



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 05, 2018

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on December 05, 2018. 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, Justin Kooy, 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, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Motion to excuse Councilmember Millard. (m/s Allstot/Kooy) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak.

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

Presentations: None

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

- Claims #89367 through #89417 in the amount of \$164,187.61
- Claim # 89342 in the amount of \$169.17
- Claims #89362 through #89366 in the amount of \$5,421.02
- Payroll #46077 through #46097 in the amount of \$33,095.50
- Payroll Claims #89343 through #89361 in the amount of \$226,662.15
- Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$6,000.00
- Payroll Direct Deposits in the amount of \$180,974.67
- Minutes of the November 21, 2018 Council meeting

Staff Reports – New Biosolids Drying Bed: Crago reported that the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) produces zero waste. The bio-solids are dried and shipped to Douglas County where they are used for land application. It is advantageous to see that these solids are as dry as possible before shipping. This process we has two issues – requires a lot of space and emits odor. We wanted to expand our ability to dry them more efficiently and move the pad farther away from the neighbors. A new pad was built on the south end of the plant property.

Public Hearing – Amending Commercial Parking Requirements: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report. This is the second of three scheduled public hearings. Staff has prepared a draft of the proposed ordinance changing the set number of parking spaces for Commercial lots only.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Public Hearing – Policy 10010, Snow Removal: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Crago advised that this is our annual review of the Snow Removal Policy and gave a brief staff report regarding why and how we plow and showed a brief video of city crews plowing/sanding during an ice event.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 18-22, 2019 City of Ephrata Budget: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:11 p.m. Crago reviewed the budget process and the goals and objects set by Council. The final budget totals did change slightly from last report. The 2019 budget, less construction grants and loans, is 5.1% higher than 2018. There are three major projects slated for 2019:

- Resurfacing of 8th Avenue NW
- Engineering for resurfacing of Division Street East
- Sewer line work on Division Street before paving

Other highlights/impacts to the budget include:

- Continued economic growth in sales tax and home sales
- Continued support for Grant County Health District and Ephrata Senior Center
- Insurance increases and cost re-allocations updated
- Hire part time summer parks mower/replace Library door/purchase an inflatable screen for Dive-In movie events/fencing for creation of new dog park
- Rate changes at CPI/ Minimum Wage increases
- Camera system for Recycling/Pool, Wells, Reservoirs and critical facilities
- Division Street sewer pipe-bursting and Reservoir cleaning
- Purchase two Police vehicles
- Purchase Backhoe; continue saving for Sewer Vacuum Truck

Supplemental Report for 2019 Budget on the use of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) Funds has been submitted as part of the 2019 Budget. This report outlines the previous,

current and future uses of REET Funds which primarily has been used as matching funds for TIB Grants/FEMA Grant for street preservation; final payment on the Pool Bond; and improvements to Splashzone.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Ordinance 18-22 – 2019 City of Ephrata Budget: This ordinance has been modified from what was in the Council packet. The newest version was handed out to Council and reflects a total budget amount of \$16,511,660.00.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-22 adopting the 2019 City of Ephrata Budget. (m/s Kooy/Mora) Motion carried.

Ordinance 18-27 – Amending EMC 6.18 “Noise Control”: Crago advised that this Code has not been reviewed since 1992 and there have been some concerns raised regarding enforcement from our Police Officers. Staff conducted a full review with the goal of making it clearer and updated with current WAC’s.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-27 Amending EMC 6.18 entitled “Noise Control”. (m/s Kooy/Moore) Council discussion ensued, motion carried.

Write-off of Uncollectible Debt: Per Policy 4060, staff has identified eight outstanding utility accounts as uncollectible.

Motion to authorize staff to write off \$81.87 of uncollectible debt. (m/s Mora/Wanke) Motion carried.

Grant County Sheriff’s Office request for support of 0.3% Sales Tax Measure: The Grant County Commissioners along with Sheriff Jones have identified significant needs related to law enforcement and corrections. They are proposing a 0.3% sales tax measure, County wide. If the tax were to pass, the County would receive 60% and the remaining 40% would be appropriated to the local communities based on population. Commissioners would like support from local communities.

Council discussion ensued, they raised many concerns and had a lot of unanswered questions.

Council directed staff to begin preparation of a Resolution and obtain answers to Council’s concerns.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for Division Street East Project: Once again, staff has been successful at securing a TIB Grant for engineering and resurfacing of Division Street East to Airport Street. Crago reported that since 1999, the City has secured over \$7M in grant funding which equates to \$7 of grant funds for every \$1 of city funds spent.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with TIB for Division Street East. (m/s Wanke/Moore) Motion carried.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Michael Norris for Recreational Programs: This is our standard agreement for Recreational Programs.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Michael Norris for Recreational Programs. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Motion carried.

Confirm Mayor's appointment of Dru McMackin to Ephrata Parks & Recreation Commission: Mayor Reim has appointed Dru McMackin to the Ephrata Parks & Recreation Commission and is asking for Council confirmation.

Motion to confirm Mayor Reims appointment of Dru McMackin to the Ephrata Parks & Recreation Commission. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Motion carried.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 1st Avenue Work: Crago reported that although the work has been completed, the City just received a Consent Agreement from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the sidewalk reconstruction on 1st Avenue NW over the canal.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 1st Avenue NW work. (m/s Moore/Kooy) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

Chamber of Commerce's Miracle on Main Street December 8, 2018: This Saturday, the Chamber will be hosing Miracle on Main Street and will begin with breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. There are events planned throughout the day and will end with a lighted parade down Basin Street.

Mayor Reim as for a moment of silence in honor of deceased President George H.W. Bush.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk