

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: Consent C 1

DATE: May 10, 2007

SUBJECT: Council Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, City Clerk

SUMMARY: Attached are the minutes of the April 26, 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 – April 26, 2007

The regular meeting of the Sultan City Council was called to order in the Sultan Middle School Commons by Mayor Tolson at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present: Champeaux, Wiediger, Slawson, Flower, Blair and Boyd.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Consent: Excused absence of Councilmember Seehuus

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jerry Gibson: He has attended three town meetings and the citizens have been against the proposal to contract for police services and the council should listen to the citizens. The City should move on as they have more important things to do. In regards to the PWTF loan on the agenda, at the November 2006 budget workshop Gordon Hey, Finance Director, advised the Council that they could not meet the debt service needs and he did not know where they would find the funds to pay for the loan they were approving.

Jeff Kirkman: The council discusses the local police versus sheriff and he would like to see the police here but he is mystified as to why they have not updated the comp plan to make the determination of how the city is going to pay for the services. They are putting the cart before the horse, need to get the comp plan updated and then make decisions on how to pay and provide staff.

Loretta Storm: Law Enforcement officers are in short supply and even under a contract proposal, the shortage is still there. The City has a good department so why look elsewhere. Residential development drains the budget. Gordon Hey was concerned about using short term funds for long term debt. The shortage of staff and the cost overruns have been discussed, the only surprise is that the Council is surprised about the financial condition.

Frank Bemish: If the town was dying or stagnant, contracting would make sense, but it is ready to bust at the seams. Is surprised the council would even consider a proposal other than for dollars. Need to reconsider since they have a good force and they should leave it in place.

Vicki Peara McIntrye: Each Council member is doing the best job possible they can, but they work full time and also sit on the council and they are in a position of trust and integrity. The people that attend the meetings are the ones that care and they understand the dollars and cents but the council should be able to find a way to make this work. The Officers will leave because they don't want to work for the county. The citizens in Gold Bar are not as happy about the County Police service as the Mayor is. If the City wants to spend an additional \$100,000, they should hire another officer.

Tim Johnson: The city is on the verge of exploding population wise and we have a good department now and should not give up as it will be harder to go back.

Josie Fallgatter: In the comparison, the county shows overtime costs and the city does not. Switching to the sheriff would expand the service boundary and with the current Interlocal agreement, the sheriff does not charge for assistance and the city does not charge for their assistance. If they are putting in an overtime factor, what are we getting for that and if they go outside the city limits are they billed for that? Asked if the level of service was changing and if it is, how is that being communicated to the public? The city is increasing the tax base by adding houses, are they receiving enough taxes to cover the cost of services?

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Sheriff Brent: Advised that the \$8,000 overtime per officer is based on court, shift extension or call in early and these events happen on a regular basis. The City has the Shindig each year and also flooding events and there would not be additional costs for those events. If the City does not consider the overtime reasonable they can negotiate the costs.

Mayor Tolson advised that the Sky Valley Chamber pays the police overtime for the Shindig.

Kerry Ourada: Thanked the Mayor for pointing out the payment for the Shindig overtime. Asked if the City is billed by the County for emergency services? (Mayor Tolson advised they are not.) The next meeting is set for May 31st and the City did not provide adequate notice for this meeting. The Utility bill was wrong and the city sent out a notice and asked a citizen to pay. Citizens support the police department and a lot of staff time has been wasted on the contract proposal. All the comparisons are not "apples to apples". Chief Walser does a good job and the treatment to the officers is not fair.

Carolyn Eslick: Thanked the Sheriff's office for coming and making a professional presentation and the Council for looking at the options. Has looked at the comparison and they are close but it is important to keep our own department. In the past few months, the police have organized neighborhood watches and they are visiting the businesses. If spending more money, hire a police officer.

Nicole Kole: Thanked Chief Walser for listening to the citizens. Got a notice in the mail about the meeting and appreciate the extra effort by the City to notify the citizens. The Citizens are concerned and most don't want to see the chief leave and the contract would be worth considering if the Chief can stay.

Tracy Honestine: Feels there are personal agendas at play and a lack of professionalism on those elected to office. They should not criticize those who speak against them.

Sheriff Tom Green: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and advised that he appreciates them spending an evening to deal with an issue that is important to the community.

Craig Young: Has lived here since 1990 and he appreciates democracy and the citizens input. The response time should not change if the staff is the same. The City should raise the money needed to support the police. The Officers are looking forward to having to test for their jobs and if the Chief is just transferred, why aren't the officers?

Sheriff Jeff Brent: Advised that his primary job is hiring and he respects and understands what they are saying about the hiring process but there are things that are mandated under the law and they are trying to work the officers thru the hiring process.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS:

Boyd: Advised that he is still looking at the numbers and this has been a financial process and if the costs are close, they may have to look at other options. Not a good idea to proceed if the costs are close.

Blair: It is her job to look at all the cost options and benefits for police services. There is talk of exploding development and the need for economic development to provide a tax base. In order to do economic development, the city needs to expand the sewer plant and there have been past issues on loan payments.

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Flower: Agrees that the sewer plant needs to be upgraded and they have looked at several alternatives. Residential growth does not provide retail development and that is where the city needs to focus. The level of service in the Comp Plan was developed when the city was receiving federal funds for officers. The formula used is flawed and needs to be fixed and they do need to tell the public and it will be difficult. Levies to support the police department have failed and the community is taxed to death. Encouraged by the involvement of those who attended the block watch program kickoff.

Slawson: Advised that the Snohomish County Tomorrow board has recommended funding for Highway 2 projects, including the Sultan Basin Road Phase III. Appreciates the opportunity to hear both sides of the story on the police contract.

Champeaux: Thanked the staff for all the work at the cleanup day. Appreciates everyone's comments on the police issue. For those who see in shades of gray, they will see that the Council is doing their job. The council has looked at contracting for garbage and cemetery services also. For those who see in gray, thanks for listening, for those who see in black and white, they will only see what they want to see.

Mayor Tolson: Thanked everyone for coming. This is an on going process and they need all the answers to bring the matter to completion. No one has an axe to grind and the Council appreciates the police department. The Council supports Sultan and wants it to be a great community.

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 Slawson, the consent agenda was approved as amended. Champeaux – aye; Wiediger – aye; Slawson – aye; Flower – aye; Blair – aye, Boyd – aye.

- 1) Minutes of the April 12, 2007 regular Council Meeting as on file in the Office of the City Clerk.
- 2) Approval of vouchers in the \$160,438.12 to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 3) Adoption of Ordinance 948-07 amending the 2007 Budget (second reading)
- 4) Adoption of Ordinance 949-07 Credit Card Use (second reading)
- 5) Acceptance of the Settlement Agreement with Mosbrucker Excavating for the I & I Project on 1st Street.
- 6) Excused absense of Councilmember Seehuus from the April 26, 2007 Council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution 07-06, Credit Card Use Policy: The Council adopted Ordinance 949-07 which provides for use of credit cards by City Officials and employees. The ordinance requires that the city develop administrative guidelines and accounting controls to ensure the proper use of the city credit card. The State Auditor has recommended written policies to provide consistency in the procedures used by Officials and employees. Staff drafted procedures and policies for credit card use and presented them to the Finance Committee for review. Staff and the Finance Committee recommend adoption on the policy. On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Wiediger, Resolution 07-06 establishing a policy for credit card use was adopted. All ayes.

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Resolution 07-07 Travel and Training Policy: The City has a Travel and Training Policy and it was noted during the last audit that staff members were using the credit card for meals which was a violation of the policy. Staff provided a draft policy to the Finance Committee with the recommendation to add meals and gas purchases as allowed uses for the credit card. Staff and the Finance Committee recommend adoption of the policy. On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, Resolution 07-07, Travel and Training Policy, was adopted. All ayes.

Utility Vehicle Purchase: The Public Works Department requested authorization to purchase a one ton F-350 truck with a utility box to replace the 1981 4x4. Three bids were received and the staff is recommending acceptance of the bid from Harris Ford in the amount of \$26,500. Brief discussion was held regarding the bidding and whether other models met the specs. On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, the bid from Harris Ford in the amount of \$26,500 was accepted and staff was authorized to proceed with the purchase. All ayes.

PWTF Loan Application – Wastewater Treatment Plant: The City is working on an upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and is in the process of securing funding. The Public Works Trust Fund program is offering up to \$10 million in low interest loans for construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The loan will be repaid from general facility charges, developer contributions and user fees. In order to stay on schedule, the city needs to move forward with the loan application. Final acceptance of the loan and terms will be required by the Council if the funds are awarded to the city. Discussion was held on the potential funding from developer agreements and going back to the state to request funds during the next Legislative session. Concern was expressed regarding the need to have an adequate repayment plan in place. On a motion by Councilmember Boyd, seconded by Councilmember Slawson, the staff was directed to apply for a PWTF low interest construction loan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Mayor was authorized to sign the application. All ayes.

Quasi-Judicial Procedures: Staff requested authorization from the Council to proceed with the development of a revised Permit Matrix system for quasi-judicial and legislative responsibilities for land use actions. Staff presented a revised matrix and time table for adoption. On a motion by Councilmember Champeaux, seconded by Councilmember Slawson, the proposed schedule for the revised Permit Matrix system was accepted and staff was directed to proceed. All ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Loretta Storm: Asked what the source of funding from the state is? (Clean water act – part of current state budget). Does not want to be disrespectful but the problems with the hearings has been brewing for a long time and were caused by one person and she has a problem hearing praise now.

Janet Peterson: Thanked Councilmember Blair for doing research on the county contract. Asked if the staff considered going to Skagit County to purchase a vehicle to save on the sales tax?

Robert Peterson: Noticed that the flags at city hall need to be replaced. Complained about the kids at city hall that block the sidewalk so people have to walk around them.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Councilmembers thanked the public for attending the meeting and for their input.

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

Benjamin Tolson, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk