

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – April 27, 2023

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:01 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: Morgan, Aldrich, Dearborn, Hund, Sivewright, and Beeler.

(Noted Councilmember Morgan arrived late at approximately 7:03 during presentations.)

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None noted.

PRESENTATIONS

Marlene Carlson Certificate of Appreciation

Council recognized Marlene Carlson for her years of service in the community to include but not limited to owner/operator of Larry's Auto Parts at 501 Main Street from approximately 1988 to 2000 with former husband Larry Wilson, as well as many years of volunteer service assisting with the Shindig car show and Sky Valley Senior Center. Debbie Copple, Director of the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center stated Carlson is engrained in the community on so many levels and it will be a difficult transition for the community as she moves on to new ventures. Carlson explained she is not used to the spotlight and likes to be in the background doing what she can to help. She has been focused on the community, meeting people, and encouraging others to get out and join the fun. Carlson ensured those present that she would continue to visit off and on as she loves this town. Carlson was presented with certificates of appreciation from both the city and the Volunteers of America Western Washington.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ginny Smith, Sultan – proud to see Mayor Wiita working to get a fix to the youth of public perception of drug use in our town; suggested the mayor and the council work on an ordinance in case to support treatment and accountability; Expressed concern over Agenda Bill 22-23 regarding the purchase of a prefab bathroom for the new park; expressed concerns over the recent planning board discussion regarding housing action plan and disappointed by the lack of strong engagement amongst board members at the meeting.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wiita further clarified the citizen comments re drug possession and provided the legislative background on the Blake decision and issues leading up to the current legislative session surrounding drug possession. He further explained that if a special session is not called by the state legislature, effective July 1, 2023, there would be no laws on the books criminalizing drug use or possession of a controlled substance. He further expressed his concerns that if no action is taken in a special legislative session, the city will be forced to pass an ordinance to address this issue and expressed his recommendation that the city act versus waiting for a special session in order to be prepared before the July 1st deadline.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Morgan – thanked Citizen Carlson for her service; acknowledged Citizen Smith for her comments and requested staff provide an update on the new park at a future meeting; encouraged citizens to get outside during the sunny weather; expressed appreciation for the mayors work and supports passing something an ordinance to address drug use; requested further council discussion at a future meeting on House Bill 1110 regarding increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single family detached homes as well as HB24-27 regarding tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act; reminded citizens of the upcoming fire station open house and pinewood derby race set for Saturday, April 30th and stated free derby kits are still available.

Hund – Acknowledged the Sky Valley Chamber auction held April 15th was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed the event

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and thanked the volunteers and students that assisted with the event; happy to see our lobbying efforts were successful in

obtaining additional funds for the new park; appreciated Mayor Wiita's lobbying efforts in Olympia regarding the substance abuse issues; appreciated the citizen comments regarding the planning board; thanked those in attendance interviewing for the open council position for putting themselves out there to be considered.

Sivewright – Acknowledged Citizen Smith comments; thanked Marlene and felt is the epitome of love and that she has given so much to this community with her service, but also for being who she is as a person; interested in exploring all avenues to keep our community safe and that those who need help receive help but acknowledges there is a group that is not ready to seek assistance and the city must have measures in place to keep our citizens safe.

Beeler – thanked the Mayor for his explanation on the city response to fill the gap regarding the lack of drug possession laws and supportive of the community stating we want to be there to help, but we have to protect the community from those that don't want help; questioned public works tree trimming work and acknowledged the new purchased lawnmowers were in use; expressed his interest in wanting to keep the city clean and attractive; expressed his continued concerns over retention pond and urged council to take control of all retention ponds and their maintenance versus leaving it in the hands of homeowners already struggling financially; looking forward to upcoming discussion on a potential parks levy; and enjoying the warmer weather making an appearance.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wiita acknowledged the weather is anticipated to be warmer over the next few days and reminded citizens to be safe in and around the water as is common for the area to experience drowning victims when the weather warms up. Acknowledged he issued a proclamation earlier in the week for Administrative Professionals Day and recognized the hardworking staff at city hall.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Administrator Ibershof stated city garbage cleanup, community clean up, and drug take back event last Saturday was a huge success. Community survey will close tomorrow and encouraged those to vote for their favorite name for the new park; city is currently accepting applications for two seasonal utility workers as well as a deputy treasurer; AWC Summer conference set for June 20-23 in Spokane and urged councilmembers interested in attending to reach out to the city clerk to get registered.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports submitted and on file with the city clerks' office for public works, planning, police, and the salary commission update.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Voucher & Payroll Approval
- 2) 4/6/2023 Council Workshop Minutes
- 3) 4/13/2023 Council Meeting Minutes

ACTION ITEMS

AB19-55_Amendment #2 to Task Order #13 for the Water Treatment Plant Filter Evaluation with Consor

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council authorized the mayor to sign Amendment #2 to Task Order #13 with Consor for an amount not to exceed \$26,544.00. Motion passed 6-0.

AB23-23_Approval to purchase a prefabricated bathroom for the new park on the basin.

Council discussion regarding price and quality; confirmation that cost includes design, engineering, and vandal proof as is all concrete structure. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized staff to

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purchase a Prefabricated Bathroom through the Source Well contract for an amount not to exceed \$286,000 (includes sales tax and a 10% contingency) without prior authorization from council. Motion passed 5 to 1.

AB22-59 Amendment #1 with Monroe and VOA for an East County Mental Health Clinician

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Sivewright, council authorized the mayor to sign Amendment #1 between the City of Monroe, City of Sultan, and Volunteers of America Western Washington for an East County Mental Health Clinician. Motion passed 6-0.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

AB23-12 Interviews for Council Vacancy

Mayor Wiita explained that on February 23, 2023, Councilmember Neigel resigned. The city advertised the vacant position, and six applications were received. One was received after the deadline, one did not meet the minimum qualifications, and one withdrew shortly after the council packet was posted. The council took a short break to allow for room setup. During this time frame, all applicants were removed to the lobby and applicants were brought in one by one to be interviewed. Applicants interviewed were as follows: Heidi Dawson, Sean Standefer, and Rob Williams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) Qualifications of candidate for appointment to elective office

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council entered executive session for an initial period of twenty minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to review the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office; Motion passed 6-0.

Clerk noted time lag between approving executive session versus going into executive session as council moved to a conference room on the second floor of city hall; Council started executive session at approximately 8:23 p.m.; at approximately 8:41 p.m. Executive Session was extended another 5 minutes; At approximately 8:48 p.m. extended another 5 minutes; Clerk noted lag time in ending executive session and returning to session; Council ended executive session at approximately 8:53 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS


AB23-12 Decision on Council Vacancy

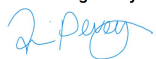
Mayor Wiita called for nominations from councilmembers. Councilmember Morgan nominated Rob Williams; Councilmember Aldrich nominated Heidi Dawson. Hearing of no other nominations Mayor Wiita confirmed that the council would proceed to vote on their choice between Heidi Dawson and Rob Williams.

Mayor Wiita then called for a roll call vote on the remaining two applicants as follows: CM Morgan – Williams; CM Aldrich – Dawson; CM Dearborn – Williams; CM Hund – Dawson; CM Sivewright – Williams; CM Beeler – Dawson. It was confirmed there was a tie vote between Candidate Dawson and Candidate William, and further confirmed the mayor would need to vote to break the tie. After a moment of consideration, Mayor Wiita voted for Heidi Dawson. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council confirmed the appointment of Heidi Dawson to council position #5; motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council meeting was closed at approximately 8:56 pm. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:

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Russell Wiita, Mayor

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Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk