



Elma City Council Meeting

May 1, 2023

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the May 1, 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, Pat Miller, John Heater, Bethany Whipple-Boling, and Mike Cooper.

PRESENTATION FROM ADAM FULBRIGHT FOR FIREFIGHTER SERVICE RECOGNITION

Chief Adam Fulbright wanted to recognize a few of the Fire Department's volunteers for their outstanding service. The firefighters being recognized are those who served the city of Elma before the annexation with Fire District #5 occurred. Chief Fulbright mentioned that this job is not an easy task, and these folks were willing to give up their time to give back to their community. The required training and skill set can take anywhere from 500 - 1000 hours as well as having to be L&I compliant. The first recognition went to Chief Tyson Boling, who put in 15-years of service. The second recognition went to retired Captain Josh Collette, who served our community for 10-years. The final recognition went to Firefighter Dave Furtwangler, who had an astonishing 29-years of service as a volunteer firefighter. Mayor Sorensen also gave recognition to Chief Fulbright for his 30-years of service and dedication as a firefighter and now as Chief in our community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: May 1, 2023

Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2023

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

NEW BUSINESS – COUNCIL RETREAT AGENDA

Bethany Whipple-Boling reported that a few council members are unable to make the scheduled council retreat on May 13, 2023, so it would be best to reschedule it. Councilmember Whipple-Boling will create a poll and send it out to pick a new date for retreat.

NEW BUSINESS – GMP CONSULTANTS RECRUITMENT PROPOSAL

Mayor Jim Sorensen reported that he reached out to 2 different consultants and GMP got back to him very fast with a proposal. The mayor met with John Heater and Mike Cooper and came up with a recommendation.

Mike Cooper made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign a contract with GMP consultants for the purpose of recruiting a Deputy Public Works Director, seconded by Pat Miller. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

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.

The City of Elma is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

NEW BUSINESS – RON WOODMAN – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR A CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RUN

Pat Miller questioned if the city should close the necessary streets down during the times of this event and set up a detour route for safety purposes. Mike Cooper and Mayor Sorensen expressed their concerns for the local businesses if they were to close the streets down, because it would cause limited access to their store fronts. The Council decided to shut down only the turn lanes for the event.

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the special event permit for the charity motorcycle run, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – BHC CONSULTANTS AGREEMENT

Jim Starks reported that the consultant charges an hourly rate. This will be an interim situation until we can get the contract signed. This is the same firm that City of McCleary uses for their building official operations.

Josh Collette made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign a contract with BHC Consultants, seconded by Pat Miller. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – WWTP CULVERT PROJECT DESIGN CONTRACT

Jim Starks reported that we need these design services to do our FEMA project at the wastewater treatment plant driveway, where the culverts failed last year. The City of Elma received 3 RFQ's (request for qualifications) and decided to go with Ayres & Associates because he is local to the area.

Josh Collette made a motion to authorize Mayor Sorensen to sign the contract with Ayres & Associates for the design work for the culvert at the WWTP, seconded by John Heater. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS – BERNIE O'DONNELL – CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN PROGRESS

Bernie O'Donnell reported Rock Project Management has been meeting with many people including the Legislative Committee, Capital Facilities Committee, Parks Board Committee, Timberland Library, Senior Center, and Chamber of Commerce. They would also like to meet with staff from little league, Elma High School, Summit Pacific Medical Center, and the food bank to chat about their facilities. Once all the meetings are completed, there will be a six-year plan drafted that will insure we get the biggest bang for our buck. The final documented plans will be given to the City of Elma by the 31st of May. Lisa Conret with Rock Project Management reported that they have assessed 25 properties and have 99 different projects in mind for our city.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – BODY CAMERAS

Mayor Sorensen commented on how we are having issues with the body cameras not working with our internet service provider and it is causing delays in getting the program running.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – STREET LIGHTING/CROSSWALK UPGRADES

Mike Cooper reported some federal grants have upcoming deadlines that the city might be interested in applying for that would help with our updates in street lighting and upgrades for our crosswalks. Councilmember Cooper mentioned that the school district and the hospital need better and safer crosswalks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Public Works – Pat Miller reported this committee met and talked about the upcoming WWTP culvert project. Josh Collette stated an 11-year-old boy from our community recently passed away and his family reached out to the mayor and asked about getting a memorial bench placed at the park to honor the young boy. He believes that we should set up a policy or create guidelines for how the city should address memorial requests for families.

Legislative – Mike Cooper reported while we did not get direct appropriation, with the help of Representative Tharinger, they did increase the RCO grant amounts. This allowed the City of Elma to be selected to receive \$50,000.00 while Summit Pacific Medical Center will be receiving \$20,000.00. The 10th St Park planning will begin soon. Money is not available until July 1st and it cannot be used in reimbursement form.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director – Jim Starks mentioned that Grocery Outlet will be breaking ground next week and the sign foundation for 3rd Street will be poured very soon. There was a Shoreline Master Plan public hearing, and all information will be sent to council in hope of being adopted by June.

City Attorney – Chris Coker stated that he would like the agreement with the fire department sent to him so he can go over the details. Chief Fulbright recalls that the city was going to be responsible for the roof over the living quarters, but any other maintenance or roofing repairs are the sole responsibility of the fire district.

Fire Chief – Adam Fulbright reported in the month of April, the fire department had 153 alarms, 106 of those were EMS, and 47 of those were fire responses. Their average response time from dispatch to arrival is about 6.5 minutes and response time from alarm to arrival is approximately 7.5 minutes. Turn out time is around 3 minutes 10 seconds, and they would love to get that down to 2 minutes. Their department has 3 new volunteers being evaluated now and they've hired 1 new full-time person. They recently signed an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Montesano to use their IT Tech, Sean.

Chamber of Commerce – Jillanna Bickford reported, the citizen banquet went great, many citizens were recognized. Enhance Elma had a good turnout, even considering the rainy weather. There was approximately 1,500 pounds of trash collected. The Chamber of Commerce will be opening on the weekends soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen reported that last week he went to the Economic Development stake holder's meeting, they would like to start a multi-county economic development district and strategy plan. He was also very pleased to see the new speed bumps installed.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Josh Collette reported that Chief Shultz will be having a parent's night out event at Summit Pacific Medical Center. The topic will be "How to talk to your children about drugs."


NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be Monday, May 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

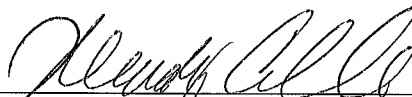
The next Work Session will be Monday, May 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:26 pm, Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Miller. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.



Jim Sorensen, Mayor



Wendy Collins, Clerk-Treasurer