



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 07, 2018

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on March 07, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to discuss Sale of Real Estate (RCW 42.30.110(1)c) for approximately thirty minutes. Executive session adjourned at 6:30 p.m., no decisions were made or action taken.

City Council conducted an Open Public Forum on the Transportation Benefit District Proposition One at 6:30 p.m.

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, Justin Kooy, 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, Community Relations Director Traci Bennett, Police Chief Mike Warren, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns, Building Official Bill Cox and City Clerk/Finance Director 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/Wanke)
Motion carried.

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #88122 through #88185 in the amount of \$91,992.16

Claims #88096, #88116 through #88121 in the amount of \$9,047.56

VOIDED Claims #87654 and #87793 in the amount of \$(326.11)
Payroll #45665 through #45690 in the amount of \$35,717.43
Payroll Claims #88097 through #88115 in the amount of \$221,240.58
Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$6,000.00
Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$171,911.25
Minutes of the February 21, 2018 Council meeting
Special Event Applications:

- Beezley Burn Bike Race – April 28, 2018, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Lions Park
- Community Easter Egg Hunt – March 31, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lions Park

Boy Scouts of American, Grand Columbia Council Report: Boy Scout Troops of Ephrata addressed Council presenting the **Grand Columbia Council 2018 Report to Our Communities**. This report addressed who they are, who they serve, how they build leaders and communities, and how they become prepared for life. In Ephrata, there are 4 Cub Scout Packs and 4 Boy Scout Troops. There were representatives from each unit and they all introduced themselves. The Scouts thanked the City of Ephrata for supporting Scouting program.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 18-08 Assumption of the Ephrata Transportation Benefit District by the City of Ephrata: Mayor opened public hearing at 7:06 p.m. This ordinance transfers the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the Ephrata Transportation Benefit District to City Council of the City of Ephrata and amends Ephrata Municipal Code Chapter 3.40.

Public comment – David Spencer of 2230 Basin Street SW, Ephrata, Washington asked if the money would be spent only on roads. Crago advised that by RCW, there are restrictions on how these dollars are to be spent and will be audited for compliance by the State Auditors.

There being no further comments, Mayor Reim closed hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 18-09 amending EMC Title 19 “Zoning” – Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Mayor opened public hearing at 7:08 p.m. This is the first of two public hearings.

Public comment – David Spencer, 2230 Basin Street SW, Ephrata, Washington addressed Council. As a member of the community, Mr. Spencer spoke in favor of short-term vacation rentals stating that he believes they will be good for business. As a member of the Planning Commission, he advised that they held 12 public hearings where the Commission reviewed the proposal with extreme attention to the details. He believed this will be good for business and it is a great ordinance to move forward with.

John James, 121 Mocliff Road, Ephrata, Washington spoke in favor of the short term rentals. He is an adamant user of vacation rentals and does not see any wrong with implementing this.

Susan Scheib, representing the Columbia Basin Hospital (CBH), 200 Nat Washington Way, Ephrata, Washington read letter of support from Rosalinda Kibby, Administrator for CBH. "Short term, hometown lodging opportunities would assist us during our recruitment process. Transient lodging services would allow people to experience our true everyday community environment in a very real setting."

There being no further comments, Mayor Reim closed hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Ordinance 18-08 – Assumption of Ephrata Transportation Benefit District by the City of Ephrata: Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-08 Assuming the Rights, Powers, Functions, Immunities and Obligations of the Ephrata Transportation Benefit District. (m/s Millard/Kooy) Motion carried.

Authorize Administration to enter Separation Agreement with Scout Lake Construction: Crago advised that due to the funding delay with the State's Capital Budget, Scout Lake had to acquire additional work and would not be able to begin the Basin Street Waterline Project until the 1st of August. The City is unable to accommodate this schedule. After informal discussions a negotiated separation agreement was reached. Both parties acknowledge there is no contractual obligation regarding the Basin Street Waterline Project.

Staff has re-advertised for bids with bid opening on March 22nd. Bids will be presented to Council on April 4th, where Council will award. Construction to begin mid-April with an estimated completion the end of August.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Separation Agreement with Scout Lake Construction. (m/s Mora/Coe) Motion carried.

Police Office Closure for Accreditation Audit: Informational. The Ephrata Police Department office will be closed March 21, 2018 as they undergo an accreditation audit with WASPC for their re-certification. This is a difficult achievement which requires adherence to up-to-date policies, devotion to the highest standards of evidence, records management and advancements involving personnel and security. The Ephrata Police Department has been an accredited agency since 2014.

Mayor Reim asked what the benefit of accreditation is. Chief Warren advised that this process holds the department to a higher standard, gives us credibility and accountability. The accreditation standards are established by WASPC (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs).

Amended Policy 1020 "Council Rules and Procedures": Crago reviewed the proposed changes:

1. Sign-In form was modified, clarifying the language
2. Section 6.1 (d) language was added regarding the actions of a Councilmember who has an actual or perceived personal interest in a matter before Council

This is the first of two readings before passage by Council.

Council discussion ensued regarding what a statutory conflict of interest is. Counsel advised that when a councilmember has a monetary or material interest in the issue or would receive a profit from a contract or purchase connected with an action. Such as in property development, or as an owner of a business that the City does business with.

Authorize Administration to continue Agreement with EM Solutions: EM Solutions, Environmental Engineering Consultant, conducts oversight of the clean-up work at the County Landfill. There fees are 100% reimbursed by our old insurance carrier. Motion to authorize Administration to continue Agreement with EM Solution. (m/s Kooy, Wanke) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report: None

Mayor Reim thanked the boy scouts and the public for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk