WORKSHOPS (City Council Chambers)

4:15-5:00 p.m.  PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING GRAFFITI IN VANCOUVER

Council met with Judi Bailey, Neighborhoods Program Manager, and Alana Iturbide, City Attorney’s Office Law Clerk – Civil Division.

Summary
City staff described a proposed approach for increasing efforts to reduce and prevent graffiti and graffiti-related crime within city limits. (Judi Bailey, Neighborhoods Program Manager, 487-8608; and Alana Iturbide, City Attorney’s Office Law Clerk – Civil Division, 487-8551)

5:00-5:30 p.m.  CITY VOLUNTEER POLICY

Council met with Hailey Heath, Volunteer Coordinator, and Julie Hannon, Parks and Recreation Director.

Summary
City staff reported on the 2013 efforts of city-sponsored volunteers and outlined the City’s policy regarding volunteers. (Hailey Heath, Volunteer Coordinator, 487-8316; and Julie Hannon, Parks and Recreation Director, 487-8309)

5:30-6:00 p.m.  SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Council met with Teresa Brum, Economic Development Manager, and Chad Eiken, Community and Economic Development Director.

Summary
City staff outlined the City’s efforts and programs that assist local small businesses. (Teresa Brum, Economic Development Manager, 487-7949)
COUNCIL CONSENT MEETING (City Council Chambers).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
The consent meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Mayor Timothy Leavitt in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 415 W. 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

Present: Councilmembers Topper, McEnerny-Ogle, Turlay, Hansen, Burkman, Smith, Mayor Leavitt
Absent: None

PROCLAMATION: ELKS YOUTH WEEK

Mayor Leavitt read and presented a proclamation to Don Wilson, Youth Activities Chairman for the Elks Lodge #823, proclaiming the first week of May as Elks Youth Week.

PROCLAMATION: SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mayor Leavitt read and presented a proclamation to Teresa Brum, Economic Development Manager, and Leah Jackson, owner of Angst Gallery and Niche Wine Bar, proclaiming May 12-16 as Small Business Week.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION (ITEMS 1-3)

Mayor Leavitt opened Citizen Communication and, receiving no testimony, closed Citizen Communication.

CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 1-X)

Council requested Item 1 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McEnerny-Ogle, and carried unanimously to approve items 2-3 of the Consent Agenda.

1. VANCOUVER ARTS DISTRICT (Staff Report 045-14)

A RESOLUTION relating to designation of the Vancouver Arts District.

Jan Bader, Program and Policy Development Manager, and Maureen Andrade, executive director for Northbank Gallery, provided comments.
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Summary  
The City has been approached numerous times by arts and civic organizations about creating an art and entertainment district in downtown to increase tourism promotion and further the City’s economic development strategy. The concept of an arts district was also included as part of the City’s “Cultural Plan,” which was created in 1997. Numerous cities throughout the country have designated arts and entertainment districts in part as recognition of existing amenities and also to spur economic development.

The proposed “Vancouver Arts District” would encompass a broad section of downtown and a portion of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve with boundaries of 15th Street on the north, Fort Vancouver Way on the east, 6th Street on the south and Esther Street on the west. The City will fund the production and installation of signage identifying the district. The City will also work with Vancouver’s Downtown Association (VDA), the Southwest Washington Art Galleries (SWAG), the Clark County Arts Commission and other interested community members, businesses and organizations to develop a concept plan for the District.

Initially, there will be a cost of production and installation of 6-8 entrance signs and 50 street sign toppers. Funding is available out of the City Manager’s 2013-2014 budget. The proposed conceptual plan may result in a request for additional City financial participation.

Ms. Bader provided an overview of the proposed arts district.

Ms. Andrade thanked the City for listening to the local arts community’s request and acknowledging all of the work that group has put into the community over the last decade or so.

Mayor Leavitt stated the arts district is a great step forward and thanked Ms. Andrade for her advocacy.

Motion by Councilmember Topper, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution M-3816 designating a section of downtown as the Vancouver Arts District. (Jan Bader, Program and Policy Development Manager, 487-8606)

(Staff Report 046-14)

Mayor Leavitt read the title of the ordinance into the record.

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Consolidated Plan for 2014-2019 (Consolidated Plan) along with the 2014 Annual Action Plan; establishing priorities of projects available for funding; providing for an effective date.
Summary
Every five years HUD requires an updated Consolidated Plan outlining the community needs and establishing the goals and strategies to address those needs. Included in this document is the 2014 Annual Action Plan which outlines how the City intends to allocate their annual entitlement which is based on the overarching 2014-2019 Consolidated Plan goals.

For the program year beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, the City anticipates receiving CDBG entitlement funding of $1,146,448. Additionally we have approximately $228,212 in carry-forward and projected program income resulting in an estimated $1,374,290 for our CDBG allocation. We anticipate receiving $563,257 in HOME entitlement funding and have approximately 90,000 in carry-forward resulting in an estimated $653,257 of HOME funding.

HUD requires that a public hearing be conducted following a 30-day notice allowing for public comment on the proposed plans. The public notice for the plans was advertised on March 25, 2014, through newspaper publication, posting on the City website and distribution to public library branches. The public hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2014.

Adoption of the ordinance will allow the City to receive and award approximately $1,374,290 in CDBG funds and $653,257 in HOME funds for the 2014 program year.

Motion approved the ordinance related to the 2014-2019 Consolidated Plan and the 2014 Action Plan on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for May 5, 2014. (Peggy Sheehan, Community Development Programs Manager, 487-7952; Bryan Monroe, Planner, 487-7958)

3. APPROVAL OF CLAIM VOUCHERS

Motion approved claim vouchers in the amount of $2,446,266.62.

CITIZEN FORUM

Mayor Leavitt opened the Citizen Forum and received the following testimony:

• Pat Freiberg, Vancouver, urged Council to intervene to stop the proposed oil terminal project at the Port of Vancouver and mobilize City resources to plan for a sustainable future for the community.

• Thomas Gordon, Washougal, Washington, expressed concerns about seismic activity in this region and the increased risk that would pose with the increase of trains transporting oil.

• Don Steinke, Vancouver, urged the Council to unconditionally oppose all projects that would increase oil train traffic through Vancouver and to inquire about the potential risks to Vancouver that projects in Grays Harbor and Skagit counties would have.
• Edith Gillis, Portland, Oregon, expressed concerns that oil and coal transporting trains are causing, worsening and increasing the frequency and severity of earthquakes.

• Tedine Roos, Vancouver, expressed concerns about the volatility of crude coming from the Bakken Region. She urged the City to conduct air sampling under as many conditions as possible.

• Diana Gordon, Washougal, Washington, expressed concerns that increased oil trains will negatively impact property values along the tracks.

• Anita Thomas, Vancouver, thanked those Councilmembers who have expressed opposition to the proposed oil terminal project and urged the other Councilmembers to come to the same decision.

• Steve Tubbs, Vancouver, stated that even though the Columbia River Crossing project is no longer moving forward, there is still a severe traffic problem along I-5, and he urged the City to work closely with Metro to consider options.

• Karen Jones, Vancouver, urged the Council to oppose the oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver.

• Dr. Dina Roberts, Vancouver, urged the Council to request the Governor place a moratorium on any new oil terminals in the state until all tanker cars have been upgraded to adequate safety standards for handling crude oil.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Leavitt closed the Citizen Forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:31 P.M.
Meetings of the Vancouver City Council are electronically recorded on audio and videotapes. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

To request other formats, please contact:
City Manager’s Office
(360) 487-8600 | WA Relay: 711
Amanda.Delapena@cityofvancouver.us