

## **CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – September 22, 2022**

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid meeting 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, and Beeler.

Councilmembers Absent: Sivewright, Niegel

Staff: Administrator Ibershof, Community Development Director Galuska, Public Works Operations Manager MacDicken, 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 5-0.

- Adding Action Item – confirmation of new police chief
- Adding a closed session at end of meeting for collective bargaining discussion
- Adding Consent Item - Excused absence of Councilmember Niegel.
- Adding Consent Item - Excused absence of Councilmember Sivewright.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **AB22-46 US 2 Corridor Study Update**

Administrator Ibershof explained this update is regarding the second round of technical, regional, and working group meetings completed.

Victor Salemman, President of Transportation Solutions Inc. (TSI) updated council explaining they are over halfway through completion of the community engagement process with the final report slated for November. The city received 920 online survey responses which included users of the highway that reside outside the city. He confirmed traffic congestion is on the peak hours of Friday evening, Sunday evening, and holiday traffic. All agree there aren't enough lanes on the highway to accommodate the traffic. Salemman explained the recent closure of US 2 due to the Bolt Creek Wildfire helped to truly understand the impact of traffic and they were able to obtain a full seven-day count of traffic to generate a real-time percentage of through traffic not generated by citizens of Sultan.

He provided an update on the working group meetings and explained the preferred design option is adding lanes and removing traffic lights in favor of roundabouts and top preferred impacts to avoid are business and property access restrictions. He provided a list of participants in the three working groups along with a summary of information provided to the groups. In addition, Salemman confirmed the groups reviewed East/West Connector options presented to date as well as a potential new East/West Connector crossing from Old Owen Road across the river over to the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Date Street. The groups found none of the east west connector options solve the US 2 problem and noted significant downsides to some of the proposed areas suggested.

Continuing to review the top US 2 design alternative of 4 lanes with multi-lane roundabouts and that discussion has shifted to defining where the roundabouts would go and other details, such as if they provide right turn only exits at certain intersections where a U-turn is within a reasonable distance from that intersection. He provided feedback on other aspects from all group discussions.

Discussion on funding and improvements WSDOT is planning in support of the alternative suggested. He confirmed discussion groups are viewing a "complete street" that anticipates all users to include bus users, walkers, and bicyclists. In addition, he shared the next steps in the selection of a proposed alternative presented.

**CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – September 22, 2022 (Continued)**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**AB22-72 – Confirmation of John Adams as New Police Chief**

Mayor Wiita explained Chief Martin had been reassigned to a different location, therefore, Lieutenant John Adams was the city's choice to fill the position. Undersheriff Harry, and Bureau Chief Robertson with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office spoke recommending Lieutenant Adams as a top-notch sheriff with 20+ years' experience who is a tremendous leader, straight shooter, honest answer, do the right thing type of person and felt he will be a great match for the city. Council expressed their appreciation to former Chief Martin for his service and looked forward to the continued working partnership with the new Chief. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council confirmed the appointment of Lieutenant John Adams for the Chief of Police for the City of Sultan. Motion passed 5-0.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road, Sultan: Provided written documents to the city clerk and council which showed his trepidation over an east west connector being reviewed at Bryant Road.

Jeff Estes, Startup – Thanked council and city for improvements to the city to include parks and cleanup occurring; suggested roundabout at Sultan Basin Road and US 2 would make the most improvement and has seen the impact of the highway closure due to recent fire east of the city. Urged council to approve the school impact increase on the agenda later and expressed his opinion that development growth should pay for infrastructure costs; as well as that quality and appearance of schools should be the number one priority.

Colleen Rupke, Bryant Road – Thanked Mayor Wiita for participating video put together to express a change in the laws that tie the hands and restrict officers in performing their work; welcomed new Police Chief Adams; in support of citizen suggestion of a roundabout at US 2 and Sultan Basin Road would make the most strategic and immediate impact, but also opposed to the Bryant Road east/west connector as well as pursuit of all east/west connector routes until it gets citizens all the way from the east end of city limits to the west end of city limits.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Morgan – Thanked all Fire/EMS personnel for their support in fighting the Bolt Creek Wildfire; thanked citizens for comments and presentations tonight; Acknowledged Return of the Salmon Festival this weekend and farmers market still ongoing.

Aldrich – Thanked first responders and appreciated the up-to-date posts from the city regarding the fire; looking forward to the Return of the Salmon festival this weekend.

Morgan – Thanked citizens for their comments as well as Fire/EMS responders fighting the fire.

Hund – Thanked first responders fighting the fire; feels focusing on gaps revealed in emergency response and communication is important to follow up and discuss; welcomed the new police chief; excited for the salmon festival.

Beeler – Addressed Citizen Kraut comments explaining there are other avenues and options to achieve the same results without impacting others. Continues his stance of US 2 improvements first and if needed east/west connector later. Supports suggestions of roundabout at Sultan Basin Road. Thanked citizens for comments and communication with the council. Thanked Public Works Director Morgan for the foresight to think about counting cars while the roads were closed to through traffic during the fire so the city could gain an accurate count of US 2 impact improvements needed. Acknowledged issue with communication glitch that caused upset to citizens regarding the Bolt Creek Fire and expressed desire to discuss these issues at a future meeting.

## **CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – September 22, 2022 (Continued)**

### **MAYOR COMMENTS**

Thanked first responders who came together to fight the Bolt Creek Fire. Mayor explained he had spent 8 days at the fire command post to fully understand what occurs during incidents like these and shared information he gained during his time there; understanding the roles local elected officials and community leaders play in this situation was vital and confirmed discussions have started to address improvement in communication and other issues brought to light during this issue. Shoutout to public works for quickly mobilizing to assist Skykomish and the effects the fire was having on that community to continue to run efficiently. Acknowledged Chamber of Commerce support for mobilizing volunteers and meal prep. Acknowledged community support coordinated resources and supplies to ensure the needs were met. Thanked councilmembers for recognizing those who are working to fight and support those in the Bolt Creek Fire. US 2 anticipated to open once debris and other areas are cleared and safe to pass through. Return of the Salmon festival this Saturday and is a great time to reflect on the cultural heritage in the community. Thanked TSI for the US 2 presentation and updated council on his continuing efforts to coordinate with representatives. Provided an update on recent meetings as well as an upcoming meeting with the 12<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> legislative district to present the updated information as well as discussions scheduled in the coming weeks with ranking members in the house transportation committee. Confident in January the legislators will have heard and know about this project. Sultan is anticipating asking for funding for US 2 improvements with a legislative agenda coming to council for approval before the end of the year.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

Administrator Ibershof confirmed two city interns were finishing up their assignments at the end of September; he welcomed new Police Chief Adams; will be in attendance at a school evacuation drill planned for Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>; confirmed the city vector truck did break down and set for discussion later in meeting; stated October 6<sup>th</sup> council workshop will provide a rate study update; October 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting will include a presentation on the 2023 budget; October 29<sup>th</sup> the VOAWW and Sheriff's Office will be hosting a drug take back event; discussed in communication with AWC regarding the work the mayor and chamber has been doing with ARPA investments and that AWC is writing an article on the topic for an upcoming issue of their "Vision" magazine.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written report on file for the public works and community development departments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the following consent agenda items as amended were approved with motion passing 5-0.

- 1) Voucher Approval for September 22, 2022, accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$215,823.73, bank fees in the amount of \$5,287.62, August excise taxes in the amount of \$18,778.16, bond payment in the amount of \$3,589.53 and a void in the amount of \$579.00 all to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 2) 9/8/2022 Council Meeting Minutes
- 3) Minutes of Public Hearing\_AB22-61\_Chapter 9 Comprehensive Plan Update
- 4) Minutes of Public Hearing\_AB22-62\_School Capital Facility Plan
- 5) Excused absence of Councilmember Neigel.
- 6) Excused absence of Councilmember Sivewright.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **AB22-62\_Ordinance 1371-22\_School Capital Facility Plan 2022-2027**

Community Development Director Galuska explained significant growth occurring at the school and the school needs the resources from the growth that is coming in. In addition, due to recommendations during discussions, the plan was amended to reduce the fee for low-income housing with recommendation for 50% reduction for non-profits and low-

## **CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – September 22, 2022 (Continued)**

income housing projects. Superintendent Chaplik on site to express appreciation for council consideration and answer questions.

Council discussion on 50% reduction and criteria to determine who qualifies for the discount. Suggestion of standard definition of affordable housing; confirmation that fee is paid when building permits are issued; although supportive council was hesitant due to the significant increase and the impact the amount may have to the building community. Acknowledgement and discussion of recent school session increase of 600 children and the impact that has had on school resources.

On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Hund, council approved Ordinance 1371-22 to adopt the Sultan School District Capital Facilities Plan as an addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan; Motion passed 5-0.

### **AB22-70\_Quit Claim Deed for Sultan School District**

Administrator Ibershof explained the Department of Commerce sent the city a letter to fill out a survey for 514 4<sup>th</sup> street stating the city was the property owner on file. This location is known to be the current Elementary School and Sultan School District administration office location. In researching the issue, city staff feels a road project done on 4<sup>th</sup> Street a few years earlier that acquired right of way easement for the city might have been the source of the error. Ibershof explained a quit claim deed was the easiest method to correct the issue and place the ownership back in the school districts name.

Clerk Pevey confirmed an amendment to the quit claim deed was needed as it was the intent of both parties for the school to cover all fees associated with the transfer. The fees were confirmed as follows:

- \$10 for excise tax report filing
- \$204.50 to record the deed with the county

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized the Mayor to sign a quit claim deed for the property at 514 4<sup>th</sup> Street Sultan WA 98294 as amended to the amount of \$214.50; Motion passed 5-0.

### **AB22-71\_Municipal Payments Module**

City Clerk Pevey explained finance software vendor Springbrook recently released a payment module that allowed the city to process payments through the finance system in real-time for services beyond utility billing. In review there would be no cost to the city to implement the module and the city would see a slight reduction in the fees being paid out by the city. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized staff to proceed with changing our credit card processing vendor from CP Teller to Municipal Payments; Motion passed 5-0.

### **AB22-69\_River Park and Public Works Shop Roof Bid Award (BCN Construction LLC)**

Administrator Ibershof stated the city received a grant to replace the roof at the gazebo and build an ADA ramp. He confirmed that staff built the ADA ramp at the gazebo, but that the Public Works shop roof was currently leaking so this project was wrapped into the call for bids for the city save time and money. Bids had been received and BCN Construction was the low bidder on the project and all backgrounds checks on the system were successful. Council discussion on roof color and ensuring a color decision didn't affect the price. Also, discussion on why a 25% contingency was included versus the usual 10% contingency included in projects. Operations Manager MacDicken explained to ensure they covered all aspects as parts of the project would be unknown until the underneath structure was revealed when the work on the project commenced. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council awarded the bid to BCN Construction LLC for an amount not to exceed \$66,700.00 (which includes a 25% contingency) without prior authorization from council; Motion passed 5-0.

**CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – September 22, 2022 (Continued)**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**AB22-54\_City Vactor Truck**

City Administrator Ibershof and Operations Manager MacDicken presented options for replacing or repairing the currently broken down Vactor truck. Information provided included options of new truck, used, truck, vactor trailer, and option of repairing the current vehicle. Staff has done their due diligence to demo trucks and options through dealers to include review of the service and parts departments of each option presented and feels confident in the options being presented. Discussion on pros and cons of each option. Staff not recommending repairing the current vehicle as current quote was \$60,000 plus in repairs. It was decided that buying a demo truck was the preferred option and discussion shifted to funding. Staff confirmed there was \$450,000 currently available in the equipment fund and \$1.1 Million available thru ARPA dollars. Ibershof confirmed the city does have the resources to buy one of the demo trucks via a load that all utility funds would pay for. Council again confirmed agreement to purchase demo truck and staff confirmed they would bring the item for action to a future meeting with confirmation on all the elements discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Hund the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Collective Bargaining Session**

The closed session to discuss the collective bargaining agreement started at approximately 8:54 p.m. and ended at approximately 9:20 p.m. It should be noted that Councilmember Aldrich excused herself from the closed session due to a conflict of interest.

DocuSigned by:



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Russell Wiita, Mayor

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Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk