ROLL CALL
Mayor Frank Cox, Monica Masco, Julie Mayfield, Amy Weissfeld

EXCUSED ABSENCES
Robert Muth, Moli Thomas

STAFF
Nick Hogan, Eric Hansen, Kenneth Woodrich

GUESTS
Mary Repar, Chief Wayne Martin, Ben Sciacca

6:01pm Meeting Called to Order by Cox

OLD BUSINESS

Truck traffic on 2nd Street

Hogan spoke with WSDOT and was told that most things on his list were probably possible. The bad news is that WSDOT will only split Hwy 14 if the City of Stevenson accepts responsibility for repair and vibration from semi-trucks. Since exploring routing traffic onto 1st street may take longer than expected, Hogan and Cox would like to proceed with a public hearing in the next few weeks. Weissfeld suggested booking Rock Creek/Hegewald Center. Hogan said he will email Hegewald Center to reserve space and check with the schools to be sure there isn't a conflicting event.

Ben Sciacca asked Hogan to be more specific about rerouting traffic. Hogan said he asked WSDOT about 1st street being a one way, 2nd street a one way or the idea that east bound trucks use 1st street. Sciacca asked when that was built and if the city built with the intent of a two way couplet. It is his opinion that east bound would have a maintained road. Hogan said that WSDOT finished 1st street with the plan to turn it into Hwy 14. At the time the businesses didn't like this, so the city stopped the deal. WSDOT built with the intention of two one-way streets and now the city would like to do this again. Sciacca said that was too bad that the city didn't incorporate truck traffic east bound, as it would have been a happy medium to satisfy a lot of problems. Hogan said it's not dead yet. Sciacca said it doesn't seem fair that we take half of the truck traffic and we have to maintain it. It would be nice if they would help maintain it.

Sciacca asked about radar speed signs. He wanted to know what exactly has to happen and what the process is to have these signs installed. Hogan said Chad said he thinks it's possible. Sciacca said it would be nice to have it sooner than later. Sciacca asked if the city or county receives revenue from tickets. Hogan said most of the money goes to the state and a small amount goes to share with the city and county. Sheriff Brown is coming next month to speak. Brown told him there is a lack of manpower and there are not a lot of safe spots to pull people over there. Hogan said next year when the city negotiates their contract they can discuss this. Hogan asked if we could reduce the speed limit from 25MPH to 20MPH. WSDOT said that would have very little effect and to focus instead on enforcement. Sciacca said there were bus tours in town today and he noticed there is a narrow corridor where the buses are allowed to drop off. He is glad there is interest in our community, but the bus stopped at Russell and HWY 14. Sciacca said that if that's going to happen all summer long, we need to clean up 1st street, make WSDOT aware of increased tourism.
MINUTES

Weissfeld wanted to confirm that when discussing traffic patterns, Jim Lee said he did not want a one-way. Repar said that was correct. No other comments. Mayfield motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes as written for March 20, 2014 a second by Weissfeld. Unanimously approved

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented for Council approval.

a) Water adjustment – Raymond Lewis of the Student Conservation Association (meter No. 300900) requests a water adjustment of $670.10 for a leaking toilet which has since been repaired.

b) Special Occasion Liquor license – American Legion Auxiliary Post 137, Skamania County Fairgrounds, August 13th through 17th

c) Liquor license renewal – Walking Man Brewing, LLC

d) Liquor license renewal – Lesley’s Books

e) Payment of Overtime – Public Works Director Eric Hansen requests payment for 4 hours of overtime worked in March, 2014. (Hogan requested ratification for Hansen Overtime item e)

f) Overnight Lodging – Public Works Director Eric Hansen requests Council approval of an overnight trip to Anacortes, Washington, to pick up a new tractor / brush mower purchased at auction.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Repar shared a flyer that student Josiah Obias made. She said that on April 26th there is a Wilderness Survival 101 class with John Carlson, and is part of the Grange’s resiliency program. She said there is also a seed save/plant clinic on May 3rd and home aquaponics in July. You can build your own fish tank that produces fish and fertilizer for your garden. She said that Converse has given demos for them. She updated council on Girls Night Out. She encouraged shopping locally and showed her new boots which were purchased from Columbia Hardware. Repar said she saw the article in the newspaper about the straw and Mr. Pineo’s comments. She said she’s never seen straw and it's still a mess. She would like to hear about his response. Hogan said that Pineo requested citizens go straight to the county with any further complaints.

FIRE DEPT UPDATE

Martin said he has noticed that a trend is happening regarding civil suits against Fire Departments, Fire Fighters, Fire Chiefs and Volunteers. Woodrich said all of the fire department is covered by insurance. He said that sovereign immunity for government protects government officials from normal acts that were undertaken in response to their duty to the public. He can’t prevent a lawyer from suing, but the Public Duty Doctrine and Insurance will cover them. Martin is concerned about fire chiefs being sued and losing their retirement and homes. Woodrich needs additional detail to be able to help him with specifics. Martin requested permission from council to ask Woodrich about specific cases because he is worried about civil suits. Council all agreed they were ok with Woodrich helping Martin with this information. Martin announced that as of June 1st he will no longer be Fire Chief. There will be six weeks of transition, and the new chief, Rob Farris will attend next month’s city council meeting. Hogan asked what the process was. Martin said he is appointing him to finish this year and at the end of year, he will sit down and discuss the final replacement with the officers and commissioners. Martin said it is hard to
find someone to even do this job. **Martin** said he's been chief ten to twelve years, with thirty years of volunteering.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Fire Hall Update**

**Hogan** went to a Fire Department #2 meeting and also met with EMS **Carol Shields** to schedule a joint meeting. **Shields** said EMS is difficult to schedule, she told **Hogan** to schedule and the EMS Commissioner’s will attend as they are available. **Hogan** told **Shields** he would like to arrange for all EMS Commissioner’s to be scheduled to attend the meeting. **Shields** said she will send out a meeting request to get the EMS commissioners there. **Hogan** spoke with **Sheriff Brown** about EOC and said that the Skamania County BOCC should attend the meeting. Once the date is scheduled he will invite them. He said a meeting request will go out and within the next few weeks a public meeting will be held.

**Sidewalk Maintenance**

**Hansen** presented a memo to council and asked if they would like him to proceed with the contract for sidewalk repair. **Hogan** reminded council that this is already in the budget. He said they went on hold because last month council wanted to wait. **Weissfeld** said they didn't want to spend the money if they didn't have to. She said it seems like the city does have a liability. **Woodrich** said if there is an injury there would have to be a finding to determine if the property owner or the city is at fault. It's not addressed in our ordinance. **Weissfeld** asked if they should change the ordinance to more protected. **Weissfeld** said it probably hasn't been looked at in a long time, and there is no harm in doing that. **Woodrich** said you have to consider if the process exceeds the cost of doing it. Putting a property owner through a hearing is bureaucracy gone wild. The liability and responsibility have to be differentiated. His opinion is to do what **Hansen** is suggesting. **Weissfeld** said to update the Ordinance and complete **Hansen**'s project then they have a process they can follow. **Woodrich** will draft an Ordinance. He said you have to inventory the trip hazards and decide if it's the city or property owner’s responsibility. The vast majority are tree roots that are the city's responsibility. **Hansen** will proceed with contract for the sidewalk repair. **Repair** wanted to know if the city put in the sidewalk and it cracked over time, whose responsibility it would be to repair. **Woodrich** said the analysis has to be made. If the property owner puts in a tree and it damages the sidewalk that is property owner’s responsibility. If a determination cannot be made the city is responsible.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2014-270, Cash Basis of Accounting**

City Administrator Nick **Hogan** spoke on the pros and cons of GAAP and Cash Basis of Accounting and requested Council approval of Resolution 2014-270.

Hogan spoke with four experts and asked their opinion on switching to the CASH basis of accounting. **Teresa Johnson**, who has a long history of helping the city, said GAAP is complicated for users and they frequently don’t understand it. She told **Hogan** that you have to keep in mind who you are preparing the financial statements for. Council will better understand the Cash basis. **Tony Nelson** with Visions Software, formerly with the State Auditor’s Office, recommends the CASH basis of accounting. **Hogan** presented the differences in GAAP vs. Cash to council. **Hogan** recommends they switch to a CASH basis of accounting. **Woodrich** asked about depreciation, depreciated assets. **Masco** said it's not funded. **Weissfeld** said she would much rather **Hogan** spend time on other things than GAAP.

