



Elma City Council Meeting

November 6, 2023

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sorensen called the November 6, 2023, City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Amy Durga 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 preliminary 2024 budget.

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

CITIZEN COMMENT

Robert Bass – Suggested that the speed be changed from 35 MPH to 25 MPH down by the Elma Elementary School.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: November 6, 2023

Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2023

Approval of October 2023 Payroll Checks 59729-59741, including EFTs in the amount of \$219,940.07

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 – OFFICER BRYSON CRISP SWORN IN

Bryson Crisp graduated from Elma High School in 2016 and he attended South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) after high school. His family was in attendance with him tonight. Police Chief Shultz and Mayor Sorensen swore Bryson Crisp in.

NEW BUSINESS – FRIENDS OF THE ELMA LIBRARY REQUEST

Pat Miller made a motion to approve the request from the Friends of the Library to plant a heather garden on the corner of Young and 1st, seconded by Josh Collette. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE JIM STARKS TITLE TO PW SPECIAL PROJECTS

Rick Eaton has been hired as our new Public Works Director and Jim Starks' title will be changed to PW Special Projects. No action needed.

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 – LEMAY 2024 RATES

Josh Collette made a motion to approve the 2024 rates for Lemay, seconded by Pat Miller. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – 2024 BUDGET ITEMS

Amy Durga met with the finance committee to go over some budget items. Mayor Sorensen believes that the council may need to have 2 meetings in December. Mike Cooper would like to see the funds for Building Official and for Code Enforcement back into the budget. Mike Cooper also reported that he would like to see about having room in the budget for all police cruisers and city-owned buildings to get defibrillators.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – BODY CAMERAS

Chief Shultz reported that the police officers are wearing their body cameras and it's going good thus far. Motorola provided 3 days of reinstallation and reviewing of the cameras. Chief was happy with how the company handled this situation. A video will be provided for the council's viewings.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – THEATER DEMO

Rick Eaton mentioned that we are still working on the bid package for this project to figure out exactly how much this demolition is going to cost the city.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – 10TH STREET PARK MAINTENANCE

The City of Elma has received a \$50,000.00 grant through the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) for upgrades and maintenance at our 10th Street Park.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – STREET LIGHTING

Rick Eaton stated that RW Engineering came out for an evaluation and deemed 3rd St and Main St intersection deficient for appropriate street lighting. Mike Cooper wonders if ARPA funds could be used to achieve better illumination.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Public Works – Pat Miller reported on Public Works, they had a meeting where they discussed on-call engineering contracts. It was between SCJ Engineering and Gibbs & Olson, and both companies will be selected to complete works for the city. They also had discussions about demolishing the theater.

Finance – Bethany Whipple-Boling mentioned that they met for a meeting this morning and both she and Pat Miller are very pleased with the direction that Amy is going.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director – Rick Eaton reported that we received a TIB Red Town Initiative funding letter, and we can officially start spending money on the new design for our street restoration project. Also, we were awarded a \$100,000.00 grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for our parks. Lastly, the City of Elma was awarded \$261,000.00 with the Safe Streets For All grant.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sorensen reported that he went on a ride-along with one of our officers from the Elma Police Department. During this ride-along, they were called out to assess a hit and run. He was very impressed with how the officer handled all the protocols during this situation.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Bethany Whipple-Boling – Reported that Food Bowl is coming up, so she asks citizens to please be ready to donate money and food.

John Heater – Asked that all budget requests come in as soon as they can.

Josh Collette – Reported that he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony with the Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad. He also attended the dedication for the Abundant Life Church/Learning to Grow. Lastly, he was also in attendance at the Blue Zone's meeting.

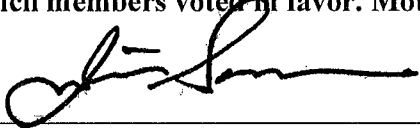
Mike Cooper – Stated that he would like to see the Public Safety committee take care of the speed limit issue brought up by Robert Bass during the citizen comments section of this meeting. Mike Cooper would also like to have a recommendation from the Public Safety committee on the Blake decision.

NEXT MEETING

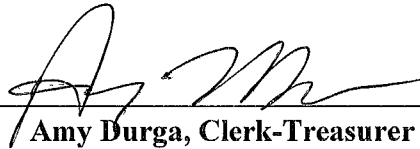
The next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:49 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



Amy Durga, Clerk-Treasurer