

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
MARCH 29, 2010
5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Nikki Lesich

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Jim Wilcox, Dan Spatz, Brian Ahier

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Finance Director Kate Mast, Community Development Director Dan Durow, Senior Planner Dick Gassman, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Transportation Manager Bill Barrier, Engineer Dale McCabe

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lesich called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Krueger; all Councilors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lesich invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Lesich introduce a special guest, Cody Lingel who had been nominated by his teacher to attend the Junior National Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

Todd Lingel, 714 West 11th Street, The Dalles, said he was a very proud parent. He said an account had been opened at Columbia State Bank and they were in the process of raising funds for Cody to attend the conference. He said they needed to raise \$2,500 for the trip. Mr. Lingel said his son would learn goal setting, problem solving, and many other leadership skills and would be touring some of the memorials and attending a session at the White House.

Mayor Lesich congratulated Cody for the nomination and presented him with a City of The Dalles pin to wear on his trip.

Councilor Wilcox offered the use of his real estate parking lot if Cody wanted to have a car wash to help with fund raising.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Councilor Wilcox excused himself from the dais to speak to the City Council as a citizen. He said the issue he wanted to discuss would be a conflict of interest for him as a Councilor because of potential financial gain by the sale of a property.

Wilcox said a determination had been made by the Community Development Director, as an administrative decision, that an auto body shop could not be located in an industrial zone. He said the application had been denied because the use had not been specifically listed as an outright use, but the zone also included a clause which allowed uses deemed similar by the Director. Wilcox said due to the timing of the sale, the applicant did not have an opportunity to make a formal appeal to the Planning Commission. He said three former City Councilors were in attendance to speak to the Council regarding their intent that the Land Use Development Ordinance (LUDO) was to be interpreted liberally.

Wilcox said the City worked hard to keep businesses vital and to promote economic development and that staff needed to find a way to say yes to this application. He said the City Attorney had written an opinion that agreed with the staff position, but that the case law cited had been very outdated.

Wilcox asked the City Council to listen to testimony and then direct staff to review and reverse their decision by noon on Wednesday.

City Manager Young said since a particular action was being requested, it would be appropriate for the City Council to consider this issue as an agenda item and discuss later in the meeting.

The City Council agreed to place the issue as an agenda item and changed the order of the agenda to hear Discussion Item 12, B, regarding Street Fund financing first, followed by the issue of the industrial zone question.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding Street Fund Financing

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report, highlighting the revenue options proposed by staff.

Councilor Ahier asked if the Chenoweth PUD paid any franchise fee. City Manager Young said they were not currently paying a franchise fee to the City.

Councilor Spatz asked if there had been a local fuel tax placed by the State, as had been proposed with last year's legislation. City Manager Young said that was correct, that no local fuel taxes could be imposed or increased for five years.

Dwight Langer, Northern Wasco County PUD Manager addressed the City Council regarding a proposal to increase the PUD's franchise fee by ½ percent. He introduced his financial officer Jim Johnson and the PUD Board members in attendance. Mr. Langer provided a handout, which was read by various members of PUD staff and Board (attached as Exhibit "A"). Finance Officer Jim Johnson reviewed the financial statistics, while Board members Barbara Nagle, Milton Skov, Clay Smith, Bill Ward, and Howard Gonser presented the narrative sections of the handout.

Mr. Langer summarized the presentation by saying the PUD was a non-profit and any franchise fee increase would have to be passed on to the rate payers.

Randy Cole, 816 East 20th Street, The Dalles, said he had been a member of a committee who worked on providing clean air and health for the community. He said the committee had worked on methods to reduce burning, but if power rates increased, this could cause people to use more wood burning, which would not help keep the air clean.

Bob McNary, 1525 East Ninth Street, The Dalles, said many people in the community are already in need of assistance to pay water and sewer bills and if electric rates increased it would only add to the problem.

Councilor Wilcox asked Chenoweth PUD Manager Roger Prowell to discuss recent rate increases for their customers. Mr. Prowell said Chenoweth water customers had a 25% increase in rates last November. He said additional increases were planned for March, 2010 of 15% and another 15% increase scheduled for October, 2010. Prowell said the Chenoweth PUD was also a non-profit and any franchise fees imposed on them would have to be passed on to their rate payers.

Doug Hattenhauer, 3205 Doane Road, The Dalles, said he believed the City was overspending the Street Fund budget and that if there were problems, the City needed to find ways to save money in its other funds. He said there should be wage freezes and less money spent for insurance. Hattenhauer said a hiring freeze should also be implemented, pointing out a recent job opening for a Codes Enforcement officer should not be filled, but let the Planning Department handle that with their current staff.

City Manager Young said the reason for a 10% contingency fund was to accomplish a City Council goal. He said the Council could re-visit that if they wished to. Young said the reason for the amount in unappropriated balance was to have operating funds between July 1 and November, when property tax revenues begin to come in to the City.

Councilor Ahier said he was opposed to increasing any fees or taxes in the current economy. He said he would support revisiting the contingency policy in the future.

Councilor Wilcox agreed the timing was not right to increase the franchise fees, but that they should be looked at in the future and he said he would be interested in more information regarding the telecom tax.

Councilor Spatz said staff had offered several options for consideration. He said he would like more information regarding the telecom tax. Spatz said after the five year fuel tax freeze, the City should also consider an increase in the local fuel tax.

Councilor Dick said the country was taxing itself too much, but that there was an expectation that the City maintain its street system. He said it was a difficult problem and he appreciated the input from the PUD regarding an increase to their franchise fee.

Councilor Wood said all options should be considered and that it was the job of the City to maintain its infrastructure.

Mayor Lesich said staff had provided good information.

City Manager Young said staff would put together a balanced budget with no increase in revenue to the Street Fund for this year. He said staff would be evaluating the impact of upcoming annexations and provide additional information regarding the telecom tax. Young said staff would also provide information to the City Council regarding the 10% contingency policy.

Continued Discussion Regarding Zoning Decision (previously discussed under Audience Participation)

Bob McFadden, 2472 Mountain View Drive, The Dalles, said economic development was important to keeping the community vital. He highlighted sections of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which spoke to the importance of economic development, a diversified economy, family wage jobs, job credit, enterprise zones and the use of industrial zoning for creation and retention of jobs, an increased tax base, growth of existing employers, and the use of the Port for that increased tax base and employment opportunities.

McFadden said as the Land Use Development Ordinance (LUDO) had been developed, the City Council had worked with staff to resolve many issues and had been told by staff that it was not a perfect document, but changes could be made as needed. He said there were many empty store fronts in the community at this time and that the City should be finding every way possible to say yes and help citizens create jobs instead of putting up blocks.

City Manager Young asked the City Attorney if there would be any conflict for Mr. Zukin to speak on this matter since he was a member of the Planning Commission, who would hear an appeal of the decision if there was one. City Attorney Parker said Mr. Zukin could have a conflict of interest and not be able to hear the appeal if it went to the Planning Commission.

Chris Zukin, 915 West 14th Street, The Dalles, said he had been a member of the City Council from 2000 to 2006 and had a lot of exposure to the Planning Department through that and his work on the Planning Commission. He said Dan Durow was a great asset to the City.

Zukin said his intent as a City Councilor had been to promote the job environment in the community. He said he believed the City had created a pro job and business environment and hoped the City's position would continue to be how to help businesses and say yes to applications.

Jim Broehl, 318 West 12th Street, The Dalles, said he had also served as a City Councilor and that their intention was not to deliberately exclude a business that was not especially named as an outright use in a zone. He said the inclusion of a body shop in one industrial zone and exclusion in another industrial zone should not preclude it from being allowed.

Skylar Schacht, 4877 Highway 30 West, The Dalles, said he had operated the automotive body shop for 12 years and had gone from being the only employee, to employing 12 people. He said his company had invested in a lot of training and equipment and was a good business that needed to move and have room to grow.

Brad Timmons, Attorney for Mr. Schacht, PO Box 2250, The Dalles, said the applicant was trying to expand its operation and needed to move to a new location. He said the land sale process did not allow enough time for the applicant to go through a Planning Commission appeal process. Mr. Timmons said he disagreed with the staff interpretation that the body shop could not be located in the industrial zone because there was a clause which said the Director could deem other similar uses to the listed items.

Timmons said the City Attorney had cited a 1974 case law which supported the decision, but that case did not include the clause which allowed for similar uses. Mr. Timmons said he had found case law from 2009 in Umatilla County which did have the similar use clause and that the case had prevailed through a Land Use Board of Appeals and Supreme Court ruling. He asked that this case law be reviewed because it more closely matched this application.

City Manager Young asked the City Attorney if the City Council had the authority to take any action. City Attorney Parker said the process outlined in the LUDO said the course of action was to appeal a decision to the Planning Commission. He said the Council could not tell staff how to interpret an ordinance, but they could ask for amendments to an ordinance. Parker said it was not proper for the City Council to direct staff to approve the application.

Councilor Ahier disagreed, saying he believed the City Council did have the authority to provide direction to staff and that they could challenge the City Attorney's interpretation of the Council's authority.

City Attorney Parker said this was a ministerial action and the City Council didn't have authority to change it.

Councilor Dick said he believed Dan Durow was also a great asset to the City, but he said it was also important for staff to look at the big picture and said the City Council could express its intentions and be on record as to their expectations without providing specific direction to staff. Dick said he hoped the Community Development Director would review the information and change his decision. He said it was surprising that an activity allowed in a light industrial zone would not also be allowed in an industrial zone if it was compatible.

Mayor Lesich asked what the time frame was for a final decision and what options were open to the City Council.

City Attorney Parker said staff could review the case law presented by Mr. Timmons but that the City Council could not provide additional direction to staff regarding their ministerial decision.

Councilor Spatz said he would like to ask for clarification of the zones for the future and said he would like to see staff review the new case law presented by Mr. Timmons.

Councilor Ahier agreed with comments that Dan Durow was a great asset to the City and said no one intended anything bad. He said ordinances could be amended for future, but asked if staff could re-visit the application and determine that the applicant did have an acceptable similar use to those listed.

City Attorney Parker said it was possible, though the letter from the City stated it was not similar use. Mayor Lesich said the new information, case law presented, should be reviewed and then the application could be looked at in light of that information to determine if it could be approved as a similar use.

City Manager Young said Durow was not alone in this decision making, that he had a legal opinion from the City Attorney and the approval of the City Manager. Young said the Council could state their intention that the staff should look for opportunities to identify similarities and that staff would review the new information presented.

Councilor Dick said the ordinance did have elements of subjectivity. He said the new information presented by Mr. Timmons should be reviewed and if found to match our ordinance as a similar use, staff should reconsider the decision. Dick said he believed the City Council was within their authority to share their views with staff.

City Manager Young said it was possible that staff could review the new information and still reach the same conclusion and it may be best for the applicant to file an appeal with the Planning Commission to keep their options open. He said the Planning Commission could hold a special meeting on April 9th to hear the appeal, but not sooner because of the requirement for ten days notice of an appeal hearing.

City Attorney Parker said he would review the newly presented case law on Wednesday.

Councilor Ahier said it would be tragic if the applicant missed the opportunity to move and expand their business due to time constraints.

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Jim Wilcox said the intention of the previous City Council was obvious and the current City Council had the authority to correct the problem. He asked the Council not to abdicate their power, saying the Council ran the City, not staff. He asked the Council to find a way to make sure this decision was reversed.

Councilor Wood said the City Council took an oath of office to uphold all laws and the LUDO was one of those laws.

Randy Cole, 816 East 20th Street, The Dalles, said the LUDO was a guideline and items listed as approved uses should be used as examples.

City Manager Young said the LUDO was not a guideline, but was a City law.

Councilor Ahier mentioned other uses in the Port area which did not seem to meet the definition of an industrial use.

City Manager Young said there were several zoning districts on the Port, including commercial zoning in some areas.

Councilor Wood asked if the staff review could be completed by the end of the week. City Attorney Parker said he could complete his review by the end of the week. Councilor Spatz said he hoped it could be done prior to the end of the week.

Councilor Dick said he believed the Council was within their rights to state their intention that an automotive body shop should be allowed in an industrial zone.

It was moved by Dick and seconded by Ahier to resolve the City Council's intention to allow an automotive body shop as a similar use to those defined in the industrial zoning. The motion carried unanimously, Wilcox abstaining.

City Manager Young said the City Attorney would review the case law but he didn't know if the previous motion was legally defensible and that staff would make a decision based on what was legal, and not what was politically popular.

Councilor Dick said his motion was not a political decision to over ride the law and that it was not breaking a law to state the intention of the City Council. He said staff should consider that the Council did act lawfully and did not provide specific direction to staff.

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Recess

Mayor Lesich recessed the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

Councilor Wilcox returned to the dais.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Mid Columbia Housing Resource Center 2011-12 Cycle

Mayor Lesich reviewed the procedures to be followed for the public hearing.

The staff report was reviewed by David Peters.

Councilor Wilcox asked if the Agency was continuing with homeowner seminars. Mr. Peters said there were eight seminars scheduled for the current year, plus one that would be presented in Spanish.

Testimony

No testimony was presented. Hearing no testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Council Deliberation

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Wilcox to direct staff to proceed with the 2011-12 Community Development Block Grant application for the Mid Columbia Housing Resource Center. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young reported that staff was working with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to submit a grant to provide funding for engineering of a section of the Riverfront Trail from the ODOT yard to US Highway 197, approximately .6 mile.

Young said there were traffic problems on East Ninth Street due to the closure of Brewery Grade. He recommended a reduced speed limit of 15 miles per hour on East Ninth Street between Dry Hollow Road and "H" Street until Brewery Grade re-opened.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Ahier to direct staff to post a reduced speed limit of 15 miles per hour on East Ninth Street between Dry Hollow Road and "H" Street until Brewery Grade re-opened. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker noted some errors in the previously approved lease with Juniper Investments at the Airport. He asked for consensus to correct the square footage figure to 10,297 and the rent to \$197.36. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the corrections.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Ahier reported revenues were higher than expected for QLife Agency and they would be able to repay the Oregon Investment Board debt this year.

Councilor Wilcox said Airport staff was working on a water agreement and there would be no Airport Board meeting this month. He reminded the Council of the May 19th workshop on the Master Plan at 5:00 p.m. at the Airport.

Extend Time of Meeting

It was moved by Ahier and seconded by Wilcox to extend the time of the meeting by 30 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

City Council Reports, Continued

Councilor Spatz acknowledged efforts to restore the Civic Auditorium Theater. He said meetings had been held throughout the day to launch a new strategy to complete the project.

Councilor Wood said the visit to our Sister City had been very successful and said Bob McFadden would provide a full report to the City Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Lesich reminded the Council of the Haven fundraiser next week.

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CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of March 15, 2010 regular City Council meeting minutes; and 2) Resolution No. 10-006 concurring with the Mayor's appointment of John Nelson to the Planning Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

Discussion Regarding Adoption of Residential Street Standards

Senior Planner Gassman reviewed the staff report. He said the walkability study prepared by the Health District and County Planning Department was in line with the residential street standards proposal.

Allyson Smith, North Central Public Health District and Jeanette Montour, Wasco County Planning and Development Department presented comments, including background of the walkability study, findings, comments regarding public improvement requirements, and closing remarks (attached as Exhibit "B"). Ms. Smith asked the City Council to delay a decision to adopt the standards until they had an opportunity to make further studies, which could be up to one year.

Senior Planner Gassman reminded the City Council that development standards had been removed from the LUDO, so it was important to adopt the standards as a guideline. He said the standards would be adopted by Resolution, so updates to the document would be much easier to make as needed.

Clay Smith, 3463 West 13th Street, The Dalles, said he had helped with the study and was a member of the bicycle association. He urged the City to maintain a high quality street infrastructure, providing more funding for street maintenance and police services, making it safe for walkers and bikers in the community.

Extend Time of Meeting

It was moved by Ahier and seconded by Spatz to extend the meeting an additional five minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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Discussion Regarding Adoption of Residential Street Standards (continued)

Randy Cole, 816 East 20th Street, The Dalles, said he was the Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee and said he hoped this was not the final draft of the document because many streets had been omitted from the Plan, using Oakwood Street as an example.

The City Council said they understood it was not an all inclusive list, but was a good starting place.

It was moved by Ahier and seconded by Spatz to adopt the guidelines and direct staff to bring a resolution for adoption at a future meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lesich asked that the discussion regarding a plan for yard sale signs, be placed on the April 12th agenda, due to the late hour.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:



~~Nikki L. Lesich, Mayor~~
James L. Wilcox, Mayor

ATTEST:



Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk

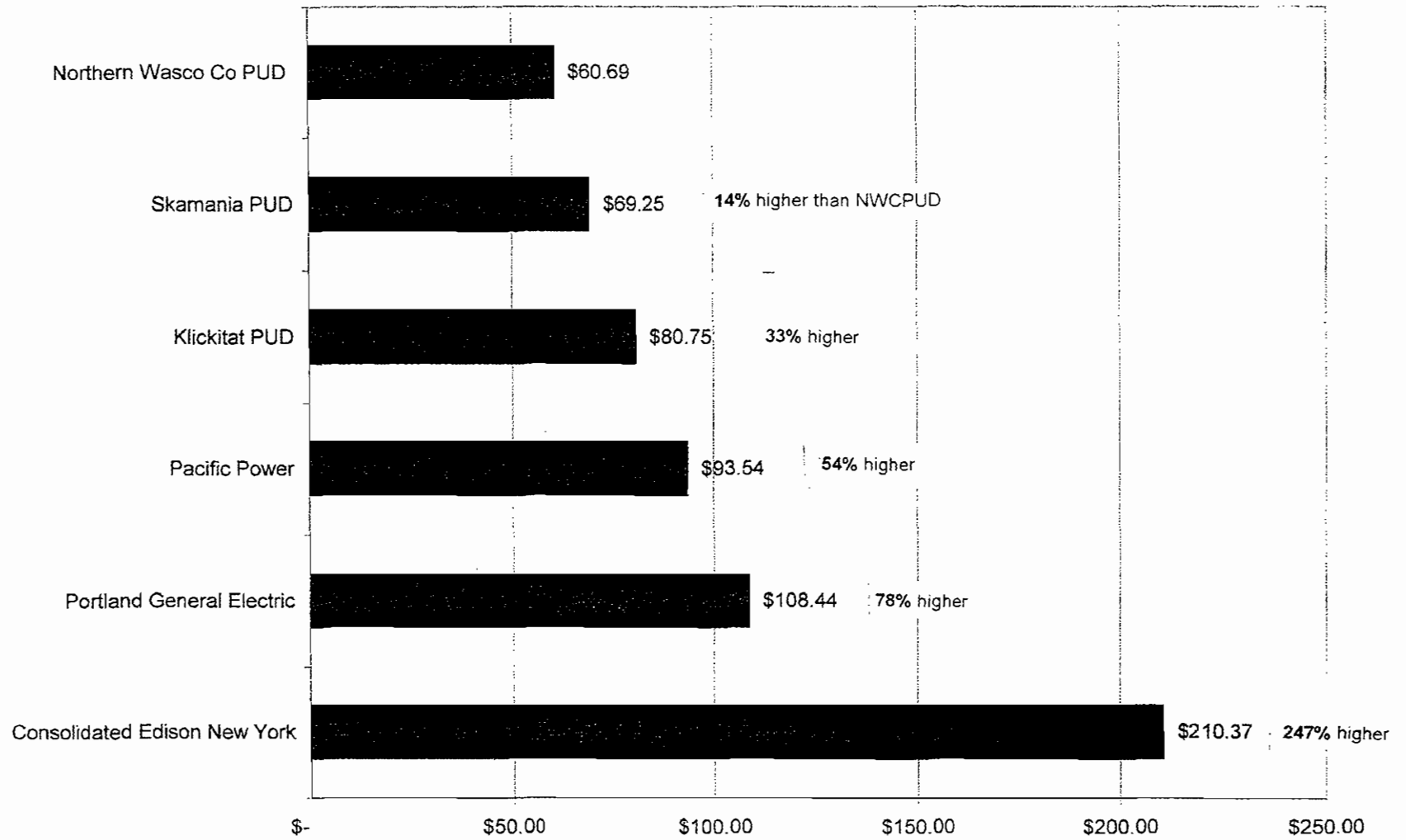
**Northern Wasco County PUD
February 2010**

	<u>Northern Wasco*</u>	<u>U.S. Average**</u>	<u>Difference in N. Wasco PUD Rates are:</u>
Residential	\$.0549/Kwh	\$.1161/Kwh	111% lower
Commercial	\$.0531	\$.1027	93% lower
Industrial	\$.0395	\$.0696	76% lower

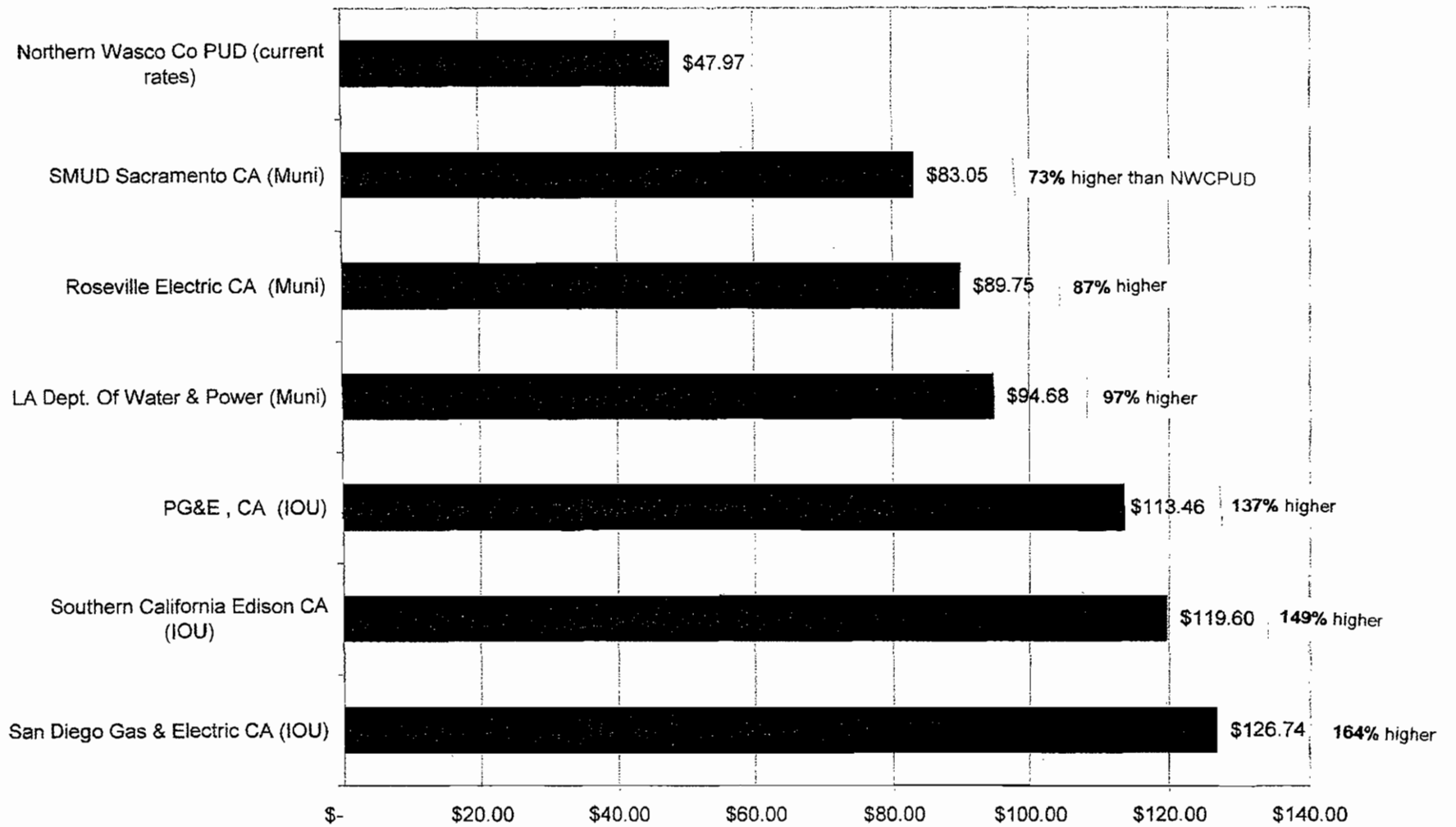
* Average rates from 2009

** U.S. Average from DOE EIA for 2009

Current Residential Rate Comparison for 1000 KWH, March. 24, 2010



Current Residential Rate Comparison for 750 KWH, (OCT. 1, 2009)



Franchise Fees and Property Taxes Paid to The City of The Dalles

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Franchise Fees - The Dalles	\$ 229,950.00	\$ 408,861.00	\$ 616,000.00	\$ 673,011.00	\$ 683,099.00
Property Taxes Paid	<u>\$ 252,253.00</u>	\$ 274,048.00	\$ 275,690.00	\$ 276,608.00	<u>\$ 289,099.00</u>
Totals	\$ 482,203.00				\$ 972,198.00

In the last 5 years: franchise fees have increased by over \$453,000 – nearly a 3-fold increase.

In the last 5 years: property taxes have increased 14-1/2%.

(Each year we are investing over \$1 M in our system/infrastructure that goes straight to the bottom line for the State to calculate our property taxes. In 2009 we invested over \$3 M with our office/garage/warehouse/boardroom expansion.

A proposed ½% increase each year for the next 4 years would bring the franchise fees paid by the customers of the PUD to over \$1.1 M per year at today's rates which we know is being conservative.

Notes to City Council for March 29, 2010 Meeting

The electric industry in the U.S. faces an uncertain, but likely a very expensive future – which means all of us are facing higher-than-need-be energy rates. Why? You might ask, let us explain:

1. Low snowpack years:

Snowpack in for 2010 so far is 65% of normal and for a hydro system that depends on water (snowpack) as its fuel – that is a big deal! In terms of impact that means the financial reserves of BPA have diminished from \$1B to around \$250M. To replenish needed/required reserves, BPA will have to raise rates resulting in higher rates our customers in turn must pay.

2. Fish costs

Right now 25-30 percent of our power costs to BPA are for fish related programs. For the last two years, a new - the most science-based biological opinion ever crafted has been pending before Federal Judge Redden. New costs may be added before it is finally approved.

3. RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) compliance

By state law, utilities are required to acquire renewable resources that are among the most expensive resources available. Result: more costs for the electric customers to pay. In our view, adding insult to injury, before the costs impacts of these RPS requirements are fully implemented, new for-profit developers with other technologies want their product to also be mandated by law forcing electric utilities to buy their generation which adds more expense to an unsuspecting but trusting public.

4. Tier 2 Resources – starting in October 2011 BPA customers, including Northern Wasco County PUD will have added/continuing responsibility to acquire resources to meet load growth. This is a responsibility we are prepared to accept, but again new resources will cost more which will have to be reflected in customer rates.
5. And lastly, but certainly not least, we have carbon cap and trade. In the history of this Country there has not been an energy-related issue with such dramatic cost implications as carbon ‘cap and trade’. Estimates of cost impacts which will affect every household, every business and every industry (that decides to stay, for many have left) range from 30 to 70 percent; let’s say that again – “30 to 70 percent.”

We could go on, but we think the picture is clear as to future pressures on energy costs in The Dalles and the portion of Wasco County served by the PUD. As costs increase, so will the franchise fees at the current rate. We ask, in the best interests of our community, that you not add additional costs onto the backs of our customers and increasing the challenges for maintaining our power and energy competitive advantages.

As you have heard us say time and time again, electric energy is an essential service and adequate supplies of energy at affordable prices drives our economy and quality of life. The more our citizens are forced to pay for energy the fewer dollars they have for their children’s schooling and college, homes, appliances, vacations and peace of mind.

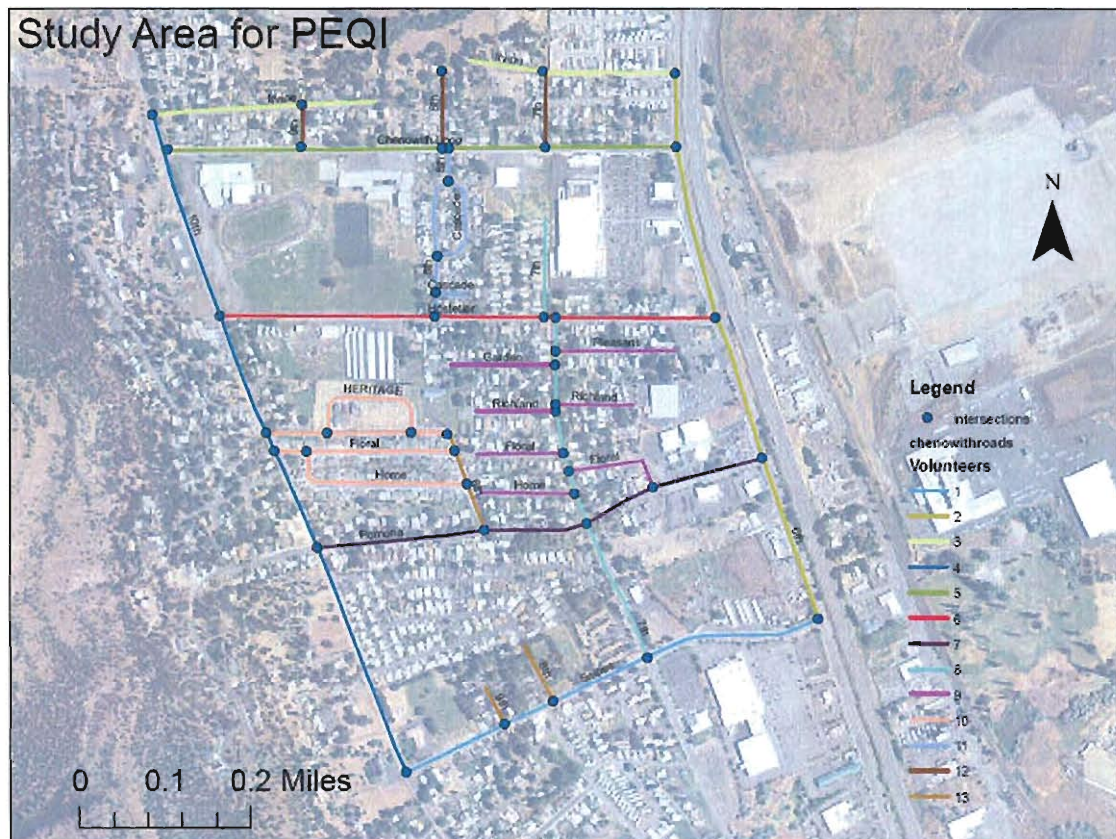
(Here the General Manager has some additional comments to share with the Council.)

**Comments on Memorandum dated October 12, 2009
RE: Public Improvement Requirements**

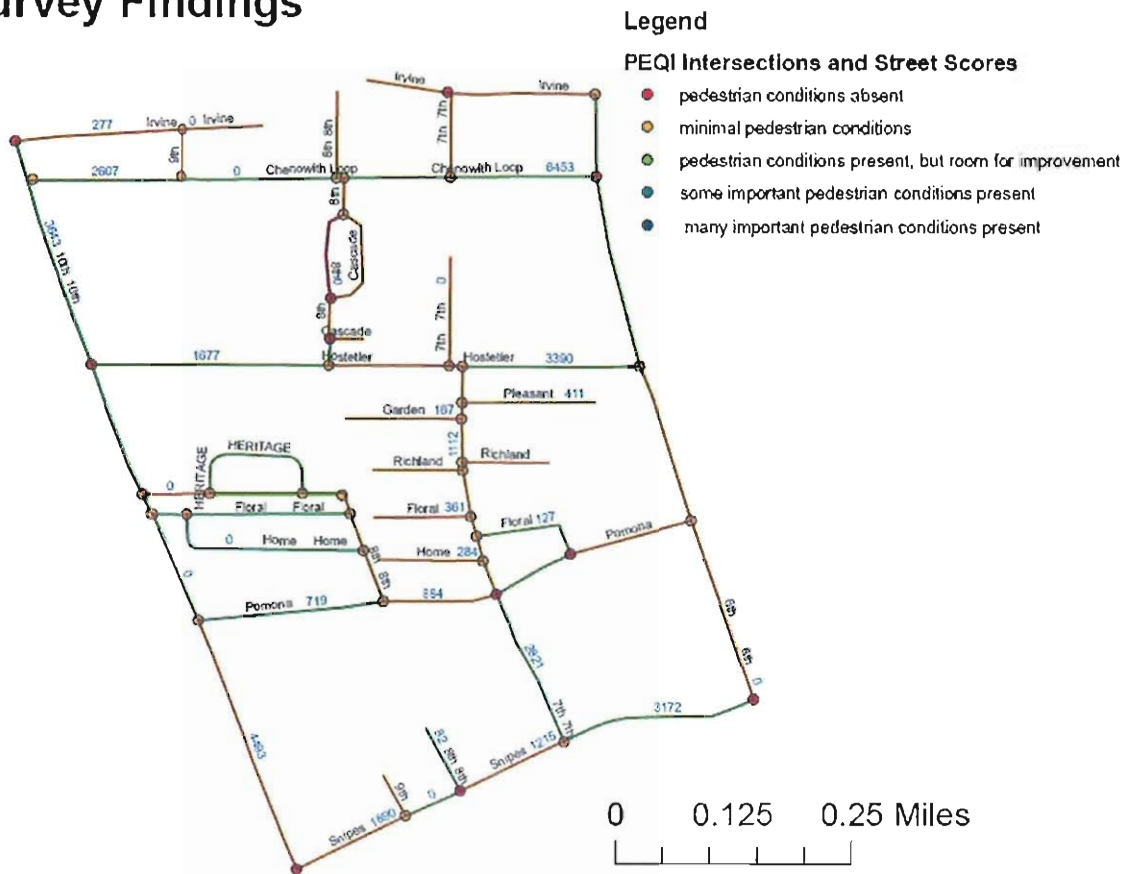
I. Background:

The North Central Public Health District and Wasco County Planning and Development have been working together to complete a walkability assessment in the Chenoweth Area of the City of The Dalles. The assessment is nearing completion and our findings will be presented to you at a later date in the near future. However, at this time we'd like to comment on the proposed upcoming policy changes regarding the City's public improvement requirements, section 10.0060 of the LUDO.

Although the Chenoweth walkability assessment did not cover all of the streets being reviewed with this proposed policy change, we'd like to take this opportunity to comment on the street segments that were reviewed as part of our assessment.



Survey Findings



II. Comments on Public Improvements Requirements:

Street Segment Categories:

A-1- Full Improvement:

- 7th from Hostetter to Chenoweth Loop

Comment: agree with category A-1; wide enough for improvements, but currently dead-end.

- Pomona from 10th to commercially zoned property

Comment: Agree with full improvement priority.

A-2. Deferred Full Improvement:

- None in our study area

B. Status Quo:

The Dalles City Council Meeting

Location: City Hall, The Dalles

Date: 3/29/2010

Comments on Proposed Street Improvement Requirements

City Council Meeting Minutes

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Exhibit "B"

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- Cascade Court. 8th between Hostetler and Chenowith Loop, Cascade Street, Cascade Loop.

Comment: In need of stop signs as there is no clear right away. Recommend sidewalks as width of street could be inadequate for pedestrian safety due to poor visibility caused by curved roads.

- 9th from Irvine to Chenowith

Comment: Very short, wide street. Comments were made by residents regarding safety in this segment due to vehicular speeding and frequent disregard of stop sign. Residents also reported that many children also walk this route to school and they feel that sidewalks would increase their safety. Sidewalks are recommended.

C. Partial Improvement:

- 7th from Chenowith to Irvine.

Comment: Agree with Category C, connects with the north end of Irvine, a street segment severely lacking in street improvements.

D. Minimal Improvement:

- 8th from west of Chenowith Loop to Chenowith Loop.

Comment: Need stop sign.

- Floral Ct
- Garden Ct.
- Home Ct.
- Pleasant Ct.
- Richland Ct.

Comment: agree with Category D, these streets are all dead ends with limited room for road expansion. However, it should be taken into consideration that 7th Street is a primary access street to nearby connector streets (Hostetler and Chenowith Loop) for described dead end streets. Recommendation is to categorize 7th Street for a higher level of improvement.

III. Closing Remarks:

Today, there is a rising awareness in both public health and planning disciplines that environments that support walking, both as an alternative to driving and as a leisure activity can be beneficial for human health. Limiting our dependency on driving can reduce motor vehicle collisions, environmental noise, and air pollution, and increase physical activity and social cohesion. In the face of an obesity epidemic- with an estimated one out of three children developing diabetes in their lifetime, increasing physical activity levels has become a key public health concern (Dearry and Fullun, 2003)..In addition, for those who are dependent on active forms of transportation or public transportation for their daily needs, the quality and safety of the pedestrian environment is of major importance.

Practical planning and forecasting should be done to evaluate barriers to walking and prioritize policies and investments to increase pedestrian activity.