

ELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2023
6:00 P.M. In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the February 21, 2023, City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Wendy Collins called roll. Present were Mayor Sorensen, Josh Collette, John Heater, Pat Miller, Bethany Whipple-Boling, and Mike Cooper.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: February 21, 2023

Approval of Minutes: February 6, 2023

Approval of Accounts Payable for February 2023 in the amount of \$461,691.20 including ETF'S and handwrites.

Pat Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - FUNDING OPTIONS FOR YOUNG STREET BUILDING

Mayor Sorensen opened discussion regarding the funding for the remodel of the Young St. building. Mayor Sorensen mentioned that the city could borrow all of the necessary money, or we could borrow some of the money and use the rest out of REET funds (Real Estate Excise Tax). Josh Collette reported that he would prefer to not use REET funds in case those funds are needed elsewhere. Mike Cooper recommended borrowing approximately \$250,000.00 for the same reason as Councilmember Collette. John Heater is not opposed to borrowing but does not want to be hit with all of the interest. Bethany Whipple-Boling reported that we are still responsible for finishing the fire department's roof and need to keep that factor in mind. Pat Miller is against borrowing if possible.

Josh Collette made a motion to set renovation budget at \$750,000.00, with \$250,000.00 funded through a loan and \$500,000.00 funded from the budgeted amount for the project and the remainder from current expense fund balance, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS-APPROVAL OF 4 NEW PUD MOUNTED STREET LIGHTS

Jim Starks reported that after installation costs, it would be less than \$800.00 a year to fund these new lights.

Pat Miller made a motion to approve the 4 new PUD mounted street lights at Schouweiler Road & E Schouweiler Tracts Road, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS - BODY CAMERAS

Chief Shultz reported the body cameras will be live on March 23rd. There will be a demonstration of the cameras at a future council meeting or a work session.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS -THEATER DEMO

Jim Starks reported a cost estimate is currently being worked on. There is no time estimate.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS -10th STREET PARK MAINTENANCE

Jim Starks mentioned that a T-111 batting cage was ordered for the 10th St Park, and the steel door estimate is being conducted. Security camera options are still being worked on.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS - STREET LIGHTING

Jim Starks reported there is discussion in the works regarding putting out an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the crosswalk lighting and upgrading of our streetlights, because the current company is being unresponsive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Public Works - Pat Miller reported we need to install a traffic circle at the Highway 12 interchange in order to qualify for grants for this project.

Public Safety-John Heater reported the committee met at City Hall to check out the security concerns and they agree it would be best to wait until Rock Project Management has a cost estimate for their plan before making any changes.

Capital Facilities -Mike Cooper reported that if he can find it, he would like to forward an email from Rock Project Management that demonstrates exactly how their process works.

Legislative -Mike Cooper reported he and councilperson Bethany Whipple-Boling spent a day in Olympia attending a legislative conference chatting with some of our political representatives. Bethany Whipple-Boling will provide a one-page hand out that she prepared, which lists what is going on in Elma.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - TEAMSTERS NEGOTIATIONS

Mayor Sorensen reported the negotiation committee met, but they are not quite ready to bring a proposal to council. The council will have a closed session at the next meeting to review the proposal.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Building Official - Joe Chrystal reported Grocery Outlet is in the process of getting permits and they hope to break ground in the spring, if not earlier. Arby's has a few small things to complete before opening their doors.

Elma Timberland Library - Dee Depoe reported the library had a full house during a recent book signing. The library also hosted a parents' night for "Elevate East County", and it went very well.

Elma Chamber of Commerce - Jillanna Bickford reported that donations and sponsorships are being gathered.

OBLIGATION OF MAIN & HIGHWAY 12 INTERCHANGE

Jim Starks reported that Washington State's Department of Transportation will require that our new road design will have to be a round-about or a traffic circle to qualify for funds. We were awarded \$165,000.00 in federal dollars.

Josh Collette made a motion to obligate up to \$200,000.00 for the design of Main St & Highway 12 Interchange and authorized Mayor Sorensen to sign all related documents, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen reported that we need to expand the recruitment for finding a Deputy Public Works Director. He plans to use some of the vacant positions salary dollars to pay for an online posting on Indeed or other site to get more visibility. Mayor Sorensen also reported that he will be spending one more year as the chair of Grays Harbor Council of Governments.

The next Work Session will be Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The next Council Meeting will be Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Josh Collette made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

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Jim Sorensen - Mayor

Wendy Collins
Wendy Collins - City Clerk/Treasurer