



Elma City Council Meeting

October 16, 2023

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the October 16, 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, Mike Cooper, John Heater, Bethany Whipple-Boling, and Pat Miller.

MAYOR SORENSEN CLOSED THE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION AND OPENED A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

The public hearing is regarding the combined revenue sources for the 2024 budget.

AT 6:01 P.M. MAYOR SORENSEN CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

AT 6:01 P.M. MAYOR SORENSEN OPENED ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING MEETING.

This public hearing is regarding the property tax levy for collection in 2024.

AT 6:01 P.M. MAYOR SORENSEN CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REOPENED THE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION.

CITIZEN COMMENT

David Agredan - Introduced himself to the city council as a new member of the Chamber of Commerce.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: October 16, 2023.

Approval of Minutes: October 2, 2023

Approval of September 2023 Treasurer's Report

Approval of October 2023 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$124,521.81

Pat Miller 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 – EXEMPT & NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT

Wendy Collins mentioned that she spoke with the finance committee, and they updated this agreement to now include a market analysis every 2 years to ensure salaries are competitive with the current market. This agreement will also avoid compression by giving exempt and non-representative positions, which include, the Clerk-Treasurer, the Public Works Director, the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, and the Building Official an annual salary increase equal to the rate of the Teamsters Union contract and the Police Chief will receive the same COLA increase as the Fraternal Order of Police Union contract. An additional percentage increase above the COLA may be awarded to these employees if deemed by their supervisor or by the mayor.

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the Exempt & Non-Represented Employee Agreement, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES – 2024 AD VALOREM TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

If so adopted, this would be Ordinance #1212.

Josh Collette made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1212, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELMA, WASHINGTON, FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THEN ANNUAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX LEVY NECESSARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024: PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. MAKING FINDINGS; AND RESERVING RIGHTS, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Roll call taken in affirmation. Ordinance adopted 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS – RESOLUTION 711 NUMBER CORRECTION (CHANGE TO 712)

It was discovered that this resolution number was already used, and the correct number should have been Resolution #712.

Josh Collette made a motion to change Resolution #711 to Resolution #712, A RESOLUTION OF THE ELMA CITY COUNCIL FINDING THE EXISTANCE OF AN EMERGENCY AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS PURUANT TO RCW 39.04.280, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Resolution #712 adopted 5-0.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – BODY CAMERAS

Chief Shultz reported that on Thursday Motorola is coming to reconnect and reinstall all their equipment. They will also be retraining everyone. The Elma Police Department has had approximately 1 problem per week since the initial installation. If she is not pleased within the next 3 months, then she will be asking for a full refund.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – THEATER DEMO

Josh Collette mentioned that he would like the building to be more secure so people cannot enter the building. Mayor Sorensen added that there are a few families of feral cats in the building as well. Mike Cooper would like this outstanding item to be added to the work session for discussion to get a more comprehensive plan from Jim Starks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Public Works – Josh Collette reported that the next meeting for the Parks Board will be the 2nd or 3rd week in November. They hope to bring on 3 new members with the mayor's approval.

Culture & Recreation – Bethany Whipple-Boling reported that she met with the Chamber of Commerce to go over the budget for 2024 and they are just waiting for John Heater's signature.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer – Wendy Collins would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to work with us, including the council and mayor, the chamber, fire department and the library as well as our attorney, Chris.

Public Works Director – Rick Eaton reported that he had a successful first day. He's learning everything he can from Jim Starks and is currently busy filling out a lot of paperwork. Mayor Sorensen mentioned that Rick came to us from the City of Centralia, he was their Wastewater Manager. We welcome him to our city.

Fire Chief – Kenny Ward mentioned that with 911, they are still under District #5 so there are some adjustments that still must be made. He gave council a report of their service calls in the month of September. Kenny reports that everything is going well.

Librarian – Dee Depoe reported that the Elma Timberland Library has signed up 10,000+ people for a library card. Dee has been eating lunch at the Elma Senior Center 2 times a week and once a month with the food bank and has been signing more and more people up every day.

Chamber of Commerce – Jillanna Bickford reported that she will miss working with Wendy. Next week, Jillanna gets to go to Yakima for a tourism conference. Fall Festival should have a good turnout. Winter Wine Festival is on January 20, 2024, with tickets on sale starting November 1st.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen requested that the city council allow him to have an additional \$500 to complete the Chair of Honor. The cost of brass has increased significantly, and we were quoted around \$800.00-\$900.00 for our brass plaque which would take up most of the original budget of \$1,000.00. Mayor Sorensen is hoping to dedicate The Chair of Honor on Veteran's Day.

Josh Collette made a motion to authorize the mayor to spend up to \$1,500.00 on the Chair of Honor with funds from the mayor's Discretionary Tourism fund, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Pat Miller – Welcomed Rick Eaton to our team and mentioned that we will miss Wendy and all her hard work and wished her luck.

Bethany Whipple-Boling – Reported that the potholes that the schools filled in are already becoming a problem again with the pick-up and drop-off line. She also thanked Wendy and welcomed Rick.

Josh Collette – Echoed everyone's good wishes. Also mentioned that on Saturday, November 4th the Blue Zone's will be having their kickoff event at Summit Pacific Medical Center from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and it would be great to have some city representation at the event.

Mike Cooper – Talked about how he appreciated all of Wendy's efforts during her time with us. Mike signed up with AWC to attend a workshop in Olympia, WA on November 14th that has to do with the new Public Works laws that are going to take effect in 2024.

AT 6:38 P.M. MAYOR JIM SORENSEN CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REVIEW PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER RCW 42.30.110(1)(G) AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION RCW 42.31.110(1)(G).

**THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 6:53 P.M. AND MAYOR JIM SORENSEN
RESUMED THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

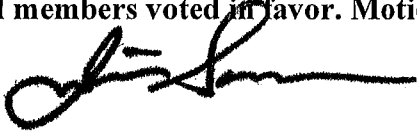
NEXT MEETING

The next Work Session will be Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

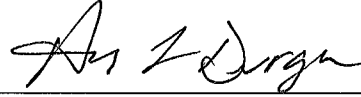
The next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 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

