



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES January 15, 2020

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on January 15, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to evaluate qualifications for applicant or employee (RCW 42.30.110(1)g) for thirty minutes. Executive session adjourned, no decisions were made or action taken. Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Reim, Mayor Pro Tem William Coe, Council members Mark Wanke, Matt Moore, Valli Millard, Sarah McDonnell, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

Staff Present: City Administrator Wes Crago, City Attorney Katherine Kennison/Anna Franz, Community Development Director Daniel Leavitt, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, Recreation Supervisor Josh Johnson, Police Captain Erik Koch, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak. This meeting is being recorded.

Agenda: There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

Presentations: Swearing in of Todd Huffman as Police Sergeant. Captain Koch read a brief bio and Todd's wife Rachael pinned his new badge.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made to approve consent agenda. (m/s Moore/Allstot)
Motion carried.

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #91214 through #91280 in the amount of \$788,678.37

Claims #91281 through #91323 in the amount of \$200,429.15

Claims #91210 through #91213 in the amount of \$1,013.7

VOIDED Claim #91175 in the amount of (\$2,647.20)

Manual Checks #86012020, 87012020, 8801202 and 89012020 in the amount of \$2,762.88

EFT in the amount of \$22,810.66

Payroll Checks #46568 through #46586 in the amount of \$49,243.14
Payroll Claims #91190 through #91209 in the amount of \$254,072.20
Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$5,750.00
Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$209,780.42
Minutes of the December 18, 2019 Council meeting

Public Hearing on 2020-2025 Sewer Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Reim opened public hearings at 7:06 p.m. This is the third and final of three public hearings of the Sewer Comp Plan before Council approval. Crago reviewed the 2020-2030 Sewer Comprehensive Plan and the proposed upgrades and improvements needed to maintain a healthy infrastructure and treatment process. The Plan outlines roughly \$3.1-million of needed improvements to the collection system and \$3.9-million of improvements to the treatment facility. In 2018, City staff initiated an application with the Department of Ecology for a 20-year, 2% interest, \$6.97-million loan.

The “Executive Document” presented to Council is a summary of the Sewer Comprehensive Plan. It outlines Council’s direction in implementing those improvements and the corresponding rate increases to repay the loan. The proposed rate increase is a \$1 increase each year for 5 years – 2021-2025.

There being no public comment, hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

Public Hearing on Resolution 20-001 – Accept Funding for Sewer Comprehensive Plan: Public hearing opened at 7:08 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report advising Council that this Resolution authorizes the acceptance of funding in the amount of \$6,970,600 from the State of Washington Department of Ecology for the design, construction and construction administration of the Water Reclamation Facility and Collection System improvements as outlined in the Sewer Comprehensive Plan.

There being no public comment, hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

Public Hearing on Resolution 20-002 – 2020 Update to Six-Year Street Plan: Public hearing opened at 7:08 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report. This Six-Year Street Plan outlines the City’s goals and informs the community of the long-range plans for street improvements. The Plan is required by State law for eligibility for grant funding.

There being no public comment, hearing closed at 7:09 p.m.

Public Hearing on Resolution 20-003 – 2020 Update to Capital Facilities Plan: Public hearing opened at 7:09 p.m. Crago advised that the Capital Facilities Plan is a listing of long-range plans the City may consider in the future. The Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is a required component by State law.

There was some Council discussion, no public comment, hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

Public Hearing on Resolution 20-004 – 2020 Update to Transportation Benefit District Plan: Public hearing opened at 7:12 p.m. According to City Policy 10030, each January staff shall submit a Three-Year Plan to Council for public input and approval. The Plan represents roadway conditions, future grant availability and coordination with other projects in town.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearings at 7:13 p.m.

Resolution 20-001 – Accept Funding for Sewer Comprehensive Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 20-001 – Accept Funding for Sewer Comprehensive Plan. (m/s Millard/McDonnell) Motion carried.

Resolution 20-002 – 2020 Update to Six-Year Street Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 20-002 – 2020 Update to the Six-Year Street Plan. (m/s Moore /Wanke) Motion carried.

Resolution 20-003 – 2020 Update to Capital Facilities Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 20-003 – 2020 Update to the Capital Facilities Plan. (m/s Mora /Moore) Motion carried.

Resolution 20-004 – 2020 Update to Transportation Benefit District Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 20-004 – 2020 Update to the Transportation Benefit District Plan. (m/s McDonnell/Moore) Motion carried.

Adoption of 2020-2025 Sewer System Comprehensive Plan: Crago advised that this is the formal acceptance to the “Plan”. Motion to adopt the 2020-2030 Sewer System Comprehensive Plan. (m/s Allstot/Wanke) Motion carried.

WSDOT Request for Support – Possible Roundabout at SR-282 and Nat Washington Way: Crago reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has initiated conversation of a potential roundabout at the “Walmart” intersection. Previously, the City participated with WSDOT in a study regarding a roundabout at this location. Currently WSDOT is requesting a letter of support. Representatives from WSDOT will be at the next Council meeting on February 5, 2020 to address Council on this issue.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant Co PUD for Camera installation: This is a standard agreement that will allow the City to utilize power poles for placement of security cameras. Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant County PUD for Camera installation. (m/s Allstot/Mora) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

Request for Ordinance to limit vehicle idling February 5, 2020: Crago advised that a citizen has concerns about vehicles idling for extended periods of time. This citizen will be at the next Council meeting on February 5, 2020 to address his concerns with Council.

Crago advised Council consider enforcement issues and how long is an acceptable time for a vehicle to idle.

Collaboration with North Central Regional Library (NCRL): Staff has been working with NCRL on the future of the library – the current building they are in was the old Fire Station built in 1938. This building is very old and in need of repairs. Discussions have been taking place regarding where and what a future library would look like and what financing opportunities are available.

Budget snapshot – Cash reserves in Current Expense continued to climb as well as sales tax. A complete 2019 Budget Report will be presented at the next council meeting.

Farewell and Godspeed: Crago commented that for the past 26 years he has spent every other Wednesday coming to council meetings; either as a Council member or City Administrator, this is his last meeting. He thanked Council and commented that this has been the greatest privilege of his professional life to work here and serve on the City Council. With that, he tendered his chair to incoming City Administrator, Mike Warren.

Mike Warren thanked Crago for his mentorship, friendship, support and leadership over the years and wished him well on his new endeavor.

Special Confirmation – Appointment of Michael R. Warren as City Administrator: Mayor Reim has appointed Police Chief Michael R. Warren as the new City Administrator. Motion to confirm Mayor Reims appointment of Mike Warren as City Administrator. (m/s Allstot/Wanke) Motion carried.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk