

Elma City Council Meeting

January 2, 2024

Minutes

In-Person Meeting with Zoom Option

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Collette called the January 2, 2024, City Council Meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Amy Durga called roll. Present were Mayor Collette, Mike Cooper, John Heater, Bethany Whipple-Boling, Jacob Borden, and Pat Miller.

MAYOR COLLETTE CLOSED THE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION AND OPENED A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING AT 6:01 P.M.

The public hearing is regarding the Six Year Street Plan – STIP Amendment.

AT 6:02 P.M. MAYOR COLLETTE CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REOPENED THE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION.

PRESENTATION

Oath of Office – Bethany Whipple-Boling, Council Position 2
Mike Cooper, Council Position 4
Jacob Borden, Council Position 5

Recognition - Mayor Jim Sorensen, Resolution #714 Recognition of Mayor Jim Sorensen
John Heater made a motion to adopt Resolution #714, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELMA IN APPRECIATION OF MAYOR JIM SORENSEN, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Resolution #714 adopted 5-0.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Arie Callaghan Elma, WA – Reported that he's having an issue with the railroad. He informs council that there has been changing of rail cars and honking of train horns late at night.

Steve Fox Elma, WA – Reported to council that he's got a neighbor who's living in a tent in their backyard. He is concerned for the elderly woman's safety.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda: January 2, 2024.

Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2023.

Approval of October 2023 and November 2023 Treasurers Report.

Approval of November Payroll in the amount of \$242,922.20.

Approval of Accounts Payable for December 2023, including EFTs, in the amount of \$147,436.28.

Andy's Auto Parts & Service in the amount of \$283.64 for a grand total of \$147,719.92.

Mike Cooper made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Bethany Whipple-Boling. All council members 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 – SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mike Cooper nominated Bethany-Whipple Boling. No other nominations were made.

Mike Cooper made a motion to nominate Bethany Whipple-Boling as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Josh Collette mentioned that each year, council gets to create and appoint some committees. John Heater would like to see less committees due to an overlap of some issues being involved in numerous committees last year. Mike Cooper submitted a suggestion for the committees and their appointments, he recommends 3 committees and groups each with a lead liaison.

Mike Cooper made a motion to create 3 committees titled; Finance and Capital Projects, Community Services, and Public Safety, seconded by John Heater. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

John Heater would like to be on the Public Safety committee and be the chamber's liaison. Pat Miller would like to be on the Community Services committee. Mike Cooper would like to be on the Finance and Capital Projects committee. Jacob Borden would like to be on the Public Safety committee and be the Fire District's liaison. Bethany Whipple-Boling would like the Finance and Capital Projects as well as the Community Services committee.

Jacob Borden made a motion to appoint Bethany Whipple-Boling and Mike Cooper to the Finance and Capital Projects committee, Pat Miller and Bethany Whipple-Boling to the Community Services committee, and lastly, himself and John Heater to the Public Safety committee, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES – RESOLUTION #715 – STIP AMENDMENT

If so adopted, this would be Resolution #715.

Pat Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution #715, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN UPDATED SIX-YEAR STREET PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ELMA, SUPERCEDING RESOLUTION #709, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, seconded by Mike Cooper. All council members voted in favor. Resolution #715 adopted 5-0.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – THEATER DEMO

Rick Eaton reported that he would like to get a request for proposal (RFP) so that council has a better understanding of the costs. There should be more information for this project coming in February.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – 10TH STREET PARK MAINTENANCE

Public Works Director, Rick Eaton mentioned that Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is currently constructing an agreement for the City of Elma.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – STREET LIGHTING

Rick Eaton met with the consultants that took some readings of our light levels. From there, they will formulate a plan that will improve our street lighting. Rick stated that more than likely, extra lighting poles will need to be installed.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS – GARAGE DOOR ON VISITOR'S CENTER

Public Works Director, Rick Eaton mentioned that he got some new bids for the garage door on the Chamber of Commerce. He was quoted \$18,000.00 to \$19,000.00 for a single door. Also, as John Heater requested, he is also working on getting a bid for a double door. Rick stated that he believes it would be approximately \$2,500 more and would require more work to the structure of the building to be suitable for double doors. Pat Miller and Mike Cooper would like to stick to the Visitor's Center having one garage door due to it being more functionable.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer – Amy Durga reported that she ran the ending balances, and they did come out being very close to the projected beginning balances.

Public Works Director – Rick Eaton stated that this morning, the City of Elma received an application from someone who is qualified to be a Building Official so that's good news. We are also looking at other options and have a meeting set up with Townzen & Associates, Inc. from Olympia, WA to see what kind of consultant services they could provide to us.

City Attorney – Chris Coker introduced Lisa Wood, an associate at his firm, to the council.

Chamber of Commerce – Jillanna reported that they are up to 18 or 19 wine vendors for the Winter Wine Festival with pre-sale ticket sales being through the roof compared to last year.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Pat Miller – Congratulated all returning council members and welcomed the new one.

Bethany Whipple-Boling – Echoed Pat's sentiments. Also gives a job well-done to the police officers in attendance at the meeting for their most recent drug bust.

Mike Cooper – Reported that he is looking forward to an exciting 2024. He congratulated Mayor Collette. Mike mentioned that he would like to sit down and talk about the issues with the railroad. He also asked that the police levy be added to the discussion of the finance committee as well as making our emergency plan a priority this year. Lastly, Mike Cooper mentions that he will be absent at the January 16, 2024, meeting due to an appointment.

MAYOR'S REPORT


Mayor Collette reported that he is on a mission to reform the meeting room back into a breakroom for our associates. He would also like to move the Chair of Honor to a different area in the foyer. Lastly, he will be changing the seating arrangements to better accommodate some of the council members.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:09 p.m., Bethany Whipple-Boling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jacob Borden. All council members voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.


Josh Collette, Mayor
Amy Durga, Clerk-Treasurer