



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 16, 2017

Council conducted a Study Session on the 2018 Budget at 6:30 p.m. Administrator Crago reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Council, Mayor and staff; discussed importance of good decision making processes; and potential budget impacts for the next year. At present revenues are projected to be slightly higher but with the CPI expenses will increase as well.

Goals & Objectives were reviewed, there were no recommended changes.

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on August 16, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim.

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Reim, Council members Matt Moore, Valli Millard, Stephanie Knitter, and Kathleen Allstot.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak.

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Presentations: None

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims # 87175 in the amount of \$33.00
Electronic Fund Transfer in the amount of \$22,154.82
Manual Checks #86082017, 87082017, 88082017 and 89082017 in the amount of \$3,278.60
Voided Check #75897 in the amount of \$347.52
Claims # 87176 through #87234 in the amount of \$215,975.48
Minutes of the August 2, 2017 Council meeting

Grant County Conservation District Presentation: Marie Lotz, District Manager and Harold Crose, Resource Conservationist addressed Council. The Conservation District is a locally led special purpose district created in 1940. They are primarily funded by state and federal grants and serve all the unincorporated areas of the County and a few incorporated cities. When the District was first formed 70 years ago, Ephrata agreed to participate. They have seen an increased demand for services and not enough funds. The Board of Supervisors have passed a resolution to assess a rates and charges fee of \$5 for every parcel of property to provide a much needed level of stability for basic operations for the District. Mr. Crose stated that the incorporated communities who are currently part of the District can opt out by Resolution and the Board of Supervisors have stated that they will not protest any such request.

Mr. Crose talked about what they do for us. They have provided classroom presentation for the school system; given classroom instruction at St. Rose School and provided technical assistance for the community garden. On a larger scale they are part of the State Storm Water Steering Committee; oversee as part of the Growth Management Act the aqua recharge; obtained grant dollars for residential water management, water conservation and urban ag for senior programs; provided goats for weed control and assist landowners with natural resource conservation.

Council discussion and questions ensued.

Paws in Pool – Monday, September 4, 2017: Director Bennett advised that the final event at Splashzone will be “Paws in the Pool”. On the last day of pool operation, the doors will open to dogs and their owners for a day of doggie swimming fun. This is not general open admissions, patrols must have a dog to come in.

2018 Budget Goals & Objectives: Council directed staff to keep the same objectives as 2017 which are:

1. Continue to Improve Public Safety
2. Maintain Financial Stability and Accountability
3. Attract, Develop, and Retain Quality Employees
4. Increase Code Enforcement
5. Continue to Reward and Promote Efficiency

City Hall Closure – Monday, August 21, 2017 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.:

Informational – City Hall will be closed Monday, August 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for a staff Wellness Walk & Eclipse Viewing.

Discussion - Requirements for Parking in Ephrata: Crago gave a brief review of parking related meetings between 1993-2010 where Council conducted 7 parking summit meetings with business owners and Chamber of Commerce on parking enforcement. Today's discussion is totally unrelated to parking enforcement and does not pertain to the off-street parking requirements on Basin Street from 3rd SW to 3rd NW. Outside of this area, the Code requires a certain number of off-street parking spaces.

Council member Moore addressed Council regarding the off-street parking requirements which seem to be excessive for a city of Ephrata's size and could possibly stifle future development in the business district. The Parking Code is established locally, so there is a fair amount of local control. Most businesses have more parking than they need on a daily basis. For business owners this parking requirement creates a physical barrier as opposed to a financial issues because there a limited amount of land. Any change in use could limit the future potential for some properties. Moore advised that he would like to get input about what is reasonable and necessary to fit a city our size.

Council discussion ensued. The current code bases the number of parking spaces required on the size of building and type of business being conducted. When asked if it is possible to change the required spaces, Sell advised yes. That this code is not based on the building code and state law does not require a specific number of parking spaces. It was commented that the City is missing out on business opportunities due to this parking code requirement.

Council directed staff to research and prepare report.

Surplus of City Property: City has a 2007 Crown Victoria which has reached its use full life and is surplus to the needs of the City. Staff intends to sell it at auction, but before property can be sold, it must first be surplus.

Motion to surplus a 2007 Crown Victoria. (m/s Allstot/Millard) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

- Construction Report/State Capital Budget Report: State still has not passed the Capital Budget. Realistically, this project is dead for this year. Staff is researching what options we have and where we go from here.
- 2017 Budget Report: Cash reserves are up slightly, sales tax is at a historic high. Overall budget performance expenses are down 20% and revenues are down 17%.
- Splashzone Report: Attendance is down, dollar days begin next week and both dive-in movies were successful.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk