



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES May 06, 2020

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on May 06, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, this meeting is being conducted telephonically using the ZOOM audio only conferencing.

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 Mike Warren, City Attorney Anna Franz, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Agenda: There are no corrections or addition to the agenda.

Presentations: None

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #91844 through #91897 in the amount of \$172,721.80
VOIDED CK #91701 in the amount of (\$118.80)
Claims #91820 through #91822 in the amount of \$163.90
Claims #91841 and #91842 in the amount of \$797.83
Payroll #46650 through #46663 in the amount of \$30,357.08
Payroll Claims #91823 through #91840 in the amount of \$224,667.70
Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$5,875.00
Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$169,830.11
Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Council meeting
Authorization to bid the C Street Sidewalk Project

Authorize Administration to execute contract with Gray and Osborne for Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Designs: Director

Sangster reported that this is part of the Sewer System Comp Plan which consists of improvements to the treatment facility and the collection system. Construction will happen over a 5 year period and the loan repayment does not begin until after construction is completed. Engineering design and bidding doc's is estimated at \$585,080.00.

Council discussion ensued.

Motion to authorize Administration to execute Contract with Gray and Osborne for Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Design. (m/s Wanke/McDonnell) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

City Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Administrator Warren reported that currently, there have been no reported cases of exposure directly or in-directly, of any city employees. Staff has been working alternate shifts with each department split into two crews with those designated non-essential personnel staying home. Beginning May 4th, all employees are reporting for work utilizing a 4/10 shift. Crew assignments remain the same with the previously designated non-essential personnel being assigned to a crew. Crew 1 works Monday-Thursday; Crew 2 works Tuesday-Friday; when all employees are working, social distancing is being practiced and employees have been instructed to wear a mask anytime they leave their office or workstation.

Additionally, city is in the process of getting bids to purchase and install Plexiglas barriers at the three front counters. This is in anticipation of when we can re-open City Hall to the public, employees will have additional protection from the virus.

Budget: In anticipation of a major budget shortfall, spending has been restricted. The first report of sales tax for March will not be available until the end of May. Once we get a clearer picture, we will be evaluating the next steps.

Council discussion ensued regarding the barriers and will they prohibit access over the counters. They will cover the entire opening with a microphone and pass through drawer.

Council discussion ensued regarding the opening of the pool. They were advised that the pool will NOT open this year. Our first priority is to take care of employees. It is anticipated that this time will be used to perform some much needed maintenance/repairs at the pool.

Council discussion ensued regarding the growing level of resistance to the Governor's continued closure of businesses and the potential impact that will have on Ephrata. It was pointed out that the Grant County Health Department just today published "COVID-19 Smart Business Operation Plan Guidance". This document discusses preparing for the phased reopening in Grant County. It was suggested that this document be shared on the City's Facebook page. Complaints will be addressed on a case by case basis.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk