



# Elma City Council Meeting

April 17, 2023

## Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

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### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the April 17, 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, Bethany Whipple-Boling, Pat Miller, and Mike Cooper.

### PRESENTATION – PORT OF GRAYS HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Kayla Dunlap, the Director of Government & Public Affairs with the Port of Grays Harbor, presented the ports plan to accommodate for upcoming community growth by installing updates to modernize the facility. Larry Sorensen, the General Manager of the Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad, shared their plans within the city of Elma, including adding a mainline siding and automate two switches. This addition should reduce the blocked intersections in the community. Alissa Shay, the General Manager of the Satsop Business Park, presented their plans to expand and utilize all the ports buildings. In the springtime, they will fix the erosion on Haul Road that is occurring along the 42" water line. They also have intentions of producing green hydrogen by the year 2026.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: April 17, 2023

Approval of Minutes: April 3, 2023

Approval of Accounts Payable for April 2023 including EFTs in the amount of \$151,273.08, which includes an invoice for Andy's Auto Parts in the amount of \$476.28

**Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Josh Colette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

### NEW BUSINESS – REQUEST COUNCIL TO RESCIND LOCAL LOAN

Mayor Sorensen asked the council members to rescind the LOCAL Loan they voted in favor of a couple months ago for the police station remodel because we are hoping to get a grant with Derek Kilmer. The Congressman mentioned that the project won't be able to be started until well into 2024. The grant is awaiting approval for December 2023 but grant money will not be dispersed until around May of 2024, so this LOCAL Loan is not necessary at this time.

**Mike Cooper made a motion to rescind the LOCAL Loan for Young St property, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

### NEW BUSINESS – ELMA ARTS COMMISSION UPDATE

Laurie Bremer was not present to give an update on the Elma Arts Commission.

### **NEW BUSINESS – AWC LONG TERM DISABILITY & BASIC LIFE INSURANCE**

Mayor Sorensen reported that with one of our employees being out of work for a long period of time, it makes sense to investigate the employee benefits that are offered. The Long-Term Disability and Basic Life Insurance plans through AWC would cost less while giving double the benefit amount for the life insurance plan. The police currently have a long-term disability plan. Mike Cooper mentioned that this benefit could really help an employee who ends up in an unexpected medical situation.

**Mike Cooper made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign an updated Master Participation Agreement to include life insurance for all employees and long-term disability plan for non-police employees, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **OUTSTANDING ITEMS – CROSSWALK UPGRADES**

Mike Cooper asked if the crosswalk upgrades could potentially qualify for “Safe Streets” and be able to get some federal funding through them, Jim Starks believes this project would qualify for that.

### **OUTSTANDING ITEMS – THEATER DEMOLISHION**

Jim Starks mentioned that our application has been forwarded to the Department of Ecology.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Parks and Public Works – Josh Collette reported that Parks met with Bernie from Rock Project Management, and they had a good meeting. Cliff Heckard, the citizen’s park board President, wanted to introduce himself as the voice of our community members.

Public Safety – Josh Collette said they are working on an Ordinance regarding camping.

Finance – Bethany Whipple-Boling reported the committee discussed the city having a minimum fund balance, and the committee suggested having 2 months’ worth of available funds to keep the city up and running in the event of an emergency. This committee would also like to investigate buying our police vehicles instead of leasing them because it could potentially save the city money. The committee noted that the city council needs to plan for what steps they would have to take if the police levy does not pass.

Capital Facilities – Mike Cooper reported that this committee has not met yet, but they need to have a meeting about the group that is interested in purchasing a piece of city property.

Legislative – Mike Cooper reported they are waiting for session to be over and to hear about our grant application. The meeting with Derek Kilmer was highly informative.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Clerk-Treasurer – Wendy Collins stated that the required annual ARPA reporting has been completed.

Public Works Director – Jim Starks reported on a temporary building official to work for the city while Joe is out. Our hope is to use the same firm that the city of McCleary uses to come in regularly. This would be approximately \$85.00 an hour.

### **OTHER STAFF REPORTS**

Librarian – Dee Depoe reported that the library’s expanded access has been open for about a month and at least thirty people in our community have utilized these new hours of operation.

Chamber of Commerce – Jillanna Bickford reported that the citizen of the year banquet is coming up. Enhance Elma is taking place on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and this includes a lunch provided by Mike Koontz at the Bethany Baptist Church.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Sorensen reported that he believes we have a wonderful chance at getting this grant from Derek Kilmer to get our emergency operations center going.

### **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Bethany Whipple-Boling – Reported that the local Indian Treatment Center would like to partner with the city in any kind of capacity and they invited the city to take a tour of their facility. Secondly, a citizen that lives near the park reached out to her, with photos, that someone was dumping trash into the city's dumpsters. This citizen also has concerns about physical fighting and other foolishness that has taken place at the park so Bethany would love to have additional patrols at our parks to keep them safe.

Mike Cooper – Reported that he has been around awhile and the fact that a congressperson spent 2 hours with our staff is very impressive and we should feel special.

Josh Collette – Reported on a Parent's Night Out event that took place, where they talked about drugs and our children. This is an exceedingly important topic to discuss especially with the new drugs that have come out. Secondly, he would like to give kudos to Jim Starks for going above, and beyond, during the building official's absence.

### **NEW BUSINESS – CANCEL WORK SESSION FOR MONDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>**

There is no agenda for next week's scheduled work session so the council can cancel the meeting.

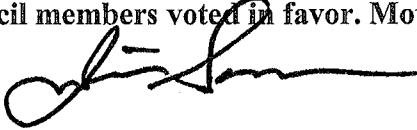
**Josh Collette made a motion to cancel the May 29, 2023, Work Session, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **NEXT MEETING**

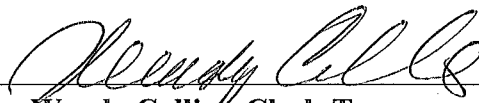
The next Council Meeting will be Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:28 pm, Josh Collette made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**



Jim Sorensen, Mayor



Wendy Collins, Clerk-Treasurer