

Mr. Morton assured council that he will make sure the DOC Secretary is informed of this.

Robert Kipling, 620 Golden Court – Mr. Kipling shared an incident involving his wife’s need for the EMS Department. When 911 was called it took over 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. No EMT’s from Medical Lake ever showed up. After the ambulance arrived – 3 trucks from Four Lakes did show up. He is greatly concerned about the response time of Medical Lake EMT’s. It is his opinion that the city needs to do something about the situation before someone has a serious problem that is not attended to. He realizes that our Fire/EMS Department is a volunteer department but Medical Lake has grown enough that the current needs of the community are not being taken care of properly. He proposed that if enough volunteers aren’t available perhaps the city might consider putting an initiative before the citizens to vote on pertaining to increasing taxes to operate a full time Fire/EMS Department.

Mikeal Suniga, 404 N. Legg Street – Mr. Suniga wanted to thank the Public Works Department for the great job they had done with snow removal. He also expressed his concerns with the problems within Public Safety. He has concerns with the response time of the EMS Department but feels that the current crew are doing all they can with what they have to work with. He feels council is lagging in addressing the needs of the city in public safety areas. He shared his disapproval of the city pertaining to issues within the police department. (No Chief for over a year, etc.)

Councilmember Jorgenson responded to this topic. He expressed his thoughts and asked staff to prepare a cost analysis for a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week EMS crew (at least 7 employees and variations of that with fewer employees). This will shed more light on the situation. At this time the city is being repeatedly questioned about not having a full time Fire/EMS Department and the city has stated that it does not have a revenue source to sustain it. By getting this analysis it will help to determine what and how this issue can be addressed.

MAYORS REPORT

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITION:

None.

APPOINTMENTS:

2009 Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Maike made a motion to nominate Councilmember A.J. Burton as Mayor Pro Tem for 2009. Motion seconded by Councilmember Paikuli. Council polled; all ayes.

Volunteer Firefighter Patti Stark

Chief Musser introduced new firefighter Patti Stark to council. He also gave a report on problems encountered during the excessive snow fall during December. In one incident power lines fell on 6 cars causing a fire.

New Recreation Coordinator, Ashlee King

Mayor Higgins introduced the new Recreation Coordinator to council. She started work on January 3rd. Council and staff welcomed her.

MEETINGS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

STAFF REPORT:

Resolution 448: Declaring the Existence of an Emergency; Information Only

Administrator Ross gave a report on Resolution 448, explaining that council had been polled prior to approval of this resolution. In the situation the city was facing with the excessive snow fall and issues that were arising within the city that were causing the threat of substantial damage to

property and threatened the safety of people in the community, the need to declare the existence of an emergency was imperative and needed to be done at the time council was polled. By putting this resolution into effect it gave the city the ability to receive possible financial assistance from the state and also allowed the purchase of additional equipment (exempt from the bidding process) to address the accumulation of snow and other emergency circumstances.

Administrator Ross also updated council on several issues the city has faced with the snow:

- Snow removal on streets
- Closure of WFP and the trail due to trees that have fallen across path and other areas and buildings in the park
- Closure of recycling building for safety reasons; needed to clear snow on roof
- Hired a contractor to clear the City Hall roof
- Have a contractor hired to cut a tree on city property that is on the NW corner of 4th Street and Lefevre Street. There is a threat that it may fall on a house, one tree already fell and landed on a persons private fence.

Councilmember Jorgenson asked if the maintenance crew could mark the corner across from his home on S. Lefevre. There have been at least four vehicles in the ditch because people don't realize there is a bit of a drop off on the edge of the street. The snow is obscuring it.

Councilmember Paikuli asked about who is responsible to clear sidewalks in the current situation. There is so much snow that there is no where to put it. There was some discussion.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

None.

FINANCE:

Councilmember Maike reported on the committee meeting. No action items.

PLANNING REPORT:

None.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Resolution 447: 2009 Fee Setting Resolution – Utility Fees and Charges

Administrator Ross explained the proposed changes to the 2009 Utility Fee Setting Resolution. It was noted that the proposed changes are for garbage only. The City's contract with Sunshine Disposal allows for a cost of living increase each year. It is 3.8% this year and the garbage increase reflects that amount. It is basically a pass through fee. A motion was made by Councilmember Jorgenson, seconded by Maike, to approve Resolution 447: 2009 Fee Setting Resolution – Utility Fees and Charges for Service. Council polled; all ayes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilmember Paikuli gave a brief report on the Public Safety Meeting. No action items tonight.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Councilmember Maike reported that the Community Development Advisory Committee will be meeting soon.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Claims and Payroll

Claim Warrants 16117 through 16163 in the amount of \$30,987.72 and Payroll Warrants 8682 through 8711 in the amount of \$145,230.48 for December 31, 2008 and Claim Warrants 16164 through 16235 in the amount of \$216,782.54 and Payroll Warrants 8712 through 8714 in the amount of \$20,500.00 along with the Firing Range Agreements; Washington State Patrol, Washington State Parks, Airway Heights Correction Center, Washington Army National Guard, Spokane County Sheriff's Office and Eastern Washington University PD were approved by motion from Councilmember Maike, second by King. Council all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Higgins called an executive session at 7:15 p.m. to last approximately 20 minutes. The executive session is to *discuss negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause the likelihood of increased costs.* There will be no action taken on this topic.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Higgins

City Clerk / Finance Director