



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES May 20, 2020

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on May 20, 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, Sarah McDonnell, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Mike Warren, City Attorney Anna Franz, Community Relations Director Traci Bennett, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Pledge of Allegiance was said. This meeting is not being recorded.

**Agenda:** Agenda was amended adding discussion item from Council member Moore regarding petitioning the Governor to re-open Ephrata.

**Presentations:** None

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made to approve consent agenda. (m/s Allstot/McDonnell) Discussion on Tiger Strong Caravan, and Graduation Parade, motion carried.

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claim #91843 in the amount of \$61.75

Claims #91898 through #91941 in the amount of \$1,963.26

Manual Check #86052020, 87052020, 88052020 and 89052020 in the amount of \$2,636.86

EFT in the amount of \$22,951.75

VOIDED Check #91527 in the amount of (\$220.25)

Claims #91942 through #91990 in the amount of \$641,462.60

Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Council meeting

Approval of Special Event Applications:

- Ephrata High School Graduation Parade – June 5, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. down C Street

- Port of Ephrata Use Agreement for EVOC training
- Tiger Strong Caravan – May 31, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Ephrata Farmer’s Market – Saturday’s from June 27<sup>th</sup> thru Oct 31<sup>st</sup> on C Street in front of the Courthouse

Motion to excuse Council member Millard. (m/s Wanke/Moore) Motion carried.

**2020 Municipal Services Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council (EDC):** Administrator Warren advised that this is our annual ongoing agreement in support of the EDC in pursuing and developing prospective commercial and industrial clients. This is a budgeted item.

Councilmember Coe, as the City’s representative, gave a brief update on what the EDC has been doing.

Motion to authorize Administration to execute Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council. (m/s Mora/Moore) Council discussion, motion carried.

**Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan:** This amendment is to include changes in the definition of medical expenses related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Motion to approve and authorize amendment to the Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan. (m/s Allstot/Wanke) Motion carried.

**Fireworks Stand Permit:** The information from the State Fire Marshal’s Office on whether a Fireworks Stand is considered an “essential retail business” is being left up to the local governing body. Chief Burns advised that buying locally assures that safe and sane fireworks are purchased. Counsel Franz reported that it is not up to the city to say what business is non-essential, there are no issues with issuing permits, and that it is the business owners responsibility to comply with the Governor’s orders.

Motion to approve application from J&M, LLC for Fireworks Stand Permit (m/s Moore/Coe) Motion carried.

**Parks and Recreation – Surplus items from the Community Garden:** Director Bennett advised that on Sept 4, 2019 staff met with landowner and other stake holders and determined it was time to close the garden. Council approved that decision on November 6, 2019. With the closing of the Community Garden and in the process of returning the property back to its original condition there are several items that are surplus to the City’s need as follows:

- 430’ x 4’ chain link fence, 4 gates, 20 fence posts
- 6- 2’x6’x12’ and 6- 2’x6’x4’ treated timbers – if salvageable
- 7 Game Cameras
- 9 Security boxes for cameras
- 6 solar panels for cameras

Staff is recommending that the fencing and timbers be donated to the school district and the cameras, security boxes and solar panels be sold.

Motion to surplus items as requested donating to the school district the fencing and timbers and advertise for bids for the cameras, security boxes and solar panels. (m/s Moore/McDonnell) Motion carried.

**Discussion regarding petitioning the Governor to re-open Ephrata:** Council member Moore discussed what Council's role should/should not be in regards to addressing our re-opening with the Governor's office. He discussed various possible responses.

Counsel Franz discussed what the role of the City is in this situation, and advised that Council should focus on education of the public, support our Health Department and allow law enforcement the flexibility to address issues as they arise.

Council discussion ensued. No action was taken.

**City Administrator Report:**

State CARES funds to be shared with Washington Cities: Administrator Warren discussed with Council the State's proposed distribution of the CARES Act funding. Based on their allocation formula, Ephrata is eligible to receive \$245,400. These funds will be disbursed by the Department of Commerce as a reimbursable grant to local jurisdictions for qualified expenditures. The intent of the grant is to cover direct costs incurred as a result of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a provision to utilize some of these funds to support the Health Department and small businesses. If these options are pursued, it will be important to establish a grant application process to verify eligibility to receive funds. The first step to be able to receive the grant reimbursement is to complete a contract with the Department of Commerce. Administration will begin this process.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk