



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 01, 2017

Fire Chief Jeremy Burns gave Council a tour of the new Ambulance/Rescue Rig.

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on March 01, 2017. 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, Stephanie Knitter, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

Staff Present: City Administrator Wes Crago, City Attorney Katherine Kenison, Community Development Director Ron Sell, Public Works Director Bill Sangster, Police Chief Mike Warren, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns, Community Relations Director Traci Bennett and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak.

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

Presentations: Eastern Washington Junior Rodeo Queen Breana Daniels addressed Council regarding the Rodeo Association and their involvement with kids. They are encouraging kids to come out for the Junior Rodeo program on June 3rd in Othello. This clinic will allow kids ages 0 to 18, to experience all the different rodeo events and is a lot of fun.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #86365 through #86412 in the amount of \$106,996.81
Payroll #44900 through #44926 in the amount of \$31,450.34

Payroll Claims #86346 through 86364 in the amount of \$219,829.08
Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$6,000.00
Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$165,360.19
Minutes of the February 15, 2017 Council meeting
Set Public Hearing for Resolution 17-959 – 2017 Update of Six-Year Street Plan for March 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Set Public Hearing for Resolution 17-960 – 2017 Update of Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan for March 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Section 125 Approval: Each year our Plan Document for employee's Flexible Benefit Plan is reviewed and updated per Federal IRS regulations. The Section 125 plan allows employees to received pre-taxed benefits for medical and medical related expenses.

Motion to approve and authorize Administration to execute renewal of Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan. (m/s Mora/Knitter) Motion carried.

Update on Ephrata Roads and need for Chip Seal Program: With the severity of this winter season, buckling of pavement and potholes have impacted many of our area streets. Crago advised there are two streets that have been closed due to extensive damage and one that was posted with weight limits/restrictions. Cones have been placed marking where potholes are. Crews have been using cold mix as a temporary fix until warmer weather and some areas are be beyond fixing. After an inventory of the damages it is estimated there is \$145,000 in repairs for what we know at this point.

When the State rolled-back car tabs in the early 2000 the City had to cut the chip-seal program. Going forward, staff is looking at a public process with Council and the community regarding a sales tax increase for transportation or creating a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) which would be funded by car tabs in an effort to finance a sustainable program to repair/maintain city streets. The longer we wait the worse conditions will become and the more expensive it will be.

Crago advised that the 2007-2013 Waterline project allowed us to take care of some of the streets but there are many streets that do not have waterlines which leaves them needing work. Also, as the newest streets age, a Chip-Seal program will need to be implemented in order to maintain and prolong their life.

Council discussion ensued.

City Administrator Report: None at this time.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk