

Mayor E R Kelley called the Workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Donald Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Also present were: Debra Travis, Bill McDonell, Curt Andrews and Duane Van Beek, City Department Heads; and Vicky St.Mary, Administrative Secretary.

CIVIL SERVICE ORDINANCE

Mayor Kelley gave a brief description of the background of the origination of the Civil Service.

Police Chief Bill McDonell continued the discussion by addressing the pro's and con's of the Civil Service. He wanted to make it clear that it is not just about excluding the Police Chief and Fire Chief from the ordinance. It removes the Civil Service Secretary Chief Examiner from a volunteer position and replaces them with an appointed position from the city staff. It will also incorporate all of the records into the city and the city will have exclusive control. There needs to be better management of the records and tests that are being conducted. He also mentioned that he is in the process of rewriting all of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations that have not been touched for 14 years. He is working with the City Attorney and when they are completed, it will be necessary to present them to the Civil Service Committee for approval.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE

Fire Chief Duane Van Beek continued the discussion by reiterating his concerns. It is crucial to have some reform to the existing Civil Service Ordinance and the Fire Department Ordinance.

DEPARTMENT HEAD SELECTION AND REMOVAL ORDINANCE

Council Member Ochoa questioned whether the proposed Civil Service Ordinance and the proposed Fire Department Ordinance contradicted the proposed Department Head Selection and Removal Ordinance in respect to the hiring and firing of the Fire Chief. Fire Chief Van Beek responded that these are not in contradiction to each other. This ordinance is needed if Council chooses to adopt the other two proposed ordinances because the other two ordinances eliminates the Police Chief and Fire Chief positions from Civil Service and creates a combined Civil Service Board. This ordinance clearly states that the Police Chief and Fire Chief shall be appointed or removed by the mayor and shall be confirmed by a majority of the whole Council before assuming office or removed from office. The Mayor recommended that we adopt the three ordinances as proposed. There was Council consensus.

LIBRARY ISSUE

Jeannie Ochoa shared that there needs to be a correction made from the brown bag luncheon. The Washington State Library no longer has books available on a system like MCL has now. We would no longer be able to have inner library loans from the state library if the citizens would so choose to no longer contract with MCL. This would reduce the access of library books from 350,000 books available to only 30,000 books. Ochoa stated the Mid Columbia Library contract that the City has with the County will expire July of 2000, instead of at the end of the fiscal year as previously thought. We need to establish some short and long-term goals to be met in the developing of a Library District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Building Official Curt Andrews addressed the problem of setting Public Hearing dates. He stated that our City Attorney, James Whitaker suggested that the Public Hearing dates should only be on the Consent Agenda and not discussed prior to the time presented at the Public Hearing. This is so the Council can not be persuaded in their decision before the Public Hearing time. Up until a proposal has been filed, there can be as much discussion concerning the proposal as desired. However, once the proposal is filed, discussion is limited to only certain issues. The Council's decision has to be determined on just the information that is presented at the Public Hearing not on previous knowledge.

Mr. Andrews introduced Mr. Jack McCullough, the attorney for the Weible Project, who shared that there will be a retail store built on the Weible annexation site. This store will be approximately 115 thousand square feet, selling general merchandise, will provide 200 to 250 part-time and full-time jobs and their annual sales tax to the city alone may be 250 to 300 thousand dollars per year. Their plan is to be under construction by this summer. Michael Crowson and Mike Neer, Project Engineers for Pacific Land Design presented the site plan for the Weible Project. They continued to share that all technical studies are complete and there are some irrigation issues. The traffic studies, wetlands and environmental studies have also been completed. This retail store should service an area of greater than 5 miles or approximately 8,000 people. It will take approximately 8 to 9 months for completion.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Cole shared the need to do something about the bird issue in our entryway of City Hall. Mr. Andrews reassured him that this issue has been addressed.

Council Member Brodahl noted that the seniors from our Senior Center would like to be included on the agenda for the Farmers Market.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by:

**Vicky R. St.Mary
Administrative Secretary**