



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

### April 07, 2021

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on April 07, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to discuss sale or acquisition of real estate (RCW 42.30.110 (1)c) and litigation or potential litigation (RW 42.30.110 (1) i) for approximately thirty minutes. Executive session adjourned, discussion on the sale or acquisition of real estate did not take place, no decisions were made or action taken. Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, this meeting is being conducted remotely using the ZOOM video conferencing platform.

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

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Mike Warren, City Attorney Katherine Kennison/Anna Franz, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, Community Development Director Dan Leavitt, Community Relations Director Traci Bennett, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns, Police Captain Erik Koch, and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler

Motion to excuse Council members Allstot and Mora. (m/s Wanke/Moore) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

**Agenda:** Agenda was amended adding Item 2 to Section VIII Items for Council Action, Conflict of Interest Waiver.

**Presentations:** Mayor Pro Tem William Coe gave a brief report on the Grant County Economic Development Council happenings.

- The Workforce Alliance Apprenticeship Program started last year has been very successful and they are looking to continue this program this year. They are looking for businesses to volunteer.

- EDC is working on a hemp processing and shipping bill.
- Development of virtual trade missions with other countries.
- Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> round of COVID grant applications.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #93175 through #93244 in the amount of \$156,005.75  
 Payroll Check #46826 through #46839 in the amount of \$32,391.71  
 Payroll Claims #93153 through #93170 in the amount of \$238,947.51  
 Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$5,875.00  
 Payroll Direct Deposits in the amount of \$185,622.01  
 Claims #93151 and #93152 in the amount of \$471.12  
 Claims #93171 through #93174 in the amount of \$3,894.54  
 Minutes of the March 17, 2021 Council meeting

Special Event Applications:

- Ephrata Lions Club Annual Youth Fishing Derby – April 17, 2021
- Grant School Bike Rodeo – April 27, 2021
- Columbia Ridge School Bike Rodeo – April 27, 2021
- Easter Sunday Service – April 4, 2021

Set Public Hearing for Acceptance of Annual Comprehensive Docket Report on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Resolution 21-005 – Recommendation of new Grant County Jail Site Evaluation Committee:** Director Leavitt gave a brief staff report. This resolution accepts the recommendation from the Site Evaluation Committee for the location of the new county jail and directs the Planning Commission to review an amendment to the Ephrata Municipal Code to allow for correctional facilities as a conditional use in the Airport Enterprise zone.

Motion to approve and accept Resolution 21-005 directing the Planning Commission to review the proposed amendment to the Ephrata Municipal Code Title 19 to allow correctional facilities as a conditional use in the Airport Enterprise zone. (m/s Wanke/Moore) Motion carried.

**Approve recommendation of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee:** A special meeting was held by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to consider a request from the Ephrata Chamber of Commerce. They are requesting \$20,000 for the purchase of commercial grade holiday decorations and lights. The Committee approved the request and is seeking Council approval.

Motion to approve recommendation from Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for the allocation of \$20,000 to the Ephrata Chamber of Commerce for commercial grade holiday decorations. (m/s McDonnell/Moore) Discussion ensued regarding use of these

funds for this purpose and what is the tourism nexus with this application. Director Bennett advised that this is one of the gray areas and other cities have used these fund for downtown revitalization. Counsel advised that the applicant needs to demonstrate how this purchase would bring tourism to Ephrata. Director Bennett advised that that was included in the application. Council member Coe voted nay, motion carried.

**Conflict of Interest Waiver:** Attorney Franz advised that we are seeking a motion for a conflict of interest waiver for insurance defense counsel for purposes of mediation.

Motion to authorize Mayor to sign conflict of interest waiver for insurance defense counsel for purposes of mediation. (m/s Moore/Coe) Motion carried.

### **City Administrator Report**

Opening of City Hall to the Public: Administrator Warren discussed with Council the re-opening of City Hall to the public. City Hall has been closed for over 1 year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the governor lifting some restriction and moving all counties to phase 3, felt it prudent to wait one evaluation cycle before opening to the public. If the county continues to remain in phase 3, we anticipate welcoming the public back to City Hall on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The lobby has been secured with glass shields for additional separation from the public. Council discussion ensued.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Council member Wanke announced that he will not be running for office again, that he will be retiring in December. He will have served for 32 years.

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Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk