

ELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 26, 2021

6:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the July 26, 2021 City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mayor Sorensen was present and called roll, Josh Collette, Mike Cooper, David Blackett, Pat Miller, and Attorney Rick Hughes present.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Approval of minutes June 21, 2021. Approval of Claims #56124-#56136 in the amount of \$25760.40 and Claims of #56137-#56197 in the amount of \$115,062.89. Payroll for July #43401-43440 in the amount of \$228,220.09. Pat Miller made a motion to approve the consent calendar seconded by David Blackett. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Lori Hanson inquired about the annexation of the baseball parks. Jim Starks informed Ms. Hanson that the earliest would be in August when the Boundary Review Board meets, but was not guaranteed. Council had discussions regarding this topic.

INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF OFFICER SARAH COX

Mayor Sorensen introduced Chief Shultz for the introduction of Officer Sarah Cox. Mayor Sorensen swore in Officer Sarah Cox. Mayor Sorensen welcomed Officer Sarah Cox to the City of Elma.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY AT 316 W YOUNG

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussions regarding approval of purchase agreement for the property at 316 W Young. Council had discussions regarding this topic. **David Blackett made a motion to enter into the purchase agreement for the property at 316 W Young in the amount of \$566,218.27, with a leeway of \$500.00 and gave Mayor Sorensen authorization to sign the closing papers seconded by Josh Collette. Council members David Blackett, Josh Collette, Pat Miller and Tom Boling voted in favor. Mike Cooper opposed. Motion carried.**

REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES BY MAYOR SORENSEN

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding reimbursement of expenses incurred. Total cost of expenses is \$238.88 for taxi service to help a person in crisis. Council had discussions regarding this topic. **Mike Cooper made a motion to reimburse Mayor Sorensen for \$238.88 seconded by Josh Collette. David Blackett, Josh Collette, Tom Boling, and Mike Cooper voted in favor. Pat Miller opposed. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO FIRE MOUNTAIN FARMS FOR BIOSOLIDS REMOVAL PROJECT

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding approval of payment to Fire Mountain Farms for biosolids removal. Jim Starks made a request to pay Fire Mountain Farms for biosolids removal project. **David Blackett made a motion to approve \$33,158.67 for the biosolids application removal seconded by Tom Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW POLICE POLICIES

Mayor Sorensen opened discussions regarding review and approval of new police policies. Mayor Sorensen thanked Chief Shultz for putting in the time to re-write the new polices. **Pat Miller made a motion to approve the new policies seconded by Mike Cooper per discussion.** Council had discussions regarding this topic. **All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works-Jim Starks informed council they are in the process of getting a committee together regarding the Brownsfield grant for the area wide planning component.

Public Safety-Mike Cooper informed council that Chief Shultz has been doing a good job at keeping them informed with the new policy changes and has responded by email to Chief Shultz regarding that topic. Mike Cooper does not feel they need to have a public safety meeting regarding the topic of cars being modified to sound like rapid gun fire and feels the new policy regarding this matter are ready for council.

Tourism-Jim Starks and Chief Shultz reported to council that the Welcome to Elma signs are in production.

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STAFF REPORTS

Jim Starks reported to council that the roofing RFP are just about done as well as the sidewalks and street repairs and hopefully have approvals in a couple of weeks. The downtown area wide planning is going to be pretty involved and as the chapters become available, he will send them out to council. Jim Starks would like council to look them over and send back any questions or comments to either himself or Joe Chrystal and hopefully it will be in full swing in September and be completed right around the first of the year.

Chief Boling informed council they are still working on the fire transition. Fire District #5 will take over payments on the new fire truck. A burn ban is in effect. Chief Boling also informed council they are working on a name change and new logo as well.

Rick Hughes informed council he will be following up on the new noise ordinance with Chief Shultz.

Chief Shultz informed council that there has been a rash of vehicle prowls and that the victims had left the vehicles unlocked with valuables in them. Chief Shultz has put out a public announcement that you cannot leave your doors unlocked anymore. Chief Shultz also informed council that Eddie the Eagle will be attending the signing with Mayor Sorensen on August 2, 2021.

Joe Chrystal informed council that Mr. Martin has started his project out at the Pepsi plant which is a storage unit facility and dog park. Mike Cooper inquired about the sandwich shop. Joe Chrystal replied that there has not been any paperwork coming through regarding the sandwich shop.

Dee Depot informed council that the library is fully open. Thanked Jim Starks for making sure the staff did not get stung by hornets.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mike Cooper thanked the Youth Little League baseball team and would like to give them a recognition at the next council meeting. Mike Cooper wanted to share with council his recent vacation pictures to show different parking options that little towns have done.

Tom Boling asked where the City was on theatre. Mayor Sorensen replied that the City had just taken ownership of the theatre and can now start moving forward with removing it.

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David Blackett inquired about the ballots that came August 3, 2021.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen informed council that the G.H. Transit board voted to have fares for free in Grays Harbor County. Mayor Sorensen thanked council members for giving him the authority to sign for the purchase of the new building. Mayor Sorensen reminded everyone that Heat on the Street starts Friday with a street dance as well. Mayor Sorensen also informed council that Saturday morning there will be a dedication ceremony for the Visitor's Station in honor of David Osgood. Mayor Sorensen also informed council that he sent out an email that they have hired Wendy Collins to fill the City Clerk/Treasurer's position.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next council meeting will be August 16, 2021

Jim Sorensen – Mayor

Wendy Collins – City Clerk/Treasurer