**Weissfeld** made a motion that Resolution 2014-270 authorizing conversion to the cash basis of accounting be approved with a second by **Mayfield**. Unanimously approved.
Public Works Director Hansen requested Council approval of Resolution 2014-271 to enable the receipt of Federal funding for Kanaka Creek Road improvements.

Mayfield made a motion that Resolution 2014-271 authorizing a local agency agreement for Kanaka Creek Road Improvements be approved with a second by Masco. Unanimously approved

Tourism Advisory Committee (T.A.C.) Funding
Weissfeld said they met today and they had $50K left in the fund after the fall meeting because S.P.A.F. was not funded due to the high dollar amount for the number of tourists. That is why it wasn’t funded in the fall and there was a second round today. They funded all four (4) entities. The first is the Columbia Gorge Fiddle Contest, which will be held before the Blue Grass Festival. Weissfeld explained that this event brings in a much younger demographic. It is not a county event, it’s a separate organization. The second is X-Fest Northwest, a Christian Festival, they have funded before. They were late applying in fall. The third is the Hoptoberfest which Julie Mayfield and Janet Campbell are spearheading. They were funded but not to their full request. The fourth and largest one was for the S.B.A. (Stevenson Business Association), for preliminary engineering and design work for the plaza area/courthouse front lawn area. Cox said he wants the BOCC (Board of County Commissioners) to sign something saying the lawn can be used before agreeing to fund it. Weissfeld asked if the T.A.C. committee (Tourism Advisory Committee) approval will get shot down. Cox said the business association needs to contact the Skamania County BOCC. Woodrich said action by Skamania County BOCC depends on who is sitting in those chairs, this is an election year. He said they need a binding commitment, preferably with the option to not back out. Weissfeld asked if they wanted the S.B.A. to use Woodrich to draft a letter or agreement. Woodrich said he would offer to review their letter or agreement or have Adam Kick draft one.

Masco moved to approve T.A.C. committee of the four (4) items totaling $43,400 with the stipulation that an agreement with the city and county be created regarding use of front lawn before funds are spent with a second by Weissfeld.

Mayfield was concerned about a conflict of interest due to her involvement with TAC funding. The vote will be taken next month due to not enough council members being present. Mayfield was allowed to vote on tabling the vote until the next City Council meeting.

A motion to table the T.A.C. committee of the four (4) items totaling $43,400 with the stipulation that an agreement with the city and county be created regarding use of the Courthouse lawn before funds are spent be added to next month’s agenda was made by Weissfeld and seconded by Masco. Unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS
a) Sheriff’s report
b) Chamber of Commerce Activities
c) AWC Small Cities Connectors
d) 2014 Cruise Ships Fact Sheet
e) Children’s Administration FAR Program
f) Scott Pineo Letter and Response

Informational items A-F were presented with no questions by council.
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS
None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS
City Administrator Report

Hogan has been working with the Melonas Family for cleanup of the Melonas Trailer Park. The city filed formal nuisance violation paperwork and the family is cooperative. Gus Melonas says they are working on lining someone up to work on this.

City staff reports
Hansen reported that the city purchased a new mower.

VOUCHER APPROVAL
March 2014 Payroll checks and April Accounts Payable checks have been audited and are presented for approval. March payroll checks 8359 thru 8379 total $76,753.57 including electronic tax payments of $13,004.78. April Accounts Payable checks 8380 thru 8431 total $394,235.58 including $2,065.56 ACH excise tax payments and a $15,070.00 wire transfer for the new tractor/brush mower. One $100,000 Riverview Community Bank CD investment matured and was rolled over in March 2014.

Masco motioned to approve vouchers for March with a second by Mayfield. Unanimously approved

ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING
Hwy 14 Meeting
Masco said items should be advertised. Woodrich asked Hogan to contact Watness to write up an article about the upcoming meeting. Masco wanted to be sure there is a set time for public input. Woodrich said a card could be given out to explain the rules. He also said it is not a required public hearing and that he would like the audio posted on the website. Hogan will work on scheduling and planning the meeting.

Required City Council Training
Woodrich said there is new legislation regarding a new government training act. All of city council has to take trainings on public records and public meetings. There will be a time window, starts July 1st, 2014 and there is a ninety (90) day window to complete training.

7:30 MEETING ADJOURNED

_________________________________  ______________________________________
Frank Cox, Mayor                        Nick Hogan, City Administrator/Clerk

Minutes by Melissa Andersen