



## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **December 19, 2018**

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on December 19, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to discuss litigation or potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)i), evaluate qualifications of applicant or employee (RCW 42.30.110(1)g), and to evaluate qualifications of applicant for elected office (RCW 42.30.110(1)h) for thirty minutes. Executive session adjourned, no decisions were made or action taken. Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Bruce Reim, Mayor Pro Tem William Coe, Councilmembers Matt Moore, Valli Millard, Justin Kooy and Tony Mora.

**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 Captain Erik Koch, Fire Chief Jeremy Burns and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Motion to excuse Council members Allstot and Wanke. (m/s Millard/Kooy) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak. This meeting is being recorded.

**Agenda:** Agenda was amended. The presentation by Sheriff Tom Jones has been postponed and Item #16 is tabled.

**Presentations:** Postposed.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made to approve consent agenda. (m/s Coe/Millard) Motion carried.

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #89420 through #89471 in the amount of \$132,224.10

Manual Checks #86122018, 87122018, 88122018 and 89122018 in the amount of \$2,602.62

Claims #89418 and 89419 in the amount of \$23,022

EFT in the amount of \$19,670.78

Minutes of the December 5, 2018 Council meeting

Set Public Hearing for 2019 Update to Six-year Street Plan – January 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Set Public Hearing for 2019 Update to Capital Facilities Plan – January 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Set Public Hearing for 2019 Update to Three-Year TBD Plan – January 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing Amending Commercial Parking Requirements:** Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:01 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report. This is the third and last public hearing. The changes recommended are the removal of a set number of parking requirements for Commercial lots only.

There being no public comment, Mayor Reim closed public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

**Public Hearing on Ordinance 18-26 – Extinguishment of Easement on Lot 14**

**Highland Estates:** Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Staff received a request from Randy and Emily Smith to vacate a 10' Utility Easement on Lot 14, Highland Estates No 3 Major Plat. Sell gave a brief staff report.

Emily Smith, property owner, addressed Council and expressed her appreciation for staff and the clear direction they gave for this process. The vacation of this easement will allow them to better utilize and enjoy their back yard.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Reim closed public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

**Ordinance 18-24 – Amending EMC 3.35 “Fee Schedule and Charges for City Services”:** Each year the City increases its fees and charges by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI for 2018 was 3%. There was one adjustment that was greater than 3%, that being the Splash Zone Fees. These fees were raised 7.65% to account for the continuing voter approved minimum wage increases.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-24 Amending EMC 3.35 “Fee Schedule and Charges for City Services”. (m/s Coe/Moore) Motion carried.

**Ordinance 18-25 – Supplementary Appropriations for 2018:** This Supplemental Appropriations balances our budget to the end of the year and authorizes those unanticipated expenses throughout the year and are balanced by unbudgeted revenues.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-25 amending the 2018 Budget. (m/s Kooy/Mora) Motion carried.

**Ordinance 18-26 – Extinguishment of Easement, Lot 14 Highland Estates:** Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-26 vacating a portion of a Public Utility Easement. (m/s Kooy/Millard) Motion carried.

**Ordinance 18-28 – Amending Cryptocurrency Moratorium (Ordinance 18-13):** In October, 2018, Council passed a temporary ban on new cryptocurrency operations. Crago gave a brief staff report. Staff realized there was a significant flaw in our ordinance and has modified our moratorium to include a temporarily ban on “high-intensity computer operations” that create 24/7 industrial noise and require massive electrical service. The city’s concerns are on the impacts to the community, not what the computers are being used for.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 18-28 amending the Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining Operations. (m/s Mora/Millard) Council discussion ensued, motion carried.

**Amending Commercial Parking Requirements – Direction to Planning Commission:** Council discussion ensued and some concerns were expressed. Consensus was that it’s a good idea to put the parking requirements in the businesses court and to provide a Code that functions with the town we have not the one we wish we had.

Council directed staff to forward the elimination of commercial parking requirements to the Planning Commission.

**Authorize Administration to renew Agreement with Grant County Health District:** Motion to authorize Administration to renew agreement with Grant County Health District. (m/s Moore/Kooy) Motion carried.

**Authorize Administration to enter Bi-Annual Agreement with CDSI for Sanitation Services:** Crago reported that this is CDSI’s bi-annual rate increase by the average CPI for the last two years.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Bi-Annual Agreement with CDSI for Sanitation Services. (m/s Moore/Mora) Motion carried.

**Authorize Administration to enter Annual Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council:** Emily Smith, Business Recruitment Manager with EDC, addressed Council and reviewed some of the highlights they have been working on this past year. Smith also expressed EDC’s appreciation and support from the City.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Annual Agreement with Grant County Economic Development Council. (m/s Mora/Moore) Motion carried.

**Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Huntleigh Enterprises for Five-year Lease of Camera System & Monitoring Services:** Crago reported that this is a

new contract to provide 12 security cameras at critical facilities around the City. The cost of the lease includes all maintenance and upgrades.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Huntleigh Enterprises for five-year lease of Camera System & Monitoring Services. (m/s Kooy/Moore) Motion carried.

**Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Jesse Kriete for Three-year Farm Lease:** Crago reported that our lease with Jesse Kriete for farm land expires the end of December. The new lease is for 3 years and reflects a 7% increase per acre.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Jesse Kriete for three-year Farm Lease. (m/s Kooy/Moore) Motion carried.

**Authorize Administration to enter Settlement Agreement with Steven Hormel:** Crago reported that staff has been working with the Hormel's to resolve a utility billing dispute. This settlement agreement is the formal resolution.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Settlement Agreement with Steven Hormel. (m/s Moore/Millard) Motion carried.

**Approve Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Tourism Fund Allocations for 2019:** The LTAC met on November 8, 2019 to review grant applications for funding from the Stadium/Convention (Tourism) fund for 2019. The 2019 budget for committee appropriations was estimated at \$180,000.00. There were seven applications submitted and the Committee recommends funding the following:

- Chamber of Commerce - Promotion \$13,000
- City of Ephrata - Promotion \$14,000
- Columbia Basin Youth Baseball \$20,000
- Ephrata Chamber of Commerce – Sage N Sun \$14,000
- Ephrata Chamber of Commerce – Art/Wine Walk \$ 5,000
- Ephrata Chamber of Commerce – Car/Toy Show \$ 8,000
- Ephrata Chamber of Commerce – Miracle on Main Street \$ 4,000

Proposed 2019 Awards total \$78,000.00.

Motion to approve Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Tourism Fund Allocations for 2019 as presented. (m/s Mora/Moore) Motion carried.

**Cancellation of January 2, 2019 Council meeting:** Due to lack of agenda items, staff requests cancellation of the January 2, 2019 meeting. Motion to cancel the January 2, 2019 meeting. (m/s Millard/Moore) Motion carried.

**Confirm re-appointment of Tom Moncrief to Ephrata Planning Commission:** Motion to confirm Mayor Reims' re-appointment of Tom Moncrief to the Ephrata Planning Commission. (m/s Moore/Mora) Motion carried.

**Re-Appointment to Grant County Health District Board:** Motion to confirm Mayor Reims' re-appointment of Councilmember Wanke to the Grant County Health District Board. (m/s Millard/Kooy) Motion carried.

**Re-Appointment to Grant Transit Board:** Motion to re-appoint Mayor Reim to the Grant Transit Board. (m/s Moore/Millard) Motion carried.

**Re-Appointment to Economic Development Board:** Motion to confirm Mayor Reims' re-appointment of Mayor Pro-tem Coe to the Economic Development Board. (m/s Kooy/Moore) Motion carried.

**Re-Appointment to Grant County Disability Board:** Motion to confirm Mayor Reims' re-appointment of City Clerk Trachsler to the Grant County Disability Board. (m/s Moore/Kooy) Motion carried.

**Accept donation to Ephrata Police Department:** While the Police Department was in the middle of their Shop with a Cop event a citizen gave them a \$300 donation for the event. Motion to accept donation to the Ephrata Police Department. (m/s More/Moore) Motion carried.

**Direct staff to draft Resolution of Support for Grant County Sheriff's Office 0.3% Sales Tax for Public Safety:** Tabled

**Appointment of Sarah McDonnell to Council Position #1:** City received seven applications for Council Position #1. Committee met to review each application and unanimously nominated Sarah McDonnell to present to Council for appointment.

Motion to appoint Sarah McDonnell to Council Position #1. (m/s Mora/Moore) Motion carried.

**City Administrator Report:**

Swearing-In of Councilmember McDonnell: Crago introduced Sarah McDonnell and gave the oath of office.

Presentation to Councilmember Kooy: Councilmember Kooy was presented a plaque of appreciation by Mayor Reim.

Kooy commented that he has enjoyed his time on the Council and has appreciated the support from staff and Council.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk