

ELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 1, 2021

6:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the March 1, 2021 City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Diana Easton called roll with Jim Sorensen, Josh Collette, Mike Cooper, Tom Boling, David Blackett, Pat Miller, and Attorney Rick Hughes present.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Request - Approval of minutes February 1, 2021. Approval of Claims January 31, 2021 #55703-#55706(Check #55707-#55718 voided) and #55719-#55743 in the amount of \$185,758.67 and February, 2021 #55744-#55810 in the total amount of \$107,753.80.

Approval of payroll January, 2021 #43226-#43260 in the amount of \$185,658.51. Pat Miller made a motion to approve the consent calendar seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

CHERYL HEYWOOD-TIMBERLAND LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Mayor Sorensen introduced Cheryl Heywood for the Timberland Library presentation. Cheryl Heywood gave a Timberland Library presentation on projects called access control and expanded access hours. Cheryl Heywood requested permission from the City of Elma to install key card access controls for library patrons and city staff and a door counter camera. TRL would pay for security inside the building which would cost approximately \$50,000 dollars. There were discussions regarding new cameras being installed on the outside of the building and Cheryl Heywood recommended that if the City of Elma wanted to install new cameras on the outside of the library they should install them at the same time cameras are being installed on the inside because it would be cheaper. Cheryl Heywood explained to council how the access cards would allow access to library card holders when the library is closed and the staff is not present. The access hours for the library would be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week for patrons 18 years old or older, meaning patrons can access before the library opens and after it closes. Council had discussions on this topic. Tom Boling expressed his concerns about liability when there would be no supervision on sight and is not in favor of having any city owned building open unsupervised. Council had discussions regarding this topic. Josh Collette asked if TRL would be responsible if someone contracted a communicable disease. Cheryl Heywood said they would only offer this option after the pandemic. **Pat Miller made a motion for expanded access hours for the library seconded by Mike Cooper.** Council had further discussions on

this topic. **Tom Boling voted against and all other council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

EMILY DILLINGHAM-SUMMIT PACIFIC DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT- DISCUSS OPPORTUNITES FOR THE COUNTY

Mayor Sorensen introduced Emily Dillingham-Summit Pacific Medical Director of Foundations & Community Development to discuss opportunities for the County. Emily Dillingham discussed the second annual Tour De Harbor on June 12, 2021.

ELMA PARK BOARD-REQUEST FUNDING UP TO \$10,000.00-PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FOR FLIPPING THE FIELDS

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion in regards to request funding up to \$10,000.00 for the preliminary engineering for flipping park fields. Josh Collette informed council that the Elma Park Board would like to have the preliminary engineering on the practicality and the costs of flipping the fields. The funding would come from the real estate excise tax. Mike Cooper expressed his support for preliminary engineering. **Tom Boling made a motion to fund up to \$10,000.00 from the real estate excise tax on the preliminary engineering for flipping the fields, and Mike Cooper seconded.** Council had more discussions regarding this topic. **All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

MAYOR SORENSEN -10 YEAR PROJECTION FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Mayor Sorensen opened discussions regarding a 10-year projection for revenue and expenditures. Council had discussions regarding this topic. Mayor Sorensen informed council that Josh Collette would like to have further discussions on this topic with the finance committee. Josh Collette reiterated that he wants to have these discussions with the finance committee so they can refine these projections and have more accurate numbers. Mayor Sorensen informed council that they are working on a Brownsfield Grant through COG and that may give the city relief with taking down the theater.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks-Josh Collette informed council the Parks Board will be meeting next week. They will also be reviewing Parks Board applications.

Tourism-David Blackett had nothing to report. Mayor Sorensen wants to see the new signs and requested an update. David Blackett will get back with him on an update in a couple of weeks.

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STAFF REPORTS

Diana Easton informed council the new website is up and running and she still needs pictures of some council members to put on the new website.

Chief Boling reported to council that he will be flying a couple people over to Spokane, WA to pick up the new fire truck and drive it back once he gets a tool layout plan.

Chief Boling also informed council that they applied for SBCA grant with regional departments, and if they get the grant, they would get \$160,000.00 for about a \$16,000.00 match that he has in his budget. Chief Boling also gave council an annexation update and that the Boundary Review Board has approved the annexation and there were no protests, so there will now be a campaign to get the word out to the public about the annexation.

Chief Boling also informed council that there was an incident with an RV exploding in a trailer park while they were out on another call.

Rick Hughes informed council they can have public meetings at 25% capacity as long as protocols are followed. Council had discussions on this topic.

Chief Shultz reported to council that their service calls will probably go beyond 6000. The Elma PD had an officer respond to the RV explosion and can report that the couple are recovering slowly.

Chief Shultz reported that the State vs. Blake decision has made it so officers cannot arrest someone carrying a small amount of illegal drugs on them. Chief Shultz instructed her officers to address drug use and is very concerned about the decision.

Chief Shultz also informed council they are looking into the death of a young woman and they hope to give a report back at the next meeting.

Dee Depoe Thanked Mayor and council for their continued support of the library. Dee Depoe informed council that they have partnered with Summit Pacific and will be having a story trail. The library will be reopening again March 16, 2021.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Josh Collette requested a follow up on the Chamber of Commerce lease agreement and Mayor Sorensen said they would have to get Attorney Hughes up-to-date so they can move forward with the agreement. Diana Easton will get some information to Mr. Hughes regarding the Chamber of Commerce lease agreement. Mr. Collette wanted to know where the city stands on re-opening the parks. Mayor Sorensen said they are having a meeting later in the week regarding this topic. Mr. Collette stated he would like to establish a working relationship with the new owners of the railroad, and also updated council on a meeting he attended regarding City Action Days.

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Tom Boling inquired about the locks being installed on the park bathrooms. Jim Starks informed council that the locks are scheduled for installation next Tuesday.

Tom Boling asked Jim Starks about the 18th street sidewalks.

Tom Boling stated he would like to see department heads use the water bills as a platform to educate the citizens on city codes etc. Tom Boling also stated he would like to see a map of where the city is going to plow for snow on the City's website.

Mike Cooper gave a shout out to the Elma Fire Department and Fire District #5 for a job well done handling two fires in one night. Mike Cooper also expressed his concerns about the inability of EMS crews to deliver patients to Summit Pacific Hospital due to cut-backs on Summit staffing. Mayor Sorensen is concerned as well and will be talking about this subject with Josh Martin from Summit Pacific during a scheduled call. Mike Cooper would like to schedule a meeting with the Public Safety Committee to discuss the police reform legislation.

Pat Miller expressed that the reason the city is plowing roads is that they are trying to keep the roads cleared for emergency vehicles and save people's lives.

EXECUTIVE SESSION LITIGATION – RCW-42.30.110(1)(i) & RCW-42.30.110(1)(g)

Mayor Sorensen called for an executive session to discuss litigation RCW 42-30.110(1)(i) for 15 minutes unless the time is extended, and RCW-42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. Executive session began at 7:27 p.m. and Mayor and council returned at 7:42 p.m. and requested another 5 minutes for executive session at 7:42 p.m. Mayor and council returned from executive session at 7:47 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:48p.m.

Next meeting will be on March 15, 2021 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Cooper made a motion to adjourn seconded by Pat Miller. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Sorensen – Mayor

Diana Easton – City Clerk/Treasurer

