



Elma City Council Meeting

April 03, 2023

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the April 03, 2023, City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: April 03, 2023

Approval of Minutes: March 20, 2023

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

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Sorensen called for a 10-minute Closed Session at 6:03 pm to discuss union negotiations.

At 6:13 p.m. Mayor Sorensen ended the Closed Session and resumed the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - GRAYS HARBOR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Mayor Sorensen mentioned that this agreement is important to be able to start working with Grays Harbor County on chip-seal projects.

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign the Grays Harbor Interlocal Agreement, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - TEAMSTERS UNION CONTRACT

Mike Cooper made a motion for council to ratify the 3-year Teamsters Union Contract and authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign the contract, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Historically, councilmembers have decided to go with one meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month during the months of June, July, and August, with the ability for Mayor Sorensen to call special meetings if necessary. Pat Miller would like to stick to this traditional summer schedule. Bethany Whipple-Boling mentioned that summers can get busy, and it might be nice to keep going with 2 meetings a month. To compromise, Bethany Whipple-Boling suggested keeping 2 meetings for June and going to one a month for July and August.

Mike Cooper made a motion to have 2 meetings in June and only 1 meeting on the 3rd Monday for July and August, with the ability for Mayor Sorensen to call special meetings, seconded by

The City of Elma Council reserves the right to take action on any item placed on the agenda regardless of the manner in which it is stated.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation is Provided Upon Request.

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La ciudad de Elma es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades y el empleador.

Bethany Whipple-Boling, Mike Cooper, Bethany Whipple-Boling, and Josh Collette voted in favor. Pat Miller and John Heater voted against. Motion carried 3-2.

NEW BUSINESS - RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Mayor Sorensen reported that we aren't getting any qualified applicants for the Deputy Public Works Director, so we need to hire a recruitment consultant. He would like to go without an RFQ (request for quote) to speed up the process. Mike Cooper mentioned that Prothman stands out and is based in Washington, so he highly recommends them. The council reiterated how important it is for the city to find a replacement person for Jim Starks as he will retire soon.

Mike Cooper made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to spend up to \$30,000.00 to hire a recruitment consultant to find a Deputy Public Works Director, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS - POLICE LEVY FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

Mayor Sorensen stated that primary election is in August. If so adopted, this would be Resolution #707. It was moved by Josh Collette to adopt Resolution #707, A RESOLUTION DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF ELMA OF A PROPOSITION TO BE VOTED ON THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST 2023, TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MORE ADEQUATELY FUNDING THE POLICE DEPTMENT, seconded by Pat Miller. All council members voted in favor. Resolution #707 adopted 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS - POLICE LEVY FOR GENERAL ELECTION

If so adopted, this would be Resolution #708.

It was moved by Josh Collette to adopt Resolution #708, A RESOLUTION DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF ELMA OF A PROPOSITION TO BE VOTED ON THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023, TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MORE ADEQUATELY FUNDING THE POLICE DEPTMENT, seconded by Pat Miller. All council members voted in favor. Resolution #708 adopted 5-0.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS - BODY CAMERAS

Mayor Sorensen reported that we are having some trouble with the internet connection for the body cameras, and we are waiting for a solution to this issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Public Works - Pat Miller and Josh Collette met to talk about many topics including the theater demo, street lighting, and a 6-year street plan. They reported that we need to get the theater demolition rolling, we're just waiting on some grants. They will be meeting on Thursday with Bernie from Rock Project Management to discuss parks. Chris Fry was invited to attend the meeting, as well.

Capital Facilities - Mike Cooper reported this committee has not yet met but will when Jim Starks returns from his vacation.

Legislative - Mike Cooper reported Representative Tharinger called to state that our request for \$50,000.00 for park planning is not yet in the budget but could be placed during their conference week.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce - Jillanna Bickford reported that the citizen of the year banquet is coming up in a few weeks. So far, there are 102 people signed up for "Enhance Elma" event. Lastly, Heat on the Street has a few participants signed up already.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Bernie O'Donnell -Reported that there will be a meeting on Friday, April 7th with Representative Derek Kilmer from 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM to tour the old and new police buildings as well as a media event. Bernie also mentioned that he is looking forward to his meeting with the Parks and Public Works committee to go over the 11 projects on the 6-year Capital Facilities plan.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen reported how excited he will be to have recognition from Mr. Kilmer in our small town. A large portion of this funding for the new police building is coming from Maria Cantwell's office and Mayor Sorensen is happy to have some of the federal money coming back into our community.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Bethany Whipple-Boling -Reported about an email the council received regarding the potholes on 16th Street. She has driven on the street herself and it has gotten increasingly worse. She hates to see certain projects having a negative impact on other areas of the city, such as our streets. Grays Harbor County has a chip seal program that we could utilize for a few of our worst streets.

John Heater - Reported that the street sweeper does have a schedule now. It travels on Main Street early in the mornings on Wednesdays before many businesses open, that way they can get all the left-over debris on the streets from the winter months.

Mike Cooper - Reported that he also sees potholes everywhere and we must address the crumbling infrastructure. From Martin Street to 3rd Street is starting to crack from water. We could investigate "Safe Streets" funding.

Josh Collette - Reported last summer we painted parking stalls on the 300th block of Main Street and he was hoping we could continue with more of those stalls by the Dollar Tree and Dennis Company. ADA parking spots could potentially be added to Main Street.

NEXT MEETING

The next Work Session will be Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The next Council Meeting will be Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:04 pm, John Heater made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh Collette. All council **members** - **Motion carried 5-0.**

Jim Sorensen, Mayor

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Wendy Coins, Clerk-Treasurer