



Elma City Council Meeting

July 17, 2023

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the July 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, and Bethany Whipple-Boling. Pat Miller and Mike Cooper were absent.

Josh Collette made a motion to excuse councilmembers Mike Cooper and Pat Miller from the meeting, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Sorensen had agenda items to add to the meeting under "New Business." If approved, the first thing to add is special event permit for The Arc of Grays Harbor and the second thing is to add the Elma Little League sendoff acknowledgement.

Josh Collette made a motion to add these items to the consent agenda, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: July 17, 2023

Approval of Minutes: June 20, 2023

Approval of June 2023 Treasurer's Report

Approval of Accounts Payable for July 2023, checks 47437-47486, including EFTs in the amount of \$155,712.96. Andy's Auto Parts & Service in the amount of \$83.74. Total Accounts Payable including Andy's Auto Parts & Service is in the amount of \$155,796.70

Approval of June 2023 Payroll, checks 47470-47485, including EFTs in the amount of \$231,563.84

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – INTRODUCTION OF FIRE CHIEF KENNY WARD

Chief Shultz is pleased to introduce the new Fire Chief, Kenny Ward. Kenny reported that he believes Chief Shultz and himself will make a great team working together. He comes to us from Kansas, and he is glad to be the new chief for East Grays Harbor Fire & Rescue.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – 2023 VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

John Heater made a motion to approve the 2023 Veteran's Day Parade Special Permit, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – 2023 HEAT ON THE STREET DANCE & CAR SHOW

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to approve the 2023 Heat on the Street Dance & Car Show Special Permit, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – 2023 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the 2023 Nation Night Out Community Celebration Special Permit, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – OLD HIPPIES CHARITY RIDE WITH REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to approve the Old Hippies Charity Ride Special Permit with request for fee waiver, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – OUTSIDE WATER UTILITY APPLICATION – 158 CEDARWOOD DR

Jim Starks reported that this was a Weyerhaeuser property that had been logged about 15-years ago. Jim mentioned that we have the water to be able to go out there, but more than likely they will choose to get their water through a well.

John Heater made a motion to approve the outside water utility application for 158 Cedarwood Drive, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – ARC OF GRAYS HARBOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR AUGUST 14TH

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to approve the Arc of Grays Harbor's Ice Cream Social Special Permit on August 14th, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

Bethany Whipple-Boling mentioned that the Arc of Grays Harbor was requesting to get a fee waiver for their event application.

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to reconsider the Arc of Grays Harbor's special event permit so they can include the fee waiver, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to approve the Arc of Grays Harbor's Ice Cream Social Special Permit for August 14th with a fee waiver, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – ELMA LITTLE LEAGUE SENDOFF

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the Elma Little League Sendoff Special Permit, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS – NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PROCLAMATION

Mayor Sorensen informed the council that if so approved, this would be Proclamation #2023-1.

Josh Collette made a motion to approve National Night Out Proclamation #2023-1, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion adopted 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS – MEMORIAL PARK BENCHES

Bethany Whipple-Boling asked about the pricing guidelines and Josh Collette reported that the pricing guidelines can be changed after approval, if necessary. The policy that Josh was working from did not account for the maintenance costs for the benches over their life expectancy and that's where the uncertainty of the overall costs comes from. John Heater asked about the location of the benches, which can also be changed or updated as we move forward.

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the Memorial in Public Places Policy, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – BODY CAMERAS

Chief Shultz reported the body cameras are getting closer to working properly. She has been working with Silverlink but still does not want to sign a contract that would trap them in a plan for many years to come. Also, the cameras are not talking/corresponding with the cars like they should be. Chief Shultz said the footage is very clear though.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – THEATER DEMOLITION

Jim Starks mentioned that he is waiting on a loan grant package from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Ecology. Combination loan grant package should be back to the city very shortly and a special meeting will be scheduled for the council to consider approval of the loan package. They also are very cautiously coming up with a demolition plan as the building is coated in dangerous asbestos materials.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – ARPA PROJECTS

Jim Starks mentioned that he is waiting for the confirmation on the pedestrian crossing lines. He hopes to have more updates at the special meeting for the demolition of the theater.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – 10TH STREET PARK MAINTANANCE

Jim Starks reported that there is a possibility that by the end of the month they can get started on the replacement of the siding and a possible fence replacement from the tree damage along the railroad tracks. Josh Collette reported that Spody is interested in pressure washing and repainting a building at the park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Public Works – Josh Collette reported that the parks board met with Bernie from Rock Project Management so that he could share his report with the board. This extensive report will be brought to council in the August meeting.

Legislative – Bethany Whipple-Boling reported that on Tuesday, July 25th representative Tharinger will be coming to Elma to get a tour of the park, a daycare, and some of our railroad situations.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief – Susan Shultz did some digging and has come up with some mid-year statistics that range from January 1 - June 30. She reported that the Elma Police Department had 2,552 calls for service, of which only 297 were agency assists. They had 555 calls regarding crimes against persons, 305 crimes against property, and 438 calls involved drugs/alcohol. They conducted 470 traffic stops, with only 70 of those people receiving traffic tickets for crimes committed. They had 85 arrests, 9 felony crimes, and 76 misdemeanors. Within the last six months, office staff has helped 750 people. There were 92 firearm transfers, 43 CPL'S, and 117 fingerprints with background checks conducted. They have done all this work while being 2-people short.

Public Works Director – Jim Starks reported that they are doing the biosolids at the treatment plant and mentioned that there has been an odor in the air for a few days because of this.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Librarian – Dee Depoe reported that the Elma Timberland Library has been super busy lately due to their summer reading program. They are also doing a few outreach programs.

Chamber of Commerce – Jillanna Bickford reported that Heat on the Street has 168 cars registered thus far, with a lot of new folks signing up. 24 vendors have signed up so far. The Street Dance is free, and Jillanna is hoping the fair will bring more people to the event.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen would like to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Bethany Whipple-Boling for filling in for him for 2 meetings.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Josh Collette – Congratulated the Elma Little League team.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sorensen called for a 10-minute executive session at 6:39 p.m. to evaluate an employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

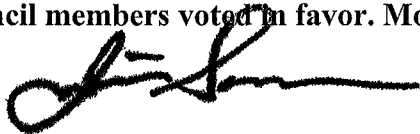
At 6:49 p.m. Mayor Sorensen ended the executive session and resumed regular meeting.

NEXT MEETING

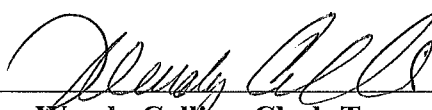
Next City Council Meeting, Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m., Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.



Jim Sorensen, Mayor



Wendy Collins, Clerk-Treasurer