



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 04, 2019

City Council of the City of Ephrata, Grant County Washington met in regular session on December 04, 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) for approximately thirty minutes. At 6:57 p.m. it was announced that executive session would continue for another five minutes.

Executive session adjourned, no decisions were made or action taken. Meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Reim, Mayor Pro Tem William Coe, Council members Mark Wanke, Matt Moore, Sarah McDonnell, Tony Mora, and Kathleen Allstot.

Staff Present: City Administrator Wes Crago, 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 Millard. (m/s Allstot/Moore) Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

No public signed up to speak.

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

Presentations: The Parkway Lego Robotics Team gave a presentation to Council on their project. They are scheduled to go to competition on December 14th in East Wenatchee. They discussed the Core Values of the team – discovery, inclusion, teamwork, innovation impact and fun. Their moto - “Kind words are the greatest and our team knows how to show”.

The project they selected was “Going Green” – how to cut the use of fossil fuels. Ideas they discussed to limit the use of fossil fuels was to promote the use of solar power; composting; heated roads to melt the snow so the snow plows wouldn’t be needed.

As a result of Council questions the team discussed that they would use solar panels to heat the roads or maybe use hot springs/geothermal wells to heat pipes in the roads.

Council commended the Team on their presentation and wished them “good luck” at the competition.

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

Items on the consent agenda are as follows:

Claims #91087 through #91116 in the amount of \$76,065.23
Payroll Check #46549 through #46567 in the amount of \$33,471.33
Payroll Claims #91068 through #91086 in the amount of \$221,106.04
Payroll Direct Debit in the amount of \$5,625.00
Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$168,014.87
Claims #91060 through #91067 in the amount of \$4,854.17
Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Council meeting

Grant County Economic Development Council Report: Council member Coe gave a brief EDC report. They are participating in a Recon Convention for retailers which is a good opportunity to promote Grant County. There is a big push for Hemp – growing and manufacturing. Hemp contains a very minimal amount of THC and has a wide variety of uses; electrical characteristics to food products. EDC continues to provide a wide variety of resources and tools to small businesses. The EDC is expecting the next year to be busy.

Additionally, Council member Coe has been appointed to be the President of the Grant County EDC Board for the coming year.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 19-08 City of Ephrata 2020 Budget: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:26 p.m. Crago gave a brief staff report. This is the 2nd public hearing on the 2020 Budget. There were no significant changes from the previous hearing. The grant from TIB for Division Street Resurface Project was not impacted by the passage of Initiative 976.

There being no public comment, Mayor closed hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Public Hearing on 2020-2030 Sewer System Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Reim opened public hearing at 7:33 p.m. This is the first of three public hearings. Crago reviewed the 2020-2030 Sewer Comprehensive Plan which addresses some much needed upgrades to the sewer collection and treatment system. The comp plan outlines roughly \$3.1-million of needed improvements to the collection system, and \$3.9-million of improvements to the treatment facility. In 2018, the City initiated the funding process by applying for a 20-year, 2% interest, \$6.97-million loan with the Department of Ecology.

The “Executive Document” presented to Council is a summary of the Plan; it executes Council’s direction in implementing those improvements and the corresponding rate increases to repay the loan. The proposal is to increase rates by \$1 for 5 years – 2021-2025.

There was no public comment; Council discussion ensued. Mayor closed hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Ordinance 19-08 – City of Ephrata 2020 Budget: Motion to approve and accept Ordinance 19-08 adopting the 2020 Budget for the City of Ephrata. (m/s Moore/Allstot) Motion carried.

City Hall closure for Training and Staff Luncheon – Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Crago advised Council that staff will be holding their bi-annual training and awards lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17th. City Hall will be closed during this time. Staff also would like to invite Council to join us as our guests.

Authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant PUD for Pole Sharing: Crago reported that in order to install new security cameras on existing power poles and/or light poles, it is necessary to have a user agreement for such placement.

Motion to authorize Administration to enter Agreement with Grant PUD for Pole Sharing. (m/s Mora/McDonnell) Council discussion regarding where the cameras will be placed. Motion carried.

Accept \$250 donation to Ephrata Parks and Recreation Scholarships: City Parks and Recreation is in receipt of a donation for \$250.00 to be used for program scholarships.

Motion to accept donation for \$250.00. (m/s Moore/Wanke) Motion carried.

Approve amended Policy 3090 “Work Hours, Pay Rates and Leaves”: Crago reported that in this policy longevity pay is tied to the Public Works contract. Earlier this year, that contract was re-negotiated with an increase from \$16/year of service to \$18/year of service.

Motion to approve and accept amended Policy 3090 “Work Hours, Pay Rates and Leaves”. (m/s Wanke/McDonnell) Motion carried.

City Administrator Report: None at this time.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Bruce Reim, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leslie Trachsler, City Clerk