

Mayor Anderson called the Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council to order. Pastor Jay, from the Reign Church gave the invocation. Mayor Veryl Anderson led the flag salute. Councilmembers in attendance were Mike Karnofski, Veryl Anderson, Brian Wood, Jim Hill and Kim Lefebvre. Keenan Harvey was absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL: City Manager Hamilton asked to amend the agenda to add an executive session/closed meeting to review the public works contract with council. Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Hill. ‘Amend the agenda to review the public works contract,’ Motion passed, all voting yes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by councilmember Alexander, ‘Approve the agenda as amended.’ Motion passed, all voting yes.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, ‘Approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2024 Special & Regular Meeting.’ Motion passed, all voting yes.

PRESENTATION:

Oath of Office – New Police Officers: Chief of Police Rich Fletcher administered the Oath of Office to Officers Dylan McKinzie, Anthony Hughes, Courtney Villanueva, Eric Jenkins and Connor McNulty.

Preliminary Results - Capital Recovery Fee and Stormwater Rate Design: FCS Group provided a presentation of proposed updates to the City Capital Recovery Fees and the design of the stormwater utility rate. After lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of council to hold a workshop on December 3, 2024 to allow more time for review and discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING

2025-2026 Preliminary Budget: Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield provided an overview of the proposed biennial budget. Discussion followed.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:15 PM

There being no comment from the public, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:16 PM.

CITIZENS BUSINESS: One citizen from the audience spoke. One citizen submitted an online comment that was distributed to council.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Auditing of Accounts - \$4,000,958.49

- Municipal Court Judge Appointments for 2025
- Contract Closeout – 582306 – Mt. Brynion Pavement Overlay
- Contract Closeout – 582305 – Minor Road 16-inch Water Line Replacement.

Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. 'Approve the consent agenda as presented.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION/CLOSED MEETING:

At 7:21 PM., City Manager Hamilton announced they would recess for an executive session to discuss labor negotiations pursuant to RCW 46.30.110.1G. The session was estimated to last until 7:31 PM with possible action to be taken. The City Attorney was present.

At 7:31 PM. the Council reconvened into regular session. Upon motion by councilmember Wood, seconded by councilmember Hill, 'Approve the labor agreement between the City of Kelso and local 1517, Public Works.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Discussion Item – Housing Task Force: Councilmember Hill expressed his interest in forming a Housing Task Force to assist in forming a committee to review Kelso housing issues. Discussion followed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution – No. 24-1302 Authorizing an Increase in the Regular Property Tax Levy: The Deputy Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Wood, 'Pass on resolution 24-1302, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN ADDITION TO ANY AMOUNT RESULTING FROM NEW CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY AND ANY INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF STATE ASSESSED UTILITY PROPERTY.' Councilmembers Lefebvre, Anderson, Karnofski and Wood voted yes. Councilmembers Alexander and Hill voted no. Motion passed 4 to 2.

Ordinance No. (1st Reading) Budget Revision 2 for the 2024 Fiscal Year:

The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by councilmember Karnofski. 'Pass on the first reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO RELATING TO PUBLIC EXPENDITURES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF RCW 35A.34.150, FIXING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED TO MEET SUCH EMERGENCIES AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY NOT PROVIDED FOR IN

THE 2023-2024 BIENNIAL BUDGET OF THE CITY. Motion passed, all voting yes.

Ordinance No. 24-4015 An Ordinance Setting the 2025 Property Tax Levy

Amount: The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Pass Ordinance 24-4015, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO FIXING THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY AD VALOREM TAXES AT \$1,786,224 OR MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW FOR THE 2025 BUDGET OF THE CITY.' Councilmembers Lefebvre, Hill, Karnofski, Anderson and Wood voted yes. Councilmember Alexander voted no. Motion passed 5 to 1.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hamilton: 1) Reported on various meetings he attended. 2) Announced the Three Rivers Mall had been sold to local realtors. 3) Mentioned the annual Tree Lighting event at City Hall will be on December 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

STAFF REPORTS:

Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield: Briefed the Council on the upcoming public hearings relating to the 2025-2026 Budget of the City

City Attorney Janean Parker: No report.

Community Development Director/City Engineer Mike Kardas: Informed council he was looking forward the bid opening of the rail crossing project in December.

Chief Rich Fletcher: Provided a staffing update.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Brian Wood: No report.

Veryl Anderson: Mentioned she has been working with staff to prepare for the upcoming tree lighting event.

Jim Hill: No report.

Keenan Harvey: Absent.

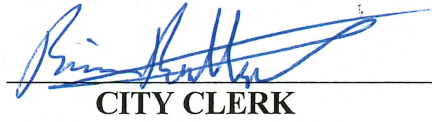
Lisa Knight Alexander: No report.

Kim Lefebvre: No report.

Mike Karnofski: Reported on various meetings he attended.

There being no further business, Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.


MAYOR


CITY CLERK