



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 16, 2019

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on January 16, 2019. 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, Valli Millard, Sarah McDonnell, 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 Captain Erik Koch, and City Clerk/Finance Director Leslie Trachsler.

Motion to excuse councilmember Mora. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Agenda: Agenda was amended adding Item 6 to Regular Session – Presentations: Dan Martell, Superintendent of Ephrata Public Schools; and removing Item 1 from Section VIII – 2018 Budget Report. Motion to approve amended agenda. (m/s Millard/Wanke) Motion carried.

Presentations: Dan Martell, Superintendent of Ephrata Public Schools addressed Council regarding the upcoming Vote for a \$27.89 million 20 year Bond Levy on February 12, 2019. The proposed Vote is divided into two propositions:

- Proposition 1 is an Educational Programs & Operations Levy. This levy replaces the otherwise known Operations and Maintenance Levy. It will fund co-curricular activities, security and technology needs, and add professional development and college classes in the high school. The maximum this levy can be is \$1.50/\$1000 assessed value.
- Proposition 2 is a 20 year Building Bond to improve safety & security, construct classrooms, add multi-purpose gymnasiums, relocate music stages/classrooms, enlarge cafeterias, office remodel, replace roofs, renovate PAC, remodel PAC gym for band/music and address other facility needs.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

- Claims #89492 through #89497 in the amount of \$1,693.51
- Payroll #46098 through #46119 in the amount of \$45,362.14
- Payroll Claims #89472 through #89491 in the amount of \$245,386.87
- Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$5,875.00
- Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$206,572.12
- Claims #89505 through #89543 and #89546 through #89581 in the amount of \$276,714.08 (claims #89544 & #89545 not issued, printer error)
- Manual Claims #86012019, 87012019, 88012019 and 89012019 in the amount of \$2,521.91
- Claims #89498 through #89504 in the amount of \$334.00
- EFT in the amount of \$23,101.84
- Claims #89582 through #89619 in the amount of \$195,817.41
- Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Council meeting
- Approval of Special Events:
 - Gran Fondo Ephrata – EHS area, March 17, 2019
 - Sage & Sun – Downtown/Basin Street, June 7-8, 2019

Grant County Health District Needle Exchange Program: Representatives from Grant County Health District, Theresa Adkinson, Laina Mitchell and Jill McCullough, addressed Council regarding the Needle Exchange Program being conducted in Moses Lake. They have a mobile unit that is open for 2 hours per week at the Moses Lake Food Bank. The primary focus is on transients in the Moses Lake area, but they have clients from all over Grant County and even the Tri-Cities area. Along with exchanging needles they also provide wound care kits, safe injection kits, condom distribution and Narcan education and distribution. In the short time they have been operating they have had a total of 250 client visits, exchanged over 11,329 needles and have had 16 reported lives saved with Narcan due to drug overdose. The program has a positive impact on curbing opioid addiction, and helps to mitigate against the spreading of communicable diseases. It keeps needles out of the parks, public restrooms and open school grounds. They encourage clients toward treatment and have partnered with Grant Integrated Services to get them the help they need.

Crago advised the he and Chief Warren have been working with the District to determine if there is a need in Ephrata for the Program and where one would be located.

Council questions and discussion ensued.

Public Hearing Resolution 19-980 – 2019 Update to Six-Year Street Plan: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 8:04 p.m. Crago reported that the Six-Year Street Plan is a listing of future street projects the City may consider. The Plan is required by State law

for eligibility for grant funding. The ranking is irrelevant but placement on the plan is critical.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Public Hearing Resolution 19-981 – 2019 Update to Capital Facilities Plan: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 8:05 p.m. Crago advised that the Capital Facilities Plan is a listing of long-range plans the City may consider in the future and list dates and funding sources. The Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is a required component by State law. Ranking by year is significant as it represents our best-case scenarios for funding.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Public Hearing Resolution 19-982 – 2019 Update to Three-Year TBD Plan: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 8:06 p.m. According to City Policy 10030, each January staff shall submit a Three-Year Plan to Council for public input and approval. The Plan represents input from citizens, roadway conditions, future grant availability and coordination with other projects in town. Crago advised that staff is working on a rating system for all the roads in Ephrata to help better prioritize the needs.

A revised plan was submitted showing an addition under new construction. The State DOT, with participation from the County and City, plan to install a round-a-bout at the intersection of State Hwy 282 and Dodson Road/A Street SE. State has scheduled an open house before next Council meeting and are asking the City to share \$10,000 of the project costs.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 8:20 p.m.

Public Hearing – High-Intensity Computer Operations Moratorium (Cryptocurrency Moratorium): Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 8:20 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report reviewing the history of the Moratorium. A temporary ban on new cryptocurrency operations was approved in October, 2018, it was later determined by staff it is nearly impossible to verify if 24/7 computer operation is engaged in “mining” or video processing. Staff then modified moratorium to temporarily ban “high-intensity computer operations” that create 24/7 industrial noise and require massive electrical service. The City’s concern is on the impact to the community, not what is happening inside the computers. Per Ordinance 18-28, a public hearing must be held to get public input on the moratorium.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed public hearing at 8:22 p.m.

Resolution 19-980 – 2019 Update to Six-Year Street Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 19-980 – 2019 Update to Six-Year Street Plan. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Motion carried.

Resolution 19-981 – 2019 Update to Capital Facilities Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 19-981 – 2019 Update to Capital Facilities Plan. (m/s Allstot/Wanke) Motion carried.

Resolution 19-982 – 2019 Update to Three-Year TBD Plan: Motion to approve and accept Resolution 19-982 – 2019 Update to Three-Year TBD Plan. (m/s Wanke /McDonnell) Motion carried.

Discussion – Dogs in Ephrata: Citizen Ronnie Thorp requested to address Council to raise awareness, on the parts of dog owners, regarding the noise of dogs barking. Mr. Thorp was unable to make tonight's meeting. Crago advised that dog complaints continue to rank within the top 4 complaint calls to MACC dispatch.

Accept 1st Avenue Sidewalk Project as Complete: This project has been completed and now requires a formal acceptance by Council.

Motion to approve and accept the 1st Avenue Sidewalk Project as complete. (m/s Moore/Wanke) Motion carried.

Direct Staff to prepare Permanent High-Intensity Computer Operations

Regulations: Following public hearing Council should direct staff regarding permanent regulations. Crago explained that the City's philosophy has been neutral-supportive toward high-intensity computer businesses in industrial zones, but negative regarding their use in commercial or residential areas.

Motion to directed staff to prepare Ordinance for Permanent High-Intensity Computer Operations Regulations adopting both findings of facts and a work plan on the subject of this interim official control and either justify its continued imposition or cancelation and limit operations to airport industrial zones. (m/s Allstot/McDonnell) Council discussion ensued, five yea, one nay, motion carried.

Farallon Consulting 2019 Scope of Work Approval: Farallon Consulting is the City's new Environmental Engineering Consulting Firm on the Grant County Landfill Remediation. Each year we require they submit a scope of work and cost estimate. This cost is reimbursed by our former insurance carrier, CNA.

Motion to approve Farallon Consulting's 2019 Scope of Work and cost estimate of \$77,150.00. (m/s McDonnell/Wanke) Motion carried.

2019 Bill Schedule and Audit Committee: Informational – this schedule outlines when each Councilmember is scheduled to review that month's bills. In the event a councilmember is unable to make that meeting, please contact another member to cover your responsibilities.

2017 Audit Report: The State Auditors have completed the Financial Statement Audit and Accountability Audit for 2017. The report states there were no instances of

noncompliance, no uncorrected misstatements, no material misstatements and City operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations and its own policies and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

City Administrator Report: None at this time.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk