

**SULTAN CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

ITEM NO: Consent C 7
DATE: October 22, 2009
SUBJECT: Council Meeting Minutes

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

SUMMARY:

Attached are the minutes of the October 13, 2009 Special Council meeting as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve as submitted

CITY OF SULTAN SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – October 13, 2009

The Special meeting of the Sultan City Council was called to order in the Sultan Community Center by Mayor Eslick. Councilmembers present: Champeaux, Wiediger, Flower, and Beeler.

Initiative 1033 Public Hearing:

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Eslick

The issue before the council is to review and discuss Initiative 1033 the Tim Eyman-sponsored measure that would “limit growth of certain state, county and city revenues to annual inflation and population growth, not including voter-approved revenue increases. Revenue collected above the limit would reduce property tax levies.”

According to the Public Disclosure Commission, City Councils may collectively vote to support or oppose a ballot measure at a properly noticed public meeting, where supporters and opponents of the measure are given an equal opportunity to express views.

Mayor Eslick read Resolution 09-27 into the record. Following public input, the Council may decide to support or oppose the Initiative.

Public Comments:

Al Wirta: May be in the minority in his opinion on taxes. Cities like Sultan live on grants but there are always strings attached. The three large counties run the state. If the measure passes and Sultan must cut back they should refuse to adhere to unfunded state mandates. Tell the state the citizens can't afford to pay and see what they do. It is easier for government to tax the citizens for things like stormwater then control spending. Does not mind paying taxes for service but other citizens don't have jobs and can't support government. Business creates wealth, not governments; they only waste money.

Council Comments:

Beeler: There are some valid points in the initiative – governments do take too much from the people but they can't be limited by the ideas of one person. There are things the city needs and there should be guidelines for what the citizens need to pay for. The state will not be limited by the initiative and the federal government prints money when they need it. This sound good on the surface but the small cities will be hurt.

Flower: There are primary priorities for government – providing security and maintaining roads. The “feel good” programs keep growing and the environmental agencies keep imposing restrictions that hurt business. The state imposes taxes when they need funds and business must go thru the process of getting exemptions. There are no checks and balances on the large governments. He wanted to be on the council to help but the city can't make anymore cuts without hurting the citizens. Disincorporation is not the answer as the initiatives don't hurt the big governments.

Wiediger: Agrees with the other Councilmembers. The “think green” movements will make things worse and impose more regulations like the stormwater requirements.

Champeaux: Would be in favor of the initiative if it was going to limit big government but it is only going to hurt the little towns. He sometimes feel like a puppet that must pass things because the state issues a mandate. They tried to say no to the state on an issue once and

CITY OF SULTAN SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – October 13, 2009

they were told the city no longer qualified for grants for their projects so the city was forced to vote for something they opposed. One city will not make a difference, others must stand up against the state to get their attention.

On a motion by Councilmember Flower, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, Resolution 09-27 opposing Initiative 1033 was adopted. All ayes.

Adjournment: On a motion by Councilmember Flower, seconded by Councilmember Wiediger, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. All ayes.

Carolyn Eslick, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk