

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – May 13, 2021

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting 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, Vaughn, Neigel, Sivewright, and Beeler; Absent: Student Rep DeBock.

Staff in attendance: Planning Director Galuska, Public Works Director Morgan, Interim Finance Director Erdman, and City Clerk Pevey. It was noted that Attorney Evans joined the meeting during Action Item #5 later in the meeting.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None noted

PRESENTATIONS**Legislative Update from Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick**

Note: A full list of the bills passed in the recent session is on file with the City Clerk's Office.

Senator Wagoner gave a brief introduction by describing the government setup during Covid pandemic restrictions; described it as a historic session with 1,450 bills presented with 341 bills passed on to the governor and almost all of the 341 bills have been or are in the process of being signed to date. Wagoner explained the state operating budget consisted of 1,100 pages representing the largest state budget document ever seen and discussed the growth being seen in the state as well as the money being spent towards Covid relief. Discussion also on various taxes implemented and projects that received funding that Senator Wagoner worked to present; some of them included, but not limited to *capital gains income tax being challenged by lawsuits, high cost standard, cap and tax, instituting the 988 hotline for state suicide prevention which impacts \$0.40 per month on every cell phone registered in the state. Elk fencing projects for farms and a school up north; forest health and resiliency program creating healthier forests to reduce smoke and carbon air quality.*

Representative Eslick discussed the state capital budget to include both requests from Sultan to include a teen center at the VOA and the design for a park in Sultan providing \$28,000. Eslick explained the committees and commissions she is currently part of and her work during the session. Acknowledged the transportation budget has not come out and that review of a special session for that purpose is being considered. No money received yet for US2 and Mayor Wiita and Representative Eslick will continue to work on the project thru the summer to bring forth more information to the fall session. Eslick explained US2 is no longer just a capacity issue, but also a safety issue. Noted a few bills signed by the governor and gave an update of those of interest/impact to the City of Sultan.

Both recommended visiting their individual government websites and signing up for their newsletters to stay informed on their continued work at the state level.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ginny Smith, Marguerite Lane: Thanked Lt. Martin for the drug take back program, as well as opening and keeping open the kiosk at the police station one day a week. Thanked Public Works for the clean and stocked bathrooms at Osprey Park. Over a year ago started talking to council on thoughts on needs for drug and alcohol use and abuse and mental health education and prevention. Thanked CM Vaughn for hearing her. Acknowledged CM Vaughn has worked very hard to bring forward overdose prevention training event Tuesday, May 25th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Provided training information as well as where to obtain tickets. Thanked Simon at Invara Pharmacy who has been gracious in sponsoring the event and well as Sno Co Opioid Out Reach Specialist Amy Hill, Ideal Options, and speakers from Narcotics Anonymous will be in attendance as well.

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road: Lives in old landslide area that occurred in 1995/1996. Back on October 11th, 1999 council approved the Eagle Ridge Development and created the native protection area designated in the development Appreciative for that designation and hope it stays that way for a long time to come. Thanked Representative Eslick who is in attendance at the meeting for her part as a member of council at the time for that decision.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

McCarty: Continuing to work with Student Rep DeBock and Historical Society on a possible historical student photo display at the school.

Walker: Thanked Representative Eslick and Senator Wagoner for their presentation and the hard work they do in Olympia for the Sky Valley citizens.

Vaughn: Thanked Citizen Smith as driving force behind May 25th meeting on drug treatment prevention and provided details on attendance and agenda. Announced Vaughn will be the newest embedded socialworker for the City of Everett Police Department contracted thru VOA on a parttime basis to start. Interested in bringing back to council embedded social worker conversation at a future meeting. Thanked Citizen Kraut and Citizen Smith for comments, as well as Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick for the legislative updates.

Sivewright: Thanked Rep Eslick and Senator Wagoner for their hard work thru the government session despite the Covid restrictions. Thanked Citizen Smith for comments and encouraged to continue to bring forward concerns as council is here to work for the citizens. Thanked Mayor Wiita for proclamation of police week and police officer's memorial as the week of May 15th thru 22nd as it recognizes the importance of continuing to work with and support the police. Freedom Runners will run Friday, May 21st in their honor. Announced volunteer opportunities coming up May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. for litter pickup, food drive, Main Street beautification, and document shredding.

Beeler: Thanked Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick for providing the legislative update. Thanked Public Works for sidewalk repairs being completed. CDC recently announced that if you are vaccinated from Covid 19 you do not need to wear a mask anymore. Encouraged those in attendance to get vaccinated and provided local locations to obtain the vaccination. Governor announced the state reopening on June 30th as a tentative reopening from the Covid pandemic. Thanked citizens for their comments.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Reiterated thanks to Senator Wagoner, Representative Eslick, and citizens for their comments. Farmers Market will kick off Saturdays in June at Gazebo/River Front Park. Clean up Day May 22nd, 2021 and invited volunteers to participate. Police Week proclamation signed on behalf of the city recognizing this week as Police Week and May 15th recognized as Peace Officers Memorial Day appreciating hard work and important work that police do.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

None noted.

STAFF REPORTS

None noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the consent agenda. Consent agenda items included: 1) Vouchers for approval in the amount of \$327,806.17, Payroll 8, April 2021 and Payroll 9, May 2021 in the amount of \$114,641.10 and Payroll Benefits in the amount of \$83,955.13 to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts; Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS**AB21-48_Resolution 21-10 designating May 16-23, 2021 as Public Works Week**

Public Works Director Morgan acknowledged public works week is recognized nationally and the week is set each year. Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for the work performed on a regular basis by the department. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Walker, council authorized the Mayor to sign Resolution 21-10 recognizing May 16th – 23rd, 2021 as Public Works Week; Motion passed 7-0.

AB20-72 Public Works Asbestos Abatement Final Acceptance

Contractor hired in 2020 to remove asbestos from the Public Works Field Office and project completed with a savings of approximately \$5,000. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember McCarty, Council accepted the asbestos abatement project at the Public Works field office as complete. Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-29_Resolution 21-11 Personnel Policy Update

Planning Director Galuska explained the personnel policy had been presented at previous council meetings and has not been updated since 2011; Administrator Ibershof drafted a fairly comprehensive rewrite of the policy. Mayor Wiita acknowledged that the policy had to essentially be completely rewritten due to all the state code and rules that had been changed. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council adopted Resolution 21-11 updating the Personnel Policy. Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-49_Ordinance 1347-21 Changing the Planning Director to Community Development Director

Planning Director Galuska explained the code is inconsistent in referring to Planning Director; and that changes to staffing will bring building, code enforcement, and planning under one director. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council adopted Ordinance 1347-21 changing the title of Planning Director to Community Development Director. Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-50_Ordinance 1348-21_2021 Salary Schedule Update

Planning Director Galuska explained staffing changes and new positions previously discussed at council meetings. Big change budgeted for engineer position and changing to construction specialist; changing field supervisor to operations manager as it better reflects the staffing roles and responsibilities. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council adopted Ordinance 1348-21 approving the updates to the Salary Schedule for 2021 for non-represented employees. Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-51_Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security Grant for Sky Valley Generator Project

Commerce Grant for Sky Valley Generators, and an additional grant was acquired from DEM Homeland Security for additional assistance towards the project. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember McCarty, council authorized the Mayor to sign a grant agreement with Homeland Security for \$3,500.00. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION**AB21-23_Utility Rates**

Interim Finance Director Erdman and Mayor Wiita explained a Mayor proclamation was presented in December 2020 placing a rate increase moratorium until February; February 2021 council approved a continued rate increase moratorium thru July 2021. Seeking council direction on one of three options as follows: let the executive order sunset and implement new rates, implement a mid-year rate increase, or delay the increase thru the remainder of 2021. Discussion amongst council on the options presented to include infrastructure, impact of late payments/non-payments with shut off moratorium, financial impact and funding impacts of the options. With the acknowledgement of a rate study set to kick off in 2022 and anticipated funds from the federal government to continue to support families in need, council unanimous in allowing the moratorium to sunset at the end of June and allow the 2021 rate increase to go into effect as previously planned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) Consideration of Potential Real Estate Lease/Purchase
RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – Personnel**

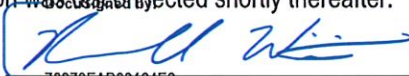
On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council entered executive session for an initial period of twenty minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) Consideration of Potential Real Estate Lease/Purchase and RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – Personnel; Motion passed 7-0; Council started executive session at approximately 8:16 p.m. with City Attorney Evans in attendance. All attendees not allowed in executive session were placed in Zoom conferencing waiting room status.

Clerk noted time lag between approving executive session versus going into executive session and with placing attendees in waiting room and again bringing attendees out of waiting room to announce at approximately 8:37 p.m. Executive Session was extended another 20 minutes. Council ended executive session at approximately 8:58 p.m.

It was noted that council Zoom recording was paused before going into executive session and was not restarted to record the adjournment of the meeting.

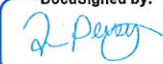
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:59 p.m. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.


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Russell Wiita, Mayor

DocuSigned by:



Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk