

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – July 14, 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, Neigel, and Sivewright

Councilmember Absent: Beeler

Staff: Administrator Ibershof, Public Works Director Morgan, Finance Director Erdman, and City Clerk Pevey.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

- Addition of excused absence of Councilmember Beeler to Consent Agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chelsea Revoir, Gohr Road - written comment received urging council not to consider Gohr Road as a possible East/West connector road.

Taylor Sharp – written comment received indicating part of Gohr Road community and urging council not to consider Gohr Road as a possible East/West connector road.

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road – (copy of easement he referenced on file with the city clerk) reviewed housing projects in progress or currently being proposed and the impact to trips on the Basin Road in proportion to proposed east/west connections and feels it is negligible for anything other than emergency evacuation; discussed the evacuation trail and proposed the possibility of paving it as an emergency response option.

Jeff Estes, Startup –Residents are weary of development and the impacts of growth and requesting the city consider the pros and cons of allowing this amount of development to take place. Suggested the city limit the growth and put their residents first to focus on proper planning and management. Addressed the comment of paving the evacuation route and questioned why PUD did not upgrade when they redid their license with the city.

Stacy McGregor, 357th Ave SE – reviewed one East West connector possibility up Trout Farm Road thru 337th Avenue SE; explained the history behind it and shared the areas where it is county versus city versus private and expressed concerns with this area being considered for an East/West connector and/or evacuation route.

Hunter Saither, Gohr Road –urged council not to consider Gohr Road as a possible East/West Connector.

Colleen Rupke, Bryant Road – expressed disappointment with approval of transportation improvement plan; expressed disappointment with the city re-addressing project completed a while back and feels residents were misinformed on the reason for the change of addresses. Expressed concern with current suggestion that East/West connector is being reviewed due to evacuation and emergency services.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Morgan: Addressed public comments regarding East/West connector and his stance of being for residents first; also expressed his concerns for East/West connector and confirmed he will be looking closely at all elements before any decision is made. Expressed appreciation for work done by public works keeping areas of town clean and well kept; Enjoyed Shindig and appreciated the hard work of the Chamber and volunteers involved and noticed the small details taken care of. Acknowledged hard work staff has done to date regarding various projects.

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Aldrich: Nice to see the Shindig back and acknowledged the hard work by chamber, staff, and volunteers.

Dearborn: Addressed public comments regarding East/West Connector and expressed he is not in favor of imminent domain; encouraged citizens to come and hear council discussion on this topic. Enjoyed the shindig and the festivities.

Hund: Agreed with comments from fellow councilmembers that the current council is not in favor of imminent domain but understands plans need to be developed and reviewed; Expressed his enjoyment of the Shindig festivities.

Neigel: Thanked citizens for comments and expressed desire to hear more about items discussed from staff perspective; resigned from the Board of Health and explained his reasonings; addressed citizen comments regarding the Transportation Improvement Plan as well as the East/West connector and the need to demonstrate that we are reviewing all options for the state to fix US 2.

Sivewright: Acknowledged input and concerns of citizens regarding East/West connector and in agreement imminent domain will only be explored as a last resort but stated no decisions have been made as the city isn't at that point yet. Acknowledged Chief Martin police staff report and work being done to integrate the new officers into the community. Expressed appreciation for city funding towards mental health.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wiita thanked citizens for attendance and comments and acknowledged the seriousness of any discussion that involves imminent domain; East/West Connector comments well received that they won't solve the traffic problems but proves the point that the city has been stuck in traffic issues due to US 2 desperately needing improvements. Acknowledged the great work of the Sky Valley Chamber to put on a successful Shindig event. Physical copy at council stations of storefront studio work completed to date.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Appreciated council support for evacuation trail lighting; budget work for 2023 in progress and revenues are up from what was predicted; second technical working group met and WSDOT still very skeptical and believes there are other alternatives to be explored; WSDOT representatives slated to meet with city staff on site in the coming weeks; The city is tentatively slated to receive a \$2 million dollar grant from Senator Cantwell's office for US 2 improvements and confident the city will receive the funds; Advised the senior center is attempting to change its name and is continuing to provide lunches as well as an upcoming pancakes breakfast; city placed a call for bids for HVAC upgrades at the post office and will present more when the bids are opened.; Confirmed the city has two interns working with the City, a communications intern and a finance specialist. Both are doing great work and the city is looking to implement a fulltime communications specialist in the 2023 budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the following consent agenda items as amended were approved with motion passing 6-0.

- 1) Voucher Approval July 14, 2022, accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$256,673.40, payroll #12, Council June payroll, payroll benefits #12 and Premium COVID benefits in the amount of \$170,784.36 and 2nd quarter taxes in the amount of \$11,929.65 all to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.

ACTION ITEMS

AB21-71_Task Order Amendment #1 with TSI for US 2 Corridor Public outreach

Public Works Director Morgan explained this amendment is to review additional possible connection routes to see the impact to traffic counts. This is being done at the insistence of WSDOT to prove to WSDOT that improvements to US 2 are needed before other traffic improvements will be sustainable. Discussion on sharing more to the social media

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pages to enhance the public engagement and information process. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized the Mayor to sign Amendment #1 to Task Order #6 with Transportation Solutions Inc. (TSI) adding an amount of \$9,950.00 making the new amount not to exceed \$145,350.00; Motion passed 6-0.

AB22-51_Task Order #8 with TSI for ADA Transition Plan

Public Works Director Morgan explained in order to be compliant with future grant applications the city needs to update its ADA transition plan. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized the Mayor to sign Task Order #8 with Transportation Solutions Inc. (TSI) for an amount not to exceed \$29,000; Motion passed 6-0.

AB22-52_Task Order #7 with TSI for Functional Classification Update

Public Works Director Morgan explained when the city breached a population of 5,000 the city changed to urban, which has different criteria to include federal classified road. He explained the four roads that currently have that classification. 19 additional roads will be reviewed for federal classification to open the city to more accessibility to grant funding for street improvements. Discussion of work TSI will perform and confirmation of streets. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized the Mayor to sign Task Order #7 with Transportation Solutions Inc. (TSI) for an amount not to exceed \$16,900.00; Motion passed 6-0.

AB22-53_Water Meter Purchase with General Pacific

Public Works Director Morgan explained this is an annual purchase to ensure stock of meters will meet upcoming needs. On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized staff to purchase 200 new water meters from General Pacific Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 which includes a 20% contingency without prior authorization from Council; Motion passed 6-0.

AB22-94_Ordinance 1370-22_Second budget amendment for the year.

(additional documentation presented to council on file with the clerk's office)

Finance Director Erdman explained the various changes being presented to the budget. Council expressed their appreciation to staff for the hard work to keep the city on budget. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council adopted Ordinance 1370-22 approving the 2022 Budget Amendment #2; Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION

AB22-54_City Vector Truck

Public Works Director Morgan explained the various uses the vector truck performs and the issues with the current truck; he then provided current possible options for council to consider as follows:

- Replace the water pump and order a new vector truck in July of 2022
- Not replace the water pump and work with other agencies on renting theirs
- Replace the water pump and not replace the vector truck
- Replace the water pump and program the investments for a new truck later

Morgan then explained the current equipment fund cannot afford to buy a new truck outright, and discussion held on the various costs associated with each option and the impacts to the budget for each; discussion also included the impacts this purchase may have on the city working to replace the backhoe as well. Mayor Wiita confirmed it was initially programmed to purchase a new vector truck in 2023 to start financing a new one. Morgan confirmed this was correct and discussed the equipment longevity/replacement list with an estimate of cost to purchase. Discussion on possibility of purchasing a used vector truck and Morgan confirmed he could review that; the current truck was purchased used in 2015; expressed interest in used and repairing current truck. Discussion of work completed and how often the goal is to accomplish that work and option of trailer option vs truck option. Discussion on reasoning for having a truck in house versus continually renting a truck as well as safety aspect upgrades on a newer vehicle versus

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the current one in house. Acknowledgement that the current vehicle has lasted 24 years. Discussion on pros and cons of used versus new and implications that can have.

Confirmation from council to repair the current vehicle, stick to the current equipment replacement plan, and review all options for replacement to include new vs used costs and what the budget will allow. Additional question on whether the city should hold off on rental later this year to increase the amount available to repair; council expressed their desire to see both: repair and rental later in the year. Discussion on possible budget amendment required to perform both but will review and bring back approval and amendment as required. Also, recommendation on reviewing used vehicles only 5-10 years old.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:31 p.m. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:



Russell Wiita, Mayor

DocuSigned by:



Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk