

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: Consent C 1

DATE: February 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Council Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, City Clerk

SUMMARY: Attached are the minutes of the January 18, 2007 regular Council meeting as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve as submitted.

MOTION: Move to accept the consent agenda as presented.

COUNCIL ACTION:

DATE:

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – January 18, 2007

The regular meeting of the Sultan City Council was called to order in the Sultan Community Center by Mayor Tolson. Councilmembers present: Champeaux, Wiediger, Slawson, Seehuus, Flower, Blair and Boyd.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Action: Remove Action Item 2 – Vodnick Lane

Executive Session: Add Personnel

Discussion: Add Police Department

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Genevieve Jelinek: Has been a citizen in town for many years and things are happening in the community that gives people the perception that it is not safe here. It bothers her to see the encampment across the river and the teenagers breaking the law and the lack of County support. There have been discussions at the Chamber and members of the community have been meeting with the County regarding the homeless people. Need to encourage community input.

Loretta Storm: Is impressed with the communication ability and responses received from Deborah Knight regarding the HOD zone proposal. In regards to the Sultan Market, it is good to see commercial development but does not like the idea that 200 homes must be built to make it happen. The projects depends on the HOD mixed use zoning which has not happened yet. Did not feel the community should hear about the project in the Monitor first.

Jerry Gibson: Has a problem with the city hiring more consultants when there is no money to hire police. Has heard comments about why the police levy failed and people don't want the police or don't need them. People don't trust the city and the communication issue has not been corrected. If the City can afford more consultants they should be able to pay for the police department.

Jeffrey Beeler: In regards to the Sultan Basin Road, he understands the weather issues but the road conditions have been bad. Has called the city staff about repairs to the road and they have not had staff to do any repairs. The contractor should be required to do the work or the City should do the work and charge them for it. There are guidelines codes and regulations for construction and they should be followed.

Kerry Ourada: The City has \$9000 for a lobbyist but doesn't have money to pay the Police Chief's wage increase. They have funds for consultants but not for city staff. Was shocked to hear about the Sultan Market announcement in the newspaper before discussions were held with the public. It was a terrible way to let the public know about a project of this magnitude.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS:

Champeaux: Agrees that the Sultan Basin Road needs to be completed by the contractor.

Slawson: In regards to the Sultan Market project, had not heard about the project until he read the newspaper.

Seehuus: Advised that he heard about the Sultan Market in the Monroe Monitor.

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Flower: Read a brief statement thanking staff for their professionalism and assistance to the Council and requesting that everyone maintain an atmosphere of courtesy and respect during the election season this year. Advised that the Health District has hired Dr. Gary Goldbaum as the new Director.

Blair: The proposed Sultan Market is not before the council now but when it does come to them, it is their job to make sure the codes are enforced. The City does hire consultants and the Water/Sewer funds are paying for lobbyist not the general fund. Would be nice to have more money for police and the City did spend enough money last year in overtime to fund an officer. Also need to look at other staff members that have not had salary increases and are underpaid.

Boyd: The Police are paid for by the general fund and if there was money there would be another police officer. Has heard complaints about the police and is not sure that the City can afford a first class police department.

Mayor Tolson: Advised that he attended the Chamber meeting and shared the Sultan Market vision of the developer. This is a private development and there are several issues to deal with and procedures to follow before it is presented to the Council. Advised that there will be a Town Meeting on January 30, 2006 to discuss public safety issues.

Staff:

Public Works Department: Connie Dunn announced that the City has received an award for the Sultan Basin Road Intersection from the Engineering Association.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items are incorporated into the consent and approved by a single motion of the Council. On a motion by Councilmember Champeaux, seconded by Councilmember Seehuus, the consent agenda was approved as presented. Champeaux – aye; Wiediger – aye; Slawson – aye; Seehuus - aye; Flower – aye; Blair – aye, Boyd – aye.

- 1) Minutes of the December 14, 2006 regular Council Meeting as on file in the Office of the City Clerk.
- 2) Minutes of the December 14, 2006 Public Hearing on the 2005 Budget Amendments as on file in the Office of the City Clerk.
- 3) Minutes of the December 14, 2006 Public Hearing on the Surface Water Utility as on file in the Office of the City Clerk.
- 4) Approval of vouchers #20818-20854 and #20864-20899 and payroll through December 29, 2006 in the amounts of \$329,086.47 to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 5) Set priority for CDBG applications with the 2nd Street Reconstruction Phase II as number one and 6th Street Reconstruction as number two.
- 6) Authorization for the Mayor to sign grant applications for the 2nd Street Reconstruction and the 6th Street Reconstruction projects.

ACTION ITEMS:

Date Avenue Property Sale: The City received one bid from Tri-Gen Construction in the amount of \$125,000. The sale of the property will provide funding for the purchase of additional park property.

On a motion by Councilmember Flower, seconded by Councilmember Seehuus, the bid from Tri-Gen Construction for the Date Avenue property in the amount of \$125,000 was accepted and the Mayor was authorized to sign the required sales documents. All ayes.

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Council Retreat: Staff provided a proposed agenda for the Council retreat with recommendations that the meeting be held off site and that the Council consider using a facilitator. Funds are available in the Council budget for a facilitator. Staff has recommended that the Council focus on three major items – Police/Public Safety, Planning and Community Development and Finance. Brief discussion was held regarding the benefits of using a facilitator and using an off site facility. On a motion by Councilmember Seehuus, seconded by Councilmember Blair, the Council retreat was set for February 10, 2007 and staff was directed to retain the services of a facilitator and locate an off site meeting room. All ayes.

Mayor Pro-tem: On a motion by Councilmember Flower, seconded by Councilmember Slawson, Councilmember Seehuus was nominated as Mayor Pro-tem for 2007. Councilmember Boyd moved to nominate Councilmember Blair, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux. On the first motion for Councilmember Seehuus – all ayes except Councilmember Boyd and Champeaux who voted nay. Councilmember Seehuus was appointed as the Mayor pro-tem for 2007.

Surface Water Utility: Staff provided a detailed report on the progress to date on the formation of the Surface Water Utility. A schedule for implementation was presented that would provide for the formation during the current fiscal year. Phase I has been completed and staff would like to move forward to Phase II which would be public input process. It was recommended that a small work group be formed to develop the basis for the utility and then move forward with a public education and awareness program. The cost of establishing a billing system would need to be determined as part of the process. On a motion by Councilmember Flower, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, Staff was directed to move forward with the Surface Water Utility formation plan. All ayes.

MWW Contract – Lobbyist Services: Staff has recommended that the City enter into a contract with MWW to provide assistance in securing funding from the State for the Wastewater Treatment Plant capital improvements. The contract would be for a six month term in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. The funding sources for the contract would be the Sewer System Improvement fund. The proposal is to work with the State Legislature to secure funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and this group is working with other cities to achieve the same goals. Ryan Pennington from MWW gave a brief presentation on his background with cities and governments. There is a lot of competition for funding for public facilities and this is a good time to take advantage of the opportunity to secure state funding. Water quality issues have created new funding sources within the state and the city should look at the options. Brief discussion was held on the funding received by other cities for sewer plant improvements, regional issues and the scope of work and strategy for requesting funding. On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Boyd, the Mayor was authorized to sign a contract with MWW for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. All ayes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Police Department: Councilmember Boyd advised that he has been on the Council for three years and has not seen a balanced general fund budget yet. Requested that staff prepare a detailed accounting of all the law enforcement expenses. Asked if the city should look at county services for law enforcement.

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Police Department: Mayor Tolson advised that County services have been considered, however, there are costs that the City would still have to pay. Brief discussion was held regarding the need to look at the cost for county service and to do a comparison of services, the need for citizen input, local control, prior meetings regarding police services and the need to monitor expenditures.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Wood: Advised that the VOA Camp is available for the retreat if necessary.

Jerry Gibson: Attended the Planning Board meeting and they asked if the surface water utility is just another tax and will people look at this as something they are already paying for.

Tracy Honestein: Asked what the procedure is for getting budget amendments for the Police? What steps have been taken? If police department is understaffed the Chief may not have time to do the budget amendments.

Loretta Storm: Chief Walser was telling the Council how much he was spending and about the staffing issues and it resulted in the \$52,000 budget amendment. Asked how much time and money has been spent chasing grants for water and sewer line and how much has been spent on police grants. New residents will be a drain on services and new homes on the Rice and Sultan Basin Road will create growth that the City can't afford.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Boyd: Agrees that the City needs to find more funds and that when one staff member that is off, it costs the city in overtime. The City doesn't meet the level of service now and it will get worse.

Blair: Advised that there is a procedure for budget amendments. The Chief did discuss being short staffed. Doesn't like approving expenditures after the fact. Have asked for projections regarding the police department and the cost to fund an officer.

Flower: Suggested that Mr. Gibson help discuss the surface water with citizens. Agrees that there is a need to look at funding the police department since the crime rate is a reflection on the city.

Wiediger: Supports the Police Department but did not support the raise since the money was not available.

Champeaux : The grants for police officers is no longer available.

Executive Session: On a motion by Councilmember Seehuus, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, the Council adjourned to executive session for twenty minutes to discuss potential litigation and personnel. All ayes.

Adjournment: On a motion by Councilmember , seconded by Councilmember , the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Benjamin Tolson, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk