



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 2019

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on October 16, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Reim and adjourned to executive session to evaluate qualifications for applicant or employee (RCW 42.30.110(1)g) and discuss litigation or potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)i) 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, 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 Daniel Leavitt, 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 Council member Mora. (m/s Allstot/Millard) 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: Theresa Atkinson, Administrator for Grant County Health District addressed Council. She reviewed the following:

- Grant County Health Board
 - consist of 9 members from locally elected/appointed officials representing city governments in Grant County
 - enforce local, state and federal laws and regulations
- Divisions
 - Administrative Services
 - Environmental Health
 - Healthy Communities
 - Community Public Health
- Goals

- Professional delivery of mandated services
- Increase internal effectiveness and efficiencies
- Develop partnerships to promote public health throughout Grant County
- Build a culture of unity
- Agency Priorities
 - Advocate for public health funding at State level
 - Modernize food program fee schedule
 - Seek State funding for a Regional Epidemiologist
 - Assist communities in addressing hard health issues

She also address the District funding sources of which local contributions represent 11.3% and are used for Outbreaks, Communicable Disease Program, STD Program and Environmental Health Services.

The District is asking the City to once again consider funding at \$2 per resident for the upcoming year.

Council discussion ensued regarding funding sources; fee schedule keeping up with growth in the county; use of flexible dollars; vaping issues and education on vaping hazards.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

- Claims #90849 through #90901 in the amount of \$193,751.98
- Manual Claims #86102019, 87102019, 88102019 and 89102019 in the amount of \$2,770.10
- Claims #90847 and #90848 in the amount of \$136.31
- Electronic Fund Transfer in the amount of \$21,290.93
- Minutes of the October 2, 2019 Council meeting
- Set Public Hearing for November 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for Ordinance 19-07 – Ad Valorem Taxes
- Approval of Special Event Applications:
 - Wine & Art Walk – October 26, 2019, Downtown Area
 - Trunk-or-Treat – October 31, 2019, Rotary Parking Lot (in conjunction with downtown activities)
 - Veterans Day Parade – November 11, 2019, ERC Area, Basin & C Street SW

Initiative 976 impact of Ephrata: Crago informed Council that we are watching this initiative very closely which will make all car tabs \$30 and will effect Transportation Benefit Districts. Those TBD's that imposed a voter approved sales tax option will be unaffected by this initiative. Essentially, this will have no effect on the City, however,

any referendum that effects the Transportation Board funding has the potential to create a trickle-down effect.

Flu Shot Clinic – October 17, 2019: Columbia Basin Hospital will be conducting a Flu Shot Clinic on Thursday October 17, 2019 at City Hall. This clinic is for employees, volunteer fire fighters, Council members and spouses beginning at 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Ordinance 19-06 Amending EMC 1.04 “Penalty”: This ordinance adjusts the C-Penalties downwards to make allowances for the PSEA Fees that are added onto the penalty. Crago gave a brief staff report commenting that our revenue structure is such that penalties are not a significant revenue source. The City does not retain any monies for moving violations. Our philosophy of government is to obtain compliance not to generate revenue from fines and penalties.

Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 19-06 Amending EMC 1.04 “Penalty”. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Council discussion ensued, Motion carried.

City Administrator Report:

2019 Budget Report: Overall expenses are 2.5% above budget and revenue is 6.5% above – somewhat abnormal. General fund cash balance has increased significantly and sales tax has set another all-time record. There is a lot of economic activity. However, Crago cautioned that this reserve will be banked and not counted on as a new trend moving forward. We will remain cautiously optimistic.

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

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk