



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES September 18, 2019

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on September 18, 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 Tony Mora.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Jeremy Burns, City Attorney Anna Franz, Community Development Director Daniel Leavitt, 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 member Allstot. (m/s Mora/Wanke) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak. This meeting is not being recorded

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

Presentations: Tom Jones, Grant County Sheriff, presented to Council the County's Sales Tax Proposition 1. The County will be asking voters, on November 5th, to approve a 0.3% Law and Justice Sales Tax to fund a new jail and corrections facility. This tax would be distributed 60% to the County and 40% proportionately by population to all law enforcement agencies in Grant County. Sheriff Jones requested Council support for Proposition 1.

Council addressed many of their concerns with Sheriff Jones:

- Will the tax yield be sufficient – They will only build what they can afford
- Where will the new facility be located – Assured it will remain in Ephrata
- Plans for old jail facility – Will be re-purposed, there are many potential uses, all options are on the table
- Have they considered utilizing available space in other Counties – too cost prohibitive, do not have the budget to support

- Will detox and crisis rooms be included in the new facility – Plan to be able to address mental health and drug detox issues and utilize mental health professionals from Chelan
- Goal for officer-to-population – anything over 1.18/1000
- What happens when bond is paid off – no sunset clause, voters can petition the Commissioners to have a vote to withdraw, anticipate bond at 30 years, facility will be built for future expansion
- Time frame for a new facility to be up and operational – best case would be 3 years
- Discussion on sales tax versus property tax – Sales tax is spread over a larger population base, felt it was more fair

Council thanked Sheriff Jones for his presentation and work on addressing this issue.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

- Claims #90719 through #90788 in the amount of \$352,133.48
- Manual Check #91082019 in the amount of \$82.97
- Manual Checks #86092019, 87092019, 88092019 and 89092019 in the amount of \$3,525.22
- Claims #90715 through #90718 in the amount of \$7,646.45
- VOIDED check #90448 in the amount of (\$4,000.00)
- VOIDED check #90508 in the amount of (\$3,478.21)
- Minutes of the September 04, 2019 Council meeting
- Accept the 8th Avenue Overlay Project as complete
- Approval of Special Event Applications:
 - Homecoming Bonfire – EHS Fast pitch/Soccer Complex, October 16, 2019
 - Homecoming Fireworks – EHS JV Baseball Field, October 18, 2019

Public Hearing - 2020 Budget Goals & Objectives: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:41 p.m. Fire Chief Burns reviewed the revised Goals & Objectives for the 2020 Budget as follows:

1. Continue to improve Public Safety
2. Improve Public Works Response and Improve Quality at Facilities
3. Continue to Slowly Grow Reserves to Targets
4. Continue to hire the Best and Most Qualified Individuals for Long-Term Employment
5. Continue to Reward and Promote Efficiency in all Departments

There being no public comments, Mayor closed public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

State Auditor Report on Ephrata’s Finance and Legal Compliance for 2018: The State Auditor’s Office has completed their 2018 audit of the City for Legal Compliance and Financial Statements. Report issued on Accountability stated in part “...City operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.” Financial Statement Compliance report states “The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported ...” and “... during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control ...”

Discussion on Draft Resolution 19-983 – Supporting Grant County Proposition 1: Motion was made to draft resolution in support of Grant County Proposition 1. (m/s Millard/Wanke) Council discussion ensued with concern expressed over the long-term impact of the tax and is the tax the right mechanism to fund the jail. Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

2019 Budget Report: Chief Burns reported that revenues are 7.75% below budget and expenses are 11% below budget.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk