

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – June 24, 2021

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid with attendees both in person at City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom Internet Conference Service. The Mayor called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers in attendance: In Person: McCarty, Aldrich, Sivewright, Neigel, Beeler; Via Zoom: Walker, Vaughn

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember McCarty, Seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, Salary Commission Appointment, Agenda Bill No 21-62, was added as Action Item #6 to the agenda; Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING**2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Mayor Wiita opened the public hearing and read the public hearing procedures.

Mayor Wiita gave a statement acknowledging public comments expressing concerns about their view of a lack of public engagement and transparency on the part of the city. He also addressed accusations aimed at city staff while acknowledging healthy skepticism of government activities by the public. He explained the city would be moving forward with a focus on public engagement and transparency while working to build public trust before proceeding with further decisions on this issue.

Staff Report

Presentation on file with the city clerk's office.

Public Works Director Morgan presented the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and explained its background and intention. He walked through the changes as follows:

- Changed all references from SR2 to US2
- Corrected a statement referencing the 2020 Updated Capital Facilities Plan
- Two East/West Connector projects now removed from the plan until further outreach could be completed.
- Added Project T-34 US 2 Intersection Improvements to allow the city to study the potential traffic impact to US 2 if the city were to convert all signed intersections on US 2 to 5 Lane intersections or roundabouts.

Morgan reviewed the remaining projects carried over from the previous year. Morgan explained the city must have a current Transportation Improvement Plan in order to apply for federal or state funding grants.

Council Questions:

None noted.

Public Comment

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Brad Cole, Bryant Road: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Colleen Rupke, written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Judy Heydrick: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Bill Pragner, Old Owen Road: Issues with high traffic congestion on weekend blocks residents of trailer park and they are unable to access or exit their home due to the backup.

Conner Morgan, Loves Hill Drive: Requesting study of morning peak hour traffic 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. timeframe; suggested improvements to Sultan Basin Road by restriping bottom of hill on SBR to include right turn only lane.

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road: Tough thing and tough situation, pandemic and personal issues made it hard and admitted hadn't been as attentive to city work. Appreciates Mayor's sentiments and the decision to remove east west connector project from the TIP at this time.

Ginny Smith, Marguerite Lane: Thanked Mayor for sentiments; concerns with roundabout on US 2 and would like to know the potential construction hours and residents ability to access their homes at all times. Concerns with continued growth on Basin and potential fire hazards with the high heat coming in this summer and the backup that would be caused in addition to already congested weekend backups. Interested in knowing how the roads became so unmanageable, how it got the way it did and why.

David Dallenbach, Loves Hill Drive: Expressed opposition and concerns to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Brad Cole, Bryant Road: Grateful to council for placing the all East/West connector projects on hold until more information is provided to the public.

Jocelynn Fallgatter, Trout Farm Road: Engaged by the Kraut's and their rights regarding T-75; thanked Mayor for removing all East/West Connector Projects from the TIP; emailed city earlier today with attachments; encouraged council to direct city staff to place documents on the city website in a logical sense, to fix the problems with the planning process and access to the documents; concerned with other projects on US2 and encouraged to re-review as it relates to an East/West Connector; questioned the effectiveness of roundabouts on US2 without also making US2 four lanes.

Motion

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember McCarty, the public hearing on the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was closed. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Brad Cole, Bryant Road: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Colleen Rupke, Bryant Road: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3.

Judy Heydrick: written comments received and attached expressing opposition to proposed T-75 East/West Arterial Connector #3; and opposition to Tortorice Annexation.

Reid Shockey, Shockey Planning Group, 2716 Colby Avenue, Everett: Representing Heleine Tortorice regarding Action #1 Tortorice Annexation. Here and happy to address questions at that time.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

McCarty: Neighbor testified using his car phone tonight during the public hearing and in discussions there were speculations that the East/West Connector Project presented could come within fifty feet of neighboring properties.

Vaughn: Thanked Mayor for acknowledging that occasionally that we do get things wrong and we are only human; acknowledged citizen comments.

Neigel: Acknowledged citizen comments; thanked Mayor for flexibility in speaking to council and staff; VOA Western Washington was awarded Health Care Authorities Community Improvement and Wellness Initiative grant which provides dedicated funding and services for mental health awareness/assistance, as well as suicide prevention awareness/assistance for citizens.

Sivewright: Appreciated Mayor Wiita's comments. Also believes transparency and collaboration are very important. If my house was in jeopardy I would advocate loud and strong. Hope to move forward from this in a positive direction to find the solution. Now it is time to work in a positive direction of collaboration. Excessive heat warning potentially set for the coming weekend and advocated for cooling stations. Visioning Steering Committee collecting public comments and University of Washington interns assisting in helping collect information on the downtown vision project. To date, 250 people have answered the survey and Sivewright encouraged citizens to answer the survey to provide input.

Beeler: Respect everyone who has stepped forward to be a leader in the community and acknowledged the hard work that it takes. Encouraged citizens to answer the downtown visioning survey. Acknowledged citizen concerns and explained advocated for US2 improvements for many years. Encouraged residents to prepare for the heatwave and to responsibly enjoy fireworks while remaining conscientious of the fire hazards.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Cooling stations are being provided in Monroe and (add: the city) will be working with VOA to see if transportation is available; will be working to post on city social media sites about general safety tips for staying cool. Cooling stations also available at Monroe Library and in the City of Everett. Visioning Steering Committee met on Tuesday and got some feedback from UW Students and will be releasing information when the survey is completed. Based on the survey information received, feedback will then turn into focus groups.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

The city applied for a grant for a roundabout at US2 and Main Street; if awarded the city would receive \$900,000 dollars for the project. Review is expected to pass through the house and move to the senate soon. Staff member that held the role of Code Enforcement Officer has been promoted to Building Inspector. City will still be focused on code enforcement, but that role is shifting to other staff members. An offer was made to an application for the Construction Specialist position. The city has received only one applicant for the Senior Planner position, but still accepting applications at this time. The Main Street Sewer Project is expected to wrap up June 9th. The remaining parts for the Sky Valley generator project are anticipated soon. Sultan Farmers Market is going strong on Saturdays through the summer. Population of the City as of July 15th officially increased to 5,755 residents. City hall reopening July 1st to visitors and staff will continue wearing masks until receive clear direction from the governor on that matter.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports submitted and on file for Public Works and Community Development Departments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember McCarty, council approved the consent agenda. Consent agenda items included as follows: 1) Vouchers for approval in the amount \$419,835.87, Payroll 12 in the amount of \$53,090.06, Council/Mayor Payroll in the amount of \$4,038.15, Payroll benefits for Payroll 11 and 12 in the amount of \$121,537.86, Tax deposit in the amount of \$43,256.06, ACH Transactions in the amount of \$3,589.53, Bond Payments in the amount of \$44,230.00, Void and re-issue in the amount of \$-175,914.80, re-issue void check in the amount of \$385.02, and Bank Fees in the amount of \$2,455.49 to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts; 2) Minutes of the May 27, 2021 Council Meeting; and 3) Minutes of the June 10, 2021 Council Meeting; Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS**AB19-18_Tortorice Annexation**

Administrator Ibershof presented the numerous dates the annexation has been brought before both planning and council and the area of the annexation being presented. Brief discussion on the petition received in public comment in relationship to the action, as well as the moral dilemmas council is faced with when considering annexations. On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich to pass Ordinance 1349-21 completing the Tortorice Annexation; motion passed 7-0.

AB21-17_Contract amendment with Garland/DBS

Administrator Ibershof explained additional repairs needed and funding contingency is in place to account for those repairs as the work on building restoration work at City Hall and the Post Office continues. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Beeler, council authorized the Mayor to sign the amendment for the agreement with Garland/DBS for an amount not to exceed \$15,771.21; Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-59_Resolution 21-15_ 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan

Public Works Director Morgan explained the TIP as presented earlier in the meeting during the public hearing, but explained the packet was amended to remove the two east west connector projects, thereby lowering the TIP to 10 projects only; On a motion by Councilmember Walker, Seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan. On a motion by Councilmember Siverwright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council amended the TIP to remove the east west connector projects; motion and amendment passed 7-0.

AB21-33_Reese Construction Change Order for Mainstreet Sewer Project

Public Works Director Morgan explained design for ADA ramp location and actual implementation had conflicts with the location to fire hydrants and other features, therefore prompting corrections through this change order. Discussion on funds available and the budget requiring a possible amendment in the future if all projects proceeded as planned. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember McCarty, council approved AB21-33 the Reese Construction Change Order adding \$17,075.25 for additional curb, gutter, and sidewalk to be replaced; On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Walker, the motion was amended to add additional sales tax to the total proposal bring the total amount authorized to \$18,612.02; Motion and amendment passed 7-0.

AB20-81_Extension of HB1923 Grant

Administrator Ibershof explained that delays with the pandemic caused delays in the successful completion of the Sky Valley Generators, therefore an extension was needed to provide more time to complete the project. On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Beeler, council authorized the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Department of Commerce to extend the HB1923 Grant; Motion passed 7-0.

AB21-62_Salary Commission Appointment

Mayor Wiita explained the Salary Commission was set to meet soon and was still short on members, therefore in solicitations Toni Piquet had expressed her interest in involvement on the commission. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the appointment of Toni Piquet to the Salary Commission; Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:19 p.m. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:



05FG34C484FG42E...

Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk

DocuSigned by:


76379EAB08164E8
Russell Wiita, Mayor