

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL WORKSHOP – July 7, 2022

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: Morgan, Aldrich, Dearborn, Hund, Sivewright, and Beeler. (Noted that Councilmember Beeler joined the meeting shortly after roll call).

Councilmember Absent: Neigel.

Staff: City Administrator Ibershof, Public Works Director Morgan, Community Development Director Galuska.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None Noted.

DISCUSSION

Storefront Studio Façade Program

(It should be noted early in the discussion the meeting was paused for approximately five minutes to clear up technical issues experienced.)

Mayor Wiita started the discussion by reminding council the storefront studio façade project was implemented in response to last year's Visioning Project that confirmed community feedback requesting improvements to the downtown corridor.

Community Development Director Galuska presented the results of the UW students storefront studio façade program and reminded council this was a result of several months of community outreach. The projects suggested were broken out by three areas as follows:

- 1) Feed Building and Park Area: improvements suggested included, but were not limited to flood mitigation skate park, basketball court, amphitheater, pump track, splash park, playground, flood protection, and improvements to key buildings such as the old feed store at 311 Main Street.
- 2) Warner Block Area: improvements suggested focused mainly on the property purchased by the city at 401 Alder Avenue and ideas for development of this area to include open space park ideas, parking for the downtown area, and public restrooms. Additional areas included key improvements to existing businesses located on Main Street from 4th Street to 5th Street such as Kiss the Sky Books. Also included suggestions to the businesses located at the intersection of US 2 and 3rd Street to improve the look and feel of the entrance to city.
- 3) Main Street Area: improvements suggested included weather protection for citizens shopping to include seating, landscaping, lighting, murals in key areas, and other design improvements to enhance the look and feel of Main Street.

Administrator Ibershof updated council on a potential property purchase he was directed by council to review. He then discussed the ARPA dollars available that could be applied to the next steps in this project and requested council input on the direction they would like staff to take.

Council discussion on Snohomish County Search & Rescue budget issues and potential assistance the city could provide as they are a vital part of emergency services. Mayor Wiita suggested further discussions were needed with the county to determine next steps if any.

Council expressed their appreciation of the vision presented in the storefront studio façade program. Council also expressed their interest in infrastructure improvements and park improvements starting at the western end of the city

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL WORKSHOP – July 7, 2022 (continued)

where a majority of events occur to make the city more inviting to citizens and tourists. All expressed interest in creating a phased approach for implementation of the projects suggested. Council also erred on the side of caution due to inflation impacting costs at this time. They also expressed their desire to bring economic growth and value to the businesses in the projects and making smart choices that will attract revenue to the city.

Administrator Ibershof confirmed the specific elements council wants staff to focus on. They confirmed the elements they are interested in focusing on initially are as follows:

- Potential property purchases under review via property assessment.
- Façade grant program to potential interested businesses to include an element of outside lighting.
- Improvements to downtown areas city already owns to include River Park Pavilion area as well as the 402 Alder Street property to include improved lighting, benches, and public restrooms.

Brief discussion on potential zoning and code changes that may be needed to implement some of the changes suggested. Community Development Director Galuska confirmed that staff will be reviewing zoning during the upcoming comprehensive plan update and in agreement that the zoning could be increased.

In addition, he explained he is in discussion with the public works director regarding a potential flood plain study and the cost associated as some of the projects suggested are to assist the downtown in minimizing the flood impacts to the area. He stated this study would aid conversations on zoning and improvements moving forward.

Administrator Ibershof confirmed for council that ARPA funds needed to be allocated by 2024 with expenditures completed by 2025. He also stated that he would bring additional information as directed to future council meetings as the improvement projects move forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None Noted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich the meeting was ended at approximately 8:30 pm. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:



78379E4A90876466
Russell Wiita, Mayor

DocuSigned by:



89FC34C461FC42E...
Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk