

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – February 23, 2023

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid with attendees both in person at City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom Internet Conference Service. Mayor Wiita called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers: Aldrich, Morgan, Dearborn, Hund, Sivewright, and Beeler.

Councilmembers Absent: Neigel

Staff: City Administrator Ibershof, Public Works Director Morgan, and City Clerk Pevey.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the following changes to the consent agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

- Add Presentation Item_Lobbyist update from Gordon Thomas Honeywell
- Add Discussion Item – Resignation of Councilmember Neigel

PRESENTATIONS

WSDOT – Ped Bridge Excellence Award

Officials in Attendance:

Jay Drye, WSDOT Director - Local Programs

Brian Nielsen WSDOT Regional Administrator

Mehrdad, Moini, WSDOT Local Programs Engineer

Renaee Larsen, WSDOT Asst. Local Programs Engineer

Ralph Rizzo, FHWA Division Administrator

Robert Sutton, Akana Senior Construction Manager

Alan Lobdell, Akana Project Inspector

Mindy Corey, Akana Senior Document Controls

Former Mayor John Seehuus

Former Councilmember Rocky Walker

Former Councilmember Bob McCarty

Jay Drye, WSDOT Local Programs Director presented the city with the Award of Excellence for the pedestrian bridge project. Each year 200 projects are eligible for award consideration in cooperation with FHWA for four award categories. The Sultan River/US 2 Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project won the special project category as it signifies connecting community and addressing access for all users to include non-motorized travel. It has clearly made a big difference for the community and is a noteworthy accomplishment. All in attendance spoke and congratulated the city on the accomplishment acknowledging the innovation of the project to connect the community and address the utility connection combined into one project. All in attendance congratulated the mayor, administrator, and public works director for their hard work on this and other projects they are in collaboration on. Public Works Director Morgan introduced the project team from Akana and thanked them for all their hard work in assisting this project. Mayor Wiita and councilmembers also acknowledged the hard work of all involved over the twenty-year process to include former and current officials. Comments shared of the hard work and dedication it took to include countless hours of work from former Police Chief and Highway 2 Coalition Advocate Fred Walser who could not be in attendance this evening.

Gordon Thomas Honeywell_Lobbyist Update

Holly Cocci, Governmental Affairs Consultant with Gordon Thomas Honeywell provided an update of the legislative session. She acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Wiita, City Administrator Ibershof, Councilmember Hund, and Councilmember Sivewright who attended city action days and represented the city in Olympia lobbying support for the three legislative priorities of the city as follows.

US 2 Improvements:

She also acknowledged the 12th and 39th legislative districts signed on to a letter of support for the US 2 project as the city is seeking \$5 million for upgrades and seeking local, state, and federal level funding support.

Basin Area Park

The Sultan Basin area park project request \$500,000 first phase of amenities with city request forms in the house and senate and Representative Steele is leading the request in the house, with Senator Hawkins leading the request in the senate.

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Public Safety

Regarding police pursuits, House Bill 1363 made headway despite mix of democratic support and mostly all republicans supporting. This bill addresses the various elements to include sunset provision since the CTJC study is pushing for a report on the data. Regarding possession of a controlled substance, she advised if legislature passes nothing the current law will allow possession without current treatment, whereas proposed Senate Bill 5536 would make it a gross misdemeanor. She explained SB5536 passed the senate and weights committee and is headed to the senate floor for a vote. Council discussion on additional support needed, and Cocci confirmed it is internal politics at this point.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ron Kraut, Sultan: Surprised unknown wetlands appeared on the Sultan Basin park project and seeking input on threshold determination; Also noted on website the 2022 budget did not provide the in-depth detail as in years passed and requested the full detail be posted if available.

Jeff Estes, Startup: provided written copy of issues addressed titled - "why I would not want to be a city councilperson"

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Morgan – Acknowledged Citizen Kraut's comments on frustration over finding documents online and stated the city is working on a process to make them more accessible; addressed Citizen Estes comments acknowledging his frustration with the cost and slow moving parts of projects as well; kudos to pedestrian bridge award, thanked Councilmember Hund and Councilmember Sivewright for attending city action days; thanked sheriff's office for addressing traffic issues in the city; appreciated getting to talk to Councilmember Niegel before considering to run and appreciated his advice. Will miss his input and the great feedback he provided during the meetings. Wished him the best in his future.

Aldrich, Hund, and Dearborn also thanked everyone for presentation and comments and wished Councilmember Neigel the best in his future.

Sivewright – attended Monroe municipal court first graduation and would like to have the city explore the program here in sultan; and discussed the community court program and success it has brought to offenders; expressed her support for anything the city can do to advocate for inmates as they are getting released. Also addressed the need for better support of the people that have issues due to the long lag between offense and court case; enjoyed city action days and appreciated the information provided by staff; appreciated the new speed signs that are out and the increase in day patrols to address traffic issues; expressed need to press for a mental health counselor to add to the mix of support to help de-escalate situations; acknowledged and appreciated Councilmember Niegel's insight on council and will continue to advocate for the mental health issues he so strongly fought for.

Beeler – Acknowledged and thanked Councilmember Neigel for his time on council to include his perspective as it was meaningful and ultimately appreciated all he brought to the board to make the city a better place; proud of the city for the projects accomplished to include the pedestrian bridge project; and acknowledged that a growing community is a thriving community.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Appreciated the comments about city action days and acknowledged it does make a difference when city representatives present in person to build the relationships needed for support from legislators; addressed Citizen Kraut's comments on the 2022 budget book and explained due to the transition process of finance director's the detailed book was not created in 2022. He explained the ordinance is the budget and the budget book is a commentary on the budget; but that the city will have a 2023 budget book completed soon and made public upon completion. Agreed with comments on the amount of time between interaction with law enforcement to having their day in court; explaining pretrial diversion a big topic around the Blake Decision and the lag due to court backlog as well as having the treatment

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beds available for someone who requests help. Acknowledge he is working with the Mayors Coalition on this topic as well. Acknowledged Councilmember Neigel's time on council and his insight and ability to inspire conversations based on his input. Wished him the best of luck in his future.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Administrator Ibershof explained during city action days you were limited to 15 minutes with a legislator. He acknowledged that Sultan was well organized and had other cities approached him to see the materials that the city had prepared. Acknowledged many community events planned for 2023 to include the Sultan Shindig which will have a carnival again this year; Alliance Board events; VOA drug take back event, Chamber easter egg hunt, summer farmers market and many more. Attended the first of many WSDOT meetings for intersection improvements at US 2 and Old Owen Road. In addition, Public Works Director Morgan has been meeting with businesses affected by the US 2 and Main Street roundabout in the design phase. Also confirmed WSDOT acknowledged Sultan is seeking a four-lane corridor on US 2 thru Sultan and is continuing work on that project.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports on file with the clerk's office regarding the Public Works Department, Community Development, and police activity for January 2023. Interim Chief Alanis confirmed new deputies are working here in city in coordination on traffic emphasis taking impact on target areas.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the following consent agenda items; Motion passed 6-0.

- 1) Voucher & Payroll Approval thru February 9, 2023
- 2) Voucher & Payroll Approval thru February 23, 2023
- 3) 1/26/2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- 4) 2/2/2023 Council Workshop Minutes

ACTION ITEMS

AB 23-07 Startup Water Interlocal Agreement

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement with the Startup Water District; Motion passed 6-0.

AB 22-53 Sole Source Water Meter Purchase

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized staff to purchase 250 new water meters from General Pacific Inc for an amount not to exceed 78,000 which includes a 20% contingency without prior council authorization; Motion passed 6-0.

AB 23-08 Approve the submission for a RAISE grant.

Public Works Director Morgan explained this would be focused on the section of US 2 improvements from the Sultan River Bridge east to the corner of US 2 and Main Street. On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Beeler, council authorized staff to submit a raise grant for \$4,559,500 for the downtown section of US 2 without a city match; Motion passed 6-0.

AB 21-36 Amendment #1 to the Sultan Basin Area Park Design Contract

Additional presentation materials provided to council on file at the city clerk's office.

Amendment to readjust the park design due to the secondary wetland discovered on the property. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council approved amendment #1 to the Hammer Park Property final design, a contract with KPG Psomas, for an amount not to exceed \$435,344.95 without prior authorization from council; Motion passed 6-0.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

Resignation of Councilmember Neigel

Mayor Wiita explained Councilmember Neigel's resignation was received today. He was currently filling council position # 5, and council has 90 days from the effective date of the vacancy to fill the seat. TimeLine discussed with staff to include application process. Suggestion of condensed timeline for the process as position # 5 seat up for election this year and filing week is the second week in May. This allows applicant enough time to decide if they want to file to be up for that seat election during the regular process in November. Discussion on the current application and suggested changes. Councilmember Morgan suggested instead of asking where the applicant sees themselves in 4 years, asking where they see the city in 4 years or 10 years. Confirmation discussion would be brought to the next meeting for action.

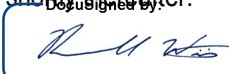
ADJOURNMENT

Before closing the meeting, council and staff sang Happy Birthday to Councilmember Aldrich. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council meeting was closed at approximately 8:28 pm. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:



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Tami J. Peavy, City Clerk



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Russell Wiita, Mayor