

25th LD July 11th Minutes

By Melissa Thompson

Call to Order at 7:04 p.m. Then had the Flag Salute and Roll Call of Officers which Cliff Allo and Eric Renz were both absent. Then we adopted the Consent Agenda.

Our Elected Official and Guest Speaker was Senator Jim Kastama. He said it was the worst budget session in his 15 years of office. He said they looked towards a sustainable budget which doesn't raid our environmental concerns. 34 out of 49 senators voted for the budget both Democrats and Republicans. There was bi-partisan support for oil spill clean-up fund. The Western Governors University which is a totally online University was created with an enrollment of 4,000 students. Jim Kastama announced he is running for Secretary of State instead of seeking another term as Senator. He talked about what the Secretary of State does, which is to make sure elections are fair. He also mentioned about the 12 Historic election bills that passed in 2005 & 2006 like the audit paper trail for voting machines. He will deal with Foreign Relations & businesses and licensing. He talked about the funding for K-12 education and how the school districts will have to do more with what they have.

We then had our Primary Candidate Forum for Endorsements, where we had candidates for Puyallup City Council, Milton Mayor, and Puyallup School Board.

First off we had Nicole Martineau running for Puyallup City Council at-large position. Nicole is currently serving on the council as District 1 position 1. She wants to continue to be a young woman in politics. She lives and works in Puyallup and went through the Puyallup School system. She went to Pierce College and WSU. She and her husband are foster parents. She supports infrastructure & public safety. She was also instrumental in closing the 5 million budget gap for the city without people losing their jobs. She also supports Trails.

Next we had, Robin Ordonez running for District 3 Position 1 which is an open seat. He is a retired Civil Engineer who has been on the Puyallup City Planning Commission. He also supports Infrastructure and Public Safety. He mentioned there will be at least 3 new faces on the council. He said there should be more communication between people who live in the city limits and people who live on the hill and he will listen to those citizens.

Then we had, Charley Stokes running for District 2 Position 1. There are only 2 people running in this race. He is a retired Boeing production manager. He served 8 years on the Puyallup City Planning Commission which his last meeting was in 2007. He has attended council meetings. He believes residents of district 2 deserve a council representative that will communicate with and listen to them on how they want the city to operate, maintain Fire & Public safety services,

Improve the function of the city council and make it more effective and less divisive, by implementing straightforward parliamentary procedures currently being used by a majority of local municipalities, a new budget process implementation, and he will offer a new vision of a new council structure, one that is more professional, more transparent, and more communicative to District 2 voters and the City of Puyallup.

Finally we have Merv Swanson running for Nicole's current position of District 1 Position 2. Merv is a retired Boilermaker. He wants to give back to the community what they gave to his family. He has testified to the EPA during the Asarco Clean-up and also Trans Alta. He wants to bring jobs to the community.

Next we have Caleb Lewis running for Milton Mayor. Caleb is from a single parent family, but lived with his grandfather. He learned the value of a dollar. He has not been in politics, but he wants to serve the citizens. He wants more community service and cleanliness.

Leonard Sanderson was not able to be here at the meeting, but he has been a long time PCO and has been Mayor of Milton before.

Our last candidate to speak was Therese Lo Pasquier running for Puyallup School Board. She was born in Vietnam and in 1975 at the age of 10 her family moved to the US. At the time she came she knew no English. She credits having a public education was a privilege. She was in the running 2 years ago for an appointment to the school board, which unfortunately she wasn't picked. She has a Masters in Health & Administration. She is a Vice President at an Insurance Company. She has two children in the district that went to Wildwood Elementary where she was instrumental in helping to get a better playground where she wrote a grant. She is the voice for the common people. She wants to maintain the reputation of Puyallup Schools being a great district. She wants better communication between the school district and the overall community and wants things more publicized.

We then had several motions to endorse candidates. We endorsed Charley Stokes, Merv Swanson, Nicole Martineau, Therese Lo Pasquier, and Robin Ordonez. We then had a motion on the floor to co-endorse both Caleb Lewis & Leonard Sanderson which passed but had 5 people abstained in the vote.

We passed around a signup sheet for the Puyallup Fair which is September 9th -25th. We need 102 volunteers for the Fair booth.

There was a motion on the Floor to give each Endorsed Candidate \$200 and at next E-board meeting we could decide to give more money if deemed necessary. The motion passed.

John Palmer, who is also running for District 2, Position 1 came to introduce himself but did not seek our endorsement. He works for the EPA in Seattle and he is the elected Chair of the Puyallup City Planning Commission.

We adjourned at 8:38.