



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 16, 2016

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on November 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to discuss sale of real estate [42.30.110(1)c] for approximately 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, Stephanie Knitter, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

Staff Present: City Administrator Wes Crago, City Attorney Anna Franz, Community Development Director Ron Sell, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, Police Captain Erik Koch, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and City Clerk Leslie Trachsler.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

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

Presentations: None

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #85846 through #85905 in the amount of \$377,192.12

Claims #85838 through #85845 in the amount of \$1,030.53

Manual Claims #86112016, 87112016, 88112016 & 89112016 in the amount of \$2,030.27

Minutes of the November 2, 2016 Council meeting

Set Public Hearing for Snow Removal Policy for December 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Staff Reports - Progress Report on 2015 Fire Bond Measure for Safety Apparatus:
Chief Burns reported that they have purchased a command unit which is in service. The

ambulance and fire truck are in the build process. The fire truck is being built in Pennsylvania. The final inspection is scheduled for the 2nd week in December then it will be shipped to Yakima to have some additional accessories installed. Exterior work on the ambulance has been completed, they are working on the interior and it is coming along nicely. It is expected to be finished around mid-December as well.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 16-19, 2017 City of Ephrata Budget: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Administrator Crago reported on the proposed 2017 Budget. He briefly reviewed the Goals and Objectives. The budget is 99% complete and reflects two major projects for 2017; Overlay of portion of Nat Washington Way and the Basin Street Waterline project. The total overall estimated revenue projection is \$18,125,554, after taking out the loan and grant dollars, it is a 0.2% increase from 2016. We have seen a significant increase in new construction for the 2nd year. Crago also reported there was a 0% increase in the health insurance coverage provided to employees. He reviewed several impacts on the new budget:

- Fire Bond/Police Sales Tax
- Reallocation based on employee work hours
- Rate increase by CPI/minimum wage
- Basin street waterline project
- Nat Washington resurface
- Sewer Comp Plan

With the new minimum wage increase this will affect the pool and will be reflected in our rates in order to maintain the bottom line.

Crago reviewed the composition of our revenue sources and drilled down into the General Fund which is made up mainly of tax dollars (sales tax, property tax, utility tax) and where those dollars are being spent – Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Building and Planning and General Administration.

There were no public comments.

Council discussion ensued Mayor Reim closed public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Approve Tourism Commission Awards: The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) met on October 21st to review the applications for funding out of the Stadium/Convention fund, better known as Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. These dollars are restricted for events that demonstrate they contribute to overnight stays in these establishments. The projected 2017 Budget for available funds is \$40,000. The Committee received 7 applications requesting a total of \$120,945.00. After careful consideration and application of the base criteria to each application, the committee makes the following award recommendations:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| • Ephrata Chamber Promo | \$ -0- |
| • City of Ephrata | \$11,000 |
| • Columbia Basin Youth Baseball | \$15,000 |
| • Sage N Sun | \$ -0- |

- Ephrata Chamber Art/Wine Walk \$ -0-
- Ephrata Chamber Car/Toy Show \$ 3,000
- Basin Summer Sounds \$11,000

Motion to approve and accept recommendation from Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for 2017 Stadium/Convention Awards in the amount of \$40,000. (m/s Allstot/Moore)
Council comments and discussion ensued, motion carried.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant County Health District:

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant County Health District for continued support at \$1/citizen. (m/s Moore/Wanke) Motion carried.

Authorize Agreement with Port of Ephrata and McDevitt family: Motion to table (m/s Millard/Mora) motion carried.

Approve Prairie Bluff Phase II Final Plat: Director Sell gave a brief staff report. This is for the Final Plat approval of Prairie Bluff Two Major Plat. It is a 23 residential lot subdivision located north of 7th Avenue NE in the vicinity between E Street NE and Ivy Street NE. Approval will allow for the filing of the final plat with the County Auditor completing the division of the property into residential lots.

Motion to approve the Final Plat for Prairie Bluff Phase Two. (m/s Wanke/Moore)
Council discussion and comments ensued, motion carried.

City Administrator Report

2016 Budget Report: Reserve balance is entirely normal for this time of year. Overall, expenses are 27% below budget and revenues are 19% below.

Mayor Reim complimented staff for their part in keeping expenses down.

Council member Wanke reported that the Association of Grant County Cities and Towns meeting scheduled for Friday, November 18th has been cancelled.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk