

ELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2021

6:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the May 17, 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, David Blackett, Pat Miller, and Attorney Rick Hughes present.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Approval of minutes May 3, 2021. Josh Collette made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar seconded by David Blackett. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

REQUEST WITHDRAWAL OF ORDINANCE #1196 FIRE ENGINE FUNDING THROUGH STATE-(NEED MOTION THAT ORD. #1196 RELATING TO STATE FUNDING FOR THE NEW FIRE TRUCK BE WITHDRAWN AND NOT PUBLISHED BY THE CITY)

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding request withdrawal of Ordinance #1196 fire engine funding through state-(Need motion that Ord. #1196 relating to state funding for the new fire truck be withdrawn and not published by the City). **David Blackett made a motion to withdrawal Ordinance #1196 seconded by Josh Collette. All council member voted in favor. Motion carried.**

JIM STARKS-REQUEST MOVING THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 6 YEAR STREET PLAN TO THE JUNE 21, 2021 MEETING

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding Jim Starks request moving the Public Hearing for the 6-year Street Plan to the June 21, 2021 meeting. **David Blackett made a motion to move the 6-year Street Plan to the June 21, 2021 meeting seconded by Pat Miller.**

GHC-NEEDS A PRO/CON COMMITTEE FOR THE POLICE LEVY & STATEMENTS FROM EACH SIDE OF THE BALLOT MEASURE FOR A VOTER'S PAMPHLET (2 OR 3 PEOPLE EACH SIDE)

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding GHC-Needs a pro/con committee for the police levy & statements from each side of the ballot measure for a voter's pamphlet (2 or 3 people

each side. **Mike Cooper made a motion to allow the Mayor to appoint pro/con members who are not city employees seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

BID AWARD-LIFT STATION

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding Bid Award- at the 11th Street Lift Station. Jim Starks discussed the bids and stated Rognlins bid was the least expensive. **David Blackett made a motion to award the Lift Station to Rognlins with a limited permit seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works-Jim Starks discussed the meeting he attended regarding the Brownsfield Grant. Jim Starks recommended a phase 2 environmental test. Council had discussions regarding this topic. **Josh Collette made a motion for Mayor Sorensen to meet with the real estate agent and ask for an extension seconded by Mike Cooper. David Blackett asked about the building costing more and losing out on it. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Tourism-David Blackett inquired about the “Welcome to Elma” signs. Jim Starks replied everything has been sent back.

STAFF REPORTS

Jim Starks- Both job descriptions have gone into the newspaper. Jim Starks also reported they have been running the rental sweeper. Mayor Sorensen requested that Jim Starks inquire about the annexation of the school and give an update at the next meeting. Pat Miller inquired about the 11th Street project would begin and Jim Starks said it would be about 2 months. Tom Boling inquired about the status of the theatre. Mayor Sorensen informed council that he has spoken to Attorney Chris Coker about the theater and they are moving forward with the settlement process.

Chief Boling-Informed council the Fire Department will be hosting a ‘Demo Day.’ Chief Boling also updated council on the Fire Department annexation. Chief Boling updated council on the ballot for the commissioners which will be in the primary elections. Mayor Sorensen informed council that he is reducing the property tax levy to \$125,000.00 and Diana Easton is working on it.

Attorney Rick Hughes-Informed council they will probably be able to meet in person again in July or by the end of summer. Mayor Sorensen discussed mask policies with council.

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Chief Schultz-Informed council that the police department has been dealing with people in mental health crisis and are in talks with Summit Pacific regarding this issue.

Dee Depoe-Reported to council the Story Trail has been put up at Summit Pacific. She also mentioned that the library will adhere to the current L&I policies regarding COVID-19.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Pat Miller-Thanked Jim Starks for getting the rental machine. Pat Miller doesn't think we should close the parks.

Mike Cooper-Questioned when the Senior Center will be opening back up. Mayor Sorensen informed council that he had a discussion with Craig DeBlanco about the Senior Centers and Mr. DeBlanco said the Senior Centers will be the last thing to open up. Mike Cooper also would like to see City council form a Capital Facilities Committee. Council had discussions regarding this topic. **Mike Cooper made a motion for council to form a Capital Facilities Committee made up of two city council members seconded by Josh Collette. All council members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Council will make a decision on who will be on the committee at the next council meeting.**

Tom Boling asked the Mayor if he had the authority to negotiate someone's starting wage when they have experience. Mayor Sorensen said he would probably have to have a discussion with the union, but thought he might have some room to negotiate wages. Tom Boling also announced that he does not plan on running again for position #3.

Josh Collette informed council that he was approached by someone who thought that it would be a good idea to have a historic museum established in Elma in honor of Marcella Rattie who has passed away. Council had a discussion regarding this topic.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen informed council that he got an email from a concerned citizen regarding speeding in town. Mayor Sorensen would like to implore people to follow the speed limits. Council had discussions regarding this topic. Tom Boling expressed his concern about delivery trucks that are parked in the middle of main street and that is a safety concern that you can't see any pedestrians around the trucks. Chief Shultz will visit the businesses and ask them to have the delivery trucks park further back from the crosswalks. Tom Boling suggested solar powered speed signs that tell you what your speed is. Council had further discussions regarding this topic. Mayor Sorensen would like to see Dynamic Crosswalks that light up when there are pedestrians in the crosswalks.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mike Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Josh Collette. All council members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next council meeting will be June 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Work session meeting for May 24, 2021 has been cancelled.

Jim Sorensen – Mayor

Diana Easton – City Clerk/Treasurer