Fergus** about reinforcing old buildings. **Fergus** said the cost can vary greatly between about 20K to 200K and suggested bringing in a civil engineer to get a better estimate. **Hogan** said if there is still interest in a joint facility they should form a committee to discuss it. **Martin** said there were options for land for the joint facility. The $10.5 million quote was only because they were told to ask for the moon, anything that they could want. **Martin** said he met with the Sheriff and EMS and they were for meeting again to get a more accurate quote for new construction. **Hollstrom** had a question about funding and construction contracting methods. **Woodrich** clarified that this is construction in WA State, not OR State which would have different policies/rules. **Hogan** asked city council if they all wanted to go to a group meeting or just a few members. **Masco** said advertise as special meeting and they would all go. **Thomas** suggested a two (2) hour workshop. **Weissfeld** said at some point they need to make a commitment. The big price tag scared everyone off. **Martin** said he was pleased with the last joint meeting. It saves them all money since they are sharing costs. He said it seems like a lot of money but in the long run it saves money. **Martin** stressed city council meeting with the other members of the committee. **Masco** said all decision makers should attend. **Hogan** agreed to arrange for a joint meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Training Requests

**Muth** motioned to approve **Shumaker’s** training; Cultural Resources Workshop at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington with a second by **Thomas**. Unanimously approved.
Muth made a motion to approve Hogan’s training for two upcoming training sessions with a second by Weissfeld. Unanimously approved.

Vacation Buyout request

One employee wants to buy out 50 hours of vacation time for 2013 unused vacation. Hogan said he didn’t like bringing this issue to Council in February and will try to bring any future vacation buy-out requests to Council in December with a related change to the personnel policy.

Muth motioned to approve employee buyout for a portion of their vacation this year with a second by Thomas. Unanimously approved

Contract approval

Hansen said water surveyors must keep losses below 10% as part of our plan. This contractor would perform a leak survey using a listening device. Hansen said they tried to use the equipment themselves with no luck. He said that Tom Vance at PUD used this company and was very satisfied. Thomas motioned to approve contingent of Woodrich’s review and approval of the contract with a second by Muth. Unanimously approved

Resolution 2014-269 LGIP services

Muth motioned to approve Resolution 2014-269 LGIP services with a second by Mayfield. Unanimously approved

Courthouse Lawn

Scott Anderson, president of the SBA said the downtown revitalization committee had just met this week. He said a year ago they watched a webinar detailing items for downtown revitalization and it was inspirational. One item discussed was a plaza, a public gathering place. This is the project they would like to sink their teeth into and they would like to move forward fairly quickly. The public buy in they will work on immediately and it's a priority. One article they submitted is “A Sense of Place”, making a place. It's our town, Stevenson WA, not any town. Citizens can hang out, if locals don't want to why would anyone else want to? Anderson said that Joe Schlick spoke with the BOCC because they want to use the courthouse lawn. BOCC is excited about it but don't have much money to make it happen. A plaza can seem like a flat area, but this will be more park-like. Shumaker said plaza seems like flat area, but need a creative term to avoid knee jerk reaction of flat area. Cox wanted details on how it will look. Anderson said a feasibility study needs to be done. A discussion was had as to the best avenue for future money and organization. A PDA was discussed, the advantages and disadvantages. Discussed the city verses the county owning the property, designating a local improvement district, restricted city funds. Anderson said he has done some research. Main Street Program has a very detailed map, bylaws, paid positions, etc. PDA was presented as an advantage because of city involvement. This isn't the only thing we are working on. We are considering the need for an umbrella organization. That committee will report back to the main committee. Some questions we haven't asked are how interested is the city in a project like this? If so, what’s the next step and how do we keep it moving? Woodrich wants to ask Jay Rich to see if a PDA is a good vehicle for this project. Mayfield asked if the group is interested in pursuing this just in the courtyard area or in some other area. Anderson said other areas would be considered, this is the largest project and the most costly. He said they are serious and want to move forward. Cox brought up the traffic flow and alternate areas for the plaza. Heemeyer said they didn't ask the city to run it, that wasn’t their intent. Roeder said they could hire a potential staff member to handle the work with grant money. Downtown revitalization committee needs the temperature of the city council to see if it's worth pursuing.
We potentially could have a format or structure in place that we could come back to you at another time. **Thomas** said feels like city council needs more information. **Weissfeld** requested city council to vote, she said it doesn’t mean they are committing funds, only if they as a council are interested.

**Weissfeld** made a motion that city council support the Downtown Revitalization Committee and the possibility of converting the County courthouse lawn or other city space into a more tourist-friendly community space, such as a courtyard plaza with a second by **Thomas**. Unanimously approved

**Hollstrom Road**

**Hansen** said he worked diligently to get a property address for **Mr. Hollstrom** at the end of his unimproved road to allow construction of his residence. **Hollstrom** is naming the road and is requesting a new address and the city will give this to him provided **Hollstrom** will bring the road up to private road standards. **Woodrich** said it makes sense to defer the road building until construction is done. **Weissfeld** asked why it took so long to get to this point. **Hansen** said there were pending land items. **Weissfeld** and **Mayfield** had questions about road easements and access and **Hansen** said yes he has both secured.

**Muth** made a motion to approve memo of understanding for city to work with **Hollstrom** for the development of Hollstrom road with a second by **Weissfeld**. Unanimously approved

**UPDATES**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- **Sheriff’s report** - No comment on Skamania County Sheriff’s report for January, 2014

- **Audit update** - Last month **Hogan** reported that 2011 and 2012 audits are still in progress. **Hogan** got back to SAO and made the requested changes. He is wrapping up on this and making good progress. He expects both audits to be completed by next Council meeting.

- **Objection Letter for Marijuana License Applications** – City of Stevenson recently received a letter from The Yakama Nation stating their intention to object to all applications for marijuana licensing, but the City of Stevenson doesn’t issue applications for marijuana licensing.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS** None reported.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS**

- **City Administrator’s report**

  **Hogan** spoke with **Dan Read** for a pool update. The school district floated an RFP with no response. They also extended with no response. **Read’s** hope is to open the pool with a nearby fitness facility. Rezoning would allow use of a portable to add a weight room for school and public use. **Gabe Spencer** suggested a separate tax. **Thomas** feels it's a giant detriment to the community having no pool and she wants to spearhead the pool effort. **Thomas** wants a budget for one year, based on management, classes, movie nights, life guards, lessons for school kids, etc. **Repar** said the county did a study to redo the pool building. She suggested **Thomas** gather that info from **Scott Pineo**. **Repar** mentioned that the Hood River pool is a good source on how to run a city pool. **Repar** asked what happens if you have a parks and recreation district still in the six (6) year period. She said the levy didn't pass. **Woodrich** said it might be worth looking into passing another levy. **Repar** said she will check with the auditor’s office.
Hogan said he is in the process of increasing internet service at city hall. He said currently they have wireless with one to three (1-3) meg. The city and the EDC are both changing to fiber with Sawtooth. There is a onetime charge of $750 and a $75 per month fee to upgrade to fiber with ten (10) meg.

There was a minor accident on Sunday while plowing snow, a city truck slid into a parked truck with no injuries. He filed a report with the insurance company and they will pay for damage to the parked truck.

Staff Reports

Hansen updated on the Sewer Outfall extension, Cascade Avenue, and Quad Gates projects. He said they found the end of the pipe after six (6) days of delay from storm and high winds. Yesterday the first one hundred (100) feet were laid. Hansen received nine (9) bids for the engineering of the Cascade Ave and Quad Gates Project; tomorrow he will notify the four (4) finalists. He is looking for a special city council meeting next week as he will need approval of the contract ASAP.

Shumaker said the City of Stevenson was not selected by students in the PSU Masters of Planning program to review downtown parking.

Shumaker said the trail project has signed easements and is waiting for WSDOT to certify they were acquired correctly.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

January 20, 2014 Payroll Checks and February Accounts Payable Checks have been audited and were presented for approval and payment. January payroll checks 8206 through and including 8227 for a total amount of $73,973.13 (list includes EFTPS electronic tax payment for $12,198.95). February 2014 Accounts Payable Checks 8228 through and including 8280 for a total of $133,356.74 (list includes $1,763.93 ACH excise tax payment.) There were no investment purchases in January 2014. Expenditure summary reports were attached for council review. Detailed claims vouchers were available for review at the Council meeting.

Muth motioned to approve vouchers with a second by Weissfeld. Unanimously approved

Hogan said voucher details will be included with the agenda package from now on, to give council more time to review planned expenditures. The deadline for accounts payable is being moved up to the Friday before city council meeting to allow this to happen. City council likes the agenda and the new packets.

ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING

No issues for next meeting. Thomas asked what happened with the Port and the park project. Hogan said that on item 8B we received the right of way request but the related interlocal agreement isn’t ready. He plans to bring both next month. Weissfeld asked if they made vegetation changes. Shumaker said no.

8:36 MEETING ADJOURNED

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Frank Cox, Mayor                     Nick Hogan, City Administrator/Clerk

Minutes by Melissa Andersen