



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 1, 2016

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on June 1, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator Wes Crago, Community Development Director Ron Sell, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, Police Captain Erik Koch, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and Deputy Clerk Sandi Grout.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak.

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

Presentations: Grant County Health District Homeless Task Force. Stephanie Dowland of Homeless Task Force gave presentation on the Warming Center in Moses Lake last winter.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims # 85047 through #85096 in the amount of \$120,295.14

Minutes of the May 18, 2016 Council meeting

Special Event Permits:

- June 5, 2016 Port/Columbia Ridge Area St Rose of Lima Coconut Crawl Ohana 5k.
- June 9, 2016 Division Street/Port Area Columbia Ridge Field Day Fun Run
- June 9, 2016 Basin Street Rotary Youth Parade
- June 11, 2016 North & South East Area Sage & Sun Fun Run

Public Hearing –

Resolution 16-957, 2016 Update to Six-Year Street Plan. Mayor Reim opened the Public Hearing at 7:18p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report and reviewed the process. This resolution approves the City’s 2016 Update to the Six-Year Street Plan. The plan was submitted to Council on May 18, 2016 for review and amendment. Two amendments were added. While the Plan does reflect the Council and staff’s prioritization, the purpose of the Plan is only to identify grant-eligible projects. Final determination of any project will start with deliberate Council action, public input, etc. Generally, priorities change during the budget process and/or as grants become available. There was no public comment.

Ordinance 16-04, new EMC 16.08 “Unfit Buildings”: Mayor Reim opened the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. This is 2nd of 2 Public Hearings. Crago gave a brief staff report and reviewed the process. This draft ordinance sets out a very clear public process of notifications, hearings, appeals and consequences. It is based directly on a supporting RCW and there are no adverse court rulings against the process.

There are three primary advantages to this ordinance:

- Transparent guidelines that are easily understood
- Process is ultimately overseen by Superior Court, ensuring fairness and providing extra protection to the City
- City’s finances are better protected with more robust and ironclad reimbursement requirements

This is the second of two public hearings.

There were no public comments or Council comments. Mayor Reim closed public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Ordinance 16-04, Unfit Buildings – Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 16-04 Unfit Buildings. (m/s Moore/Wanke) Motion carried.

Ordinance 16-07, Closing Fund 615 Retirement Reserve Fund – Crago briefly explained Ordinance to Council. Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 16-07. (m/s Mora/Moore) Motion carried.

Resolution 16-957, 2016 Update of the Six-Year Street Plan – Motion to approve and accept Resolution 16-957. (m/s Moore/Millard) Motion carried unanimously.

Council Consideration:

Parks Board – An open seat is available on the Ephrata Parks and Recreation Commission due to resignation of Scott Davis. Mayor Reim is calling for any interested persons to submit a letter of interest and qualifications to the City. Letters are due back

to the City at 4:00 p.m. June 24, 2016. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the applicants and then make a recommendation to the Mayor for appointment and Council confirmation.

Columbia Basin Foundation Use of Splash Zone:

Columbia Basin Foundation has requested to sponsor a free community day and BBQ at Splash Zone on August 13, as part of a celebration of their 20-year anniversary. They are holding another event in Moses Lake in September. They would like to use Splash Zone either as a no-fee or reduced rate rental. Attorney Franz advised Council this would be gifting of public funds unless the City is co-sponsoring the event. Franz recommended charging a fee.

Council directed staff to determine if a Co-Sponsorship could be done with Columbia Basin Foundation to co-sponsor the event which could allow Splash Zone to be used for no-fee.

Request for Matching Funds: Randy Boruff, of Columbia Basin Youth Baseball, has been working with the Ephrata Schools, Lauzier Foundation, Major League Baseball, private contractors, and the City to create a package of improvements to the Baseball and Softball fields at EHS. The City's contribution will be used, along with the schools, to match the revenue from MLB for improvements. The City has been a partner in the past for improvements to our school facilities. Boruff advised the total of the event is \$430,000. Major League Baseball will donate one-half. Columbia Basin Youth Baseball is requesting \$20,000 from the City at this time. Council directed staff to research whether Fund 120 could be used for this appropriation and if there is money available in Fund 120; if not, is there money available in another fund that could be used. Staff is to report back to Council on June 15.

LTAC Distribution: The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, who oversees the revenues generated by the hotel-motel tax, has recommended an unbudgeted release of funds. An opportunity arose for Columbia Basin Youth Baseball to host two more statewide baseball tournaments this summer for 13, 14 and 15-year old players. The LTAC met and has sanctioned the request, and recommends that the Council approve the funding to Columbia Basin Youth Baseball to help offset cost of umpires, trophies and advertising. Motion to approve release of \$3,000 from Fund 120 Hotel/Motel Fund. (m/s Wanke/Millard) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

Crago requested Council to advise at June 15 meeting whether they will be able to attend a July 6 meeting due to the Holiday, or whether it should be cancelled.

Town Hall meeting is scheduled on July 20th at 6:30 p.m. with State Representatives here at City Hall.

Mayor Reim complimented Mr. and Mrs. Montaney and everyone else who took part in helping to prepare the Cemetery for Memorial Day. He advised approximately 400 white crosses had been placed at the cemetery.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandi Grout, Deputy Clerk