



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES October 18, 2017

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on October 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim.

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Reim, Council members Mark Wanke, Matt Moore, Valli Millard, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

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

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

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 Millard/Moore) Motion carried.

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #87407, 87457 and 87459 in the amount of \$299.06

Electronic Fund Transfer in the amount of \$17,474.03

Manual Checks #86102017, 87102017, 88102017 & 89102017 in the amount of \$2,401.20

VOIDED Check #87458 in the amount of \$(50.43)

Claims #87460 through #87514 in the amount of \$262,643.93

Minutes of the October 4, 2017 Council meeting

Amended Minutes of the September 6, 2017 Council meeting

Set Public Hearing for Ordinance 17-08 Ad Valorem Taxes for November 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Special Event Permits:

- Chamber of Commerce Wine & Art Walk – Downtown area, October 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Veterans Day Parade – Downtown Area, November 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Abatement Hearing – Hazardous Vegetation Abatement for 315 10th Avenue

Southwest: The purpose of this hearing is for Council to determine if a nuisance exists and direct the abatement of any nuisance.

Mayor opened hearing at 7:01 p.m.

City Administrator administered the Oath to Code Enforcement Officer Heather Rhoades.

Code Officer Rhoades gave brief report and presented evidence as to code violation per Ephrata Municipal Code (EMC) Section 6.30.030(U) of the property known as 315 10th Avenue Southwest.

- Notice of Violation and Order to Correct was given on 7-27-17 by certified mail and on the same day posted the property. Correction required was to mow yard, remove weeds and trim any grass vegetation growing 12” in height from front and back yards. No communication was received in response to this notice, no appeal was filed and the nuisance was not corrected or removed.
- Notice of Abatement of Nuisance Hearing was given on 9-28-17 by certified mail and on the same day posted the property, stating that a hearing will be held before the Ephrata City Council at its regular meeting on October 18, 2017. No communication was received in response to this notice.
- Pictures of the above stated property were presented showing the nuisance violations and that as of today, the nuisance has not been corrected or removed.

Owners of record, Elmer R. and Betty L. Gibson, were not present to give testimony.

There being no further testimony, Mayor closed hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Abatement Hearing – Hazardous Vegetation Abatement for 465 6th Avenue

Southwest: The purpose of this hearing is for Council to determine if a nuisance exists and direct the abatement of any nuisance.

Mayor opened hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Code Officer Rhoades, still being under oath, gave a brief report and presented evidence as to code violation per EMC Section 6.30.030(U) of the property known as 465 6th Avenue Southwest.

- Notice of Violation and Order to Correct was given on 6-8-17 by certified mail and on the same day posted the property. Correction required was to mow yard, remove weeds and trim any grass vegetation growing 12” in height from front and back yards. No communication was received in response to this notice, no appeal was filed and the nuisance was not corrected or removed.
- Notice of Abatement of Nuisance Hearing was given on 10-3-17 by certified mail and on the same day posted the property, stating that a hearing will be held before the Ephrata City Council at its regular meeting on October 18, 2017. No communication was received in response to this notice.
- Pictures of the above stated property were presented showing the nuisance violations and that as of today, the nuisance has not been corrected or removed.

Owners of record, Robert and Tammy Shenefelt, were not present to give testimony.

There being no further testimony, Mayor closed hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Public Hearing – Street Maintenance Funding Options: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Crago gave a brief report. Our spending has been cut by 8.3%, the population has increased 13%, and the cost of doing business has increased. Funding sources for street maintenance have gone away. Staff worked with the Community Priorities Team (CPT) and their mission was to evaluate the needs of the community. Phase III of the CPT Plan is to preserve and protect our streets. This will require a designated funding source. There are two options:

- Implement a \$20 car tab fee
- Increase sales tax by 0.2%

Both options would be voter approved. Each proposal will generate approximately \$200,000 annually. These dollars would be used to:

- Crack-seal and Chip-seal newer streets
- Resurface failed streets
- Replace gravel streets with asphalt

Before Council makes their decision there will be 2 more public hearings.

Don Guillemette addressed council and spoke in favor of the 0.2% sales tax option.

It was pointed out that 0.2% sales tax equates to \$0.20/\$100.

There being no further comment, Mayor closed hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Resolution 17-969 – Authorizing the Abatement of 315 10th Avenue Southwest: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 17-969 authorizing the abatement of the property located at 315 10th Avenue Southwest. (m/s Wanke/Mora) Motion carried.

Resolution 17-971 – Authorizing the Abatement of 465 6th Avenue Southwest: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 17-971 authorizing the abatement of the property located at 465 6th Avenue Southwest. (m/s Allstot/Millard) Motion carried.

Resolution 17-970 – Support for the Nat Washington Powerhouse: Mayor Reim reported that Mike Scellick, a local businessman, has organized a movement to rename Powerhouse Three at Grand Coulee Dam the “Nathaniel Washington Third Powerhouse”. Nat Washington and his family were instrumental in the construction and management of Grand Coulee Dam and the subsequent Columbia Basin Irrigation Project.

Motion to approve and accept Resolution 17-970 supporting the renaming of Powerhouse Three at Grand Coulee Dam the “Nathaniel Washington Third Powerhouse”. (m/s Mora/Moore) Council discussion ensued, motion carried.

Confirm Mayor’s appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission: Upon recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Mayor Reim appointed Sharron Hastings and Lexi Lawrence to the Parks Board pending Council’s confirmation.

Motion to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Sharron Hastings and Lexi Lawrence to the Parks and Recreation Commission. (m/s Millard/Wanke) Motion carried.

Authorize Administration to continue Agreement with Smarsh for Record Archiving: Smarsh is the current archive provider for the City’s Website and Facebook. This renewal will allow us to continue our relationship for archiving services.

Motion to authorize Administration to execute Agreement with Smarsh for archiving services. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Council discussion, motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

2nd Draft of 2018 Budget: Crago gave a brief staff report. This is a busy time for the finance department. Currently we are working on allocation for projecting costs.

2017 Budget Report: Expenses are 26% and revenues 22% below budget. Expenses are following their normal pattern but revenues are slightly higher than normal at this time of year. Cash reserves are up. Sales tax continues to be above recorded history.

Traci introduced Brian Dubois as our new Recreation Supervisor.

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

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk