

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL WORKSHOP– March 4, 2021

Mayor Wiita called the workshop to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom Internet Conference Service with all members in attendance at remote locations via computer or phone. Mayor called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers in attendance: McCarty, Aldrich, Walker, Neigel, Sivewright, Beeler, and Student Rep DeBock.
Absent: Vaughn

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Beeler, the following items were changed/added to the agenda: 1) Additional Topic of Staffing and Operational Changes to the beginning of the meeting; Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION**Staffing & Operational Changes**

Administrator Ibershof proposed the following staffing/organization changes: Public Works Department Reorganization, Planning and Building Departments Reorganization, Management Employees Code Section Updates and Employment Contracts, Updating Personnel Policies, Updating Purchasing Policies. Ibershof explained his presentation was the high-level overview of the proposed changes highlighted as follows:

Planning and Building Departments Reorganization: combining planning and building department into one unified Community Development Department, current community service officer move to building inspector, and open to add a planning staff member

Public Works Department Reorganization: Change vacant City Engineer position to a Construction Specialist Position, and Reorganize title, responsibilities, and reporting structure from Field Supervisor on down.

Management Employees Code Section Updates and Employment Contracts: Code updates to the Finance Director, Clerk, Planning Director, and Public Works Director be updated to remove Council approval to appoint and remove individuals in these positions.

Brief discussion about effect on staffing if building activity decreases. Request to see an organization chart showing the changes.

AB21-29 Personnel Policy

Ibershof explained full rewrite to bring the policy up to date with current rules and regulations as well as operational changes being presented; Councilmembers in agreement it needed to be done.

AB21-30 Purchasing Policy

Ibershof explained the key struggle with staff is currently every contract must come to council for approval, which delays and holds up the process moving forward. Recommended threshold changes presented and suggestion that a report could be given once a month at the second meeting of the month to show the amount and threshold for items that fell within the threshold. Discussion on council comfort level with this change, suggested trial period, different dollar thresholds, and additional safeguards for items that require budget modification. Staff agreed would do further research at present at an upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Conner Morgan, Loves Hill Drive: Concern with proposed East/West Project T-75: 135th Street/Bryant Road to 8th Street Connector and requested more information.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:42 pm, all ayes. The zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.



Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk



Russell Wiita, Mayor