

ELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2022
6:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the December 6, 2021 City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Wendy Collins called roll. Mayor Sorensen, Josh Collette, Mike Cooper, John Heater, Pat Miller, and Attorney Rick Hughes present.

Mayor Sorensen and council took a moment of silence in remembrance of Council Member Jim Taylor.

Mayor Sorensen closed the regular council meeting and opened the public hearing meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Sorensen opened the public hearing meeting regarding the annexation of the Elma School District property. Mayor Sorensen gave a little background on the annexation. There was some discussion regarding Buswell Rd. Hearing no response from the public or council Mayor Sorensen closed the public meeting and reopened the regular council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fire Chief Fulbright informed council that he would attend council meetings once a month.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Approval of consent calendar December 6, 2021 December 13, 2021. Approval of Claims November Handwrites: \$68,366.19 December Monthly: \$556,073.56 Approval of Payroll December 31, 2021 \$157,616.71 Pat Miller made a motion to approve the consent calendar seconded by Josh Collette. Mayor Sorensen stated that newly elected council member John Heater will abstain from any voting on bills regarding his business due to a conflict of interest. Josh Collette, Pat Miller in favor, Mike Cooper raised his hand in approval of the motion. John Heater abstained. Motion carried.

LAURIE BREMER-ADDRESS DOUBLE BILLING FOR ONE WATER MAIN

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding Laurie Bremer's address of double billing for one water main. Laurie Bremer addressed council regarding her concerns about one building with two businesses each receiving a bill. Council had discussions regarding this matter and further information will be forth coming.

PUBLIC SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Sorensen and new council members decided that they did not want to have ceremonial swearing in on zoom. Both new council members were sworn in at City Hall. Mayor Sorensen and council agreed to instead approve a new mayor pro-tem. John Heater made a motion to appoint Pat Miller as Mayor pro-tem seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding filling the council seat left behind by the passing of council member Jim Taylor. Council had discussions regarding this matter. Mayor Sorensen requested a special committee with at least two council members to handle the task of interviewing all applicants who apply. **Josh Collette made a motion to solicit for applicants for position #2 with all the interested applicants being interviewed and be evaluated based on the criteria determined by a committee of the council seconded by Mike Cooper. Council had further discussions. Josh Collette amended his motion to include that application deadline by February 28, 2022. Council had further discussions. All council members voted I favor. Motion carried.** Committee members will be Mike Cooper and John Heater. Mike Cooper is the chair of the committee. Wendy Collins will join as a staff member.

XPRESS BILL PAY AGREEMENT

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion on the Xpress bill pay agreement. Wendy Collins gave a brief explanation of Xpress bill pay. **Josh Collette made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign the agreement with Xpress Bill Pay seconded by Pat Miller. Council had discussions regarding this subject. All council member voted in favor. Motion carried.**

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF MONTESANO FOR IT SERVICES

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Montesano for IT services. Council had discussions regarding this matter. **Josh Collette made a motion to execute the Interlocal Agreement with Montesano seconded by Mike Cooper. Rick Hughes discussed with council that there were a few blanks that needed to be filled in for the Interlocal Agreement. Wendy Collins informed council the rates that will be charged is \$41.50/hour plus travel reimbursement per the state reimbursement rate. Josh Collette amended his motion to fill in the blanks. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

WATER SERVICE APPLICATION-20 NEWMAN CREEK RD.

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding the water service application for 20 Newman Creek Rd. Jim Starks requested approval from council regarding the application for 20 Newman Creek Rd. Council had discussions regarding this matter. **Pat Miller made a motion to approve the service to 20 Newman Creek Rd. seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE

Mayor Sorensen opened the discussion regarding the Annexation Ordinance, if approved will Ordinance #1204. **Mike Cooper made a motion to approve Ordinance No 1204 seconded by Josh Collette. Roll call was taken. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tourism-Mayor Sorensen requested that they hold off until they can get a 5th council member in place to fill the committee positions. John Heater volunteered to be on the tourism board.

Parks-Josh Collette informed council they will be meeting in February.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Shultz-Informed council that the Elma PD had a leak in the building. Chief informed council there was a mishap on ice with one of the police vehicles. Chief informed council that they ended 2021 with 6000 calls, about 1000 more than last year.

Wendy Collins-Informed council that City Hall is moving forward with new software.

Chief Fulbright-Thanked firefighters and county commissioners through the annexation process. Chief Fulbright is asking the citizens to vote. Chief Fulbright gave updates to council.

Mike Cooper inquired whether people had my little libraries in their yards. Dee Depoe informed council that Summit Pacific had a little library.

Elma Chamber-Gave council updates on the Elma signs.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Josh Collette welcomed John Heater to the council. He also thanked the Fire Dept. and the EMS for all of their hard work. Thanked the public works crew for their hard work during the rough weather.

John Heater- Congratulated Pat Miller for the Mayor pro-tem appt.

Mike Cooper-Thanked Deputy Chief Tyson Boling for his service to the citizens of Elma as the Fire Chief. Mike Cooper scheduled a meeting that he cannot get out of for the 18th of January meeting and asked to be excused. Mayor Sorensen requested that the next council meeting be moved to January 19, 2022 because of conflicting schedules. Mayor and council agreed to have the next council meeting on January 20, 2022. **Josh Collette made a motion to move the regular council meeting to January 20, 2022 seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen thanked the public works department and the first responders during the snowy weather. Mayor requested using salt on the icy streets.

Next Meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. January 20, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jim Sorensen – Mayor

Wendy Collins – City Clerk/Treasurer