

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – November 17, 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, Sivewright, and Beeler.

Staff: 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 agenda; Motion passed 7-0.

- Cancel AB22-78_2022 Audit Exit Conference at Auditor's Request.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AB22-79_Resolution 22-11_6 Year Capital Improvement Plan

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the public hearing under separate cover.

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council closed the public hearing on the 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-17_Proposed Water/Sewer/Stormwater Utility Rates

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the public hearing under separate cover.

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council closed the public hearing on water, sewer, and stormwater rates; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-68_2023 Final Budget

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the public hearing under separate cover.

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council closed the public hearing on the 2023 Budget; Motion passed 7-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Noted technical difficulties during this timeframe during the start public comments and Citizen McCarty's comments not heard remotely to those in attendance.

Bob McCarty, Loves Hill Drive, Advised council his term on the County Parks Board is up at the end of the year and he cannot reapply to the board for 2 years. In the meantime, he is planning to apply to be board member on the County Noxious Weed Board and will work to seek assistance on Sultan's behalf in controlling and maintaining the dangerous knotweed growth in and around the Sultan area. Discussed his concerns with this weed and ways he feels the county and city could work together to address this issue.

Ron Kraut, Bryant Road, shared Judy Heydrick's concerns about the proposed/potential Bryant Road East West Connector Project. Expressed his appreciation for the city delaying any further East/West Connector Project work at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Morgan: Expressed his appreciation seeing the East West Connector Project delayed for now; Reflected on his first year serving as a councilmember and has appreciated the public engagement and learning thru the process of being a councilmember and appreciate the hard work completed by staff and council this year.

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Aldrich: Thanked public for comments and attendance; Looking forward to the holiday season.

Morgan: Thanked public for comments and attendance; Hoping East West Connector Project delay will allow more time for the city to review the options in more depth. Also looking forward to the holiday season.

Hund: Thanked public for comments and attendance; Also acknowledged his first year completed as a councilmember and recognized the work that has been completed this year. Wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Sivewright: Thanked public for comments and attendance; Invited everyone to upcoming Sultan Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Thanksgiving day at the high school and encouraged citizens to volunteer, donate, or attend the event.

Beeler: Thanked staff for following up on areas that needed clean-up on the east end of town which was completed by local businesses; Noted that City Hall outdoor lights were not turning on at the correct time in the evening; Echoed sentiments expressed by fellow councilmembers for all to have a safe holiday season and reminded citizens of world affairs and encouraged prayers for peace; thanked council and staff for the hard work this year.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wiita echoed previous comments from councilmembers; He acknowledged the current council and what each member brings to the table and appreciated the comradery and working relationship amongst councilmembers; Veteran's day event held last Friday was the first in person ceremony since 2019 with approximately 100 people in attendance and acknowledged that there will be upcoming discussions future Veteran's Day events and planning lead may move from the VFW. Thanked Purdy and Kerr for providing coffee and cookies at event. Also encouraged attendance at the Sultan Harvest Thanksgiving dinner. Advised council that a legislative briefing with Gordon Thomas Honeywell and local district legislators being planned and to plan for an upcoming meeting mid-December. Invited citizens to participate in the upcoming Ho Ho Holiday Tour set for December 3rd and 4th. Also advised citizens about a recent Snohomish County Treasurer's Office press release regarding a phone scam claiming citizens have back taxes owed and warned citizens to be cautious.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Public Works Director Morgan updated council that the US 2 Improvement public outreach portion is coming to an end and informed them of the Round 3 discussions. Advised the Water Treatment Plant Improvements are at 90% design completion and the first round of public comments have been received and staff is working on the loan application for the project. Six applicants received during the request for a consultant to work on the comprehensive plan update and interviews have started in that process. The City is in the process of updating the interlocal agreement with the Startup Water District to continue maintenance services into 2023. Morgan reminded citizens of the upcoming holiday lighted parade and tree lighting set to take place on December 10th at the River Park Pavilion and that crews were working on installing holiday lights around town. Morgan also acknowledged the 25th anniversary for Julie Gratteau's employment with the city occurred on November 11th and encouraged council, staff, and citizens to congratulate her on this milestone.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports on file for the Community Development Department.

City Clerk Pevey provided a brief report on work completed by the Alliance Board, upcoming fee schedule changes; as well as acknowledged the strong leadership and support provided by Mayor Wiita and Public Works Director Morgan while the City Administrator is on vacation.

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CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Dearborn, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council approved the following consent agenda items; Motion passed 7-0.

- 1) November 17, 2022, accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$1,216,026.16, payroll & benefits #20 in the amount of \$112,823.49, excise taxes in the amount of \$19,950.61, and bonds in the amount of \$3,589.53 all to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 2) Minutes of 10/27/2022 Council Meeting
- 3) Minutes of Public Hearing re: AB22-75 Ordinance 1376-22_Complete Streets Policy
- 4) Minutes of Public Hearing re: AB22-68_2023 Budget to include revenues and property tax levy
- 5) Minutes of 11/3/2022 Council Meeting
- 6) AB22-88_Contract Renewal_Aimee Trua, Public Defender
- 7) AB22-89_Contract Renewal_Daniel Erlich, Conflict Public Defender
- 8) AB22-90_Contract Renewal_Tara Dunford, Financial Consultant

ACTION ITEMS

AB22-61_Ordinance 1384-22_Chapter 9 Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Works Director Morgan explained the update was originally adopted last year but a review found 30 pages of changes intended were inadvertently left out of the update and were now being presented. In addition, a request was being included to amend the 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan to move the East West Connector project further out to the 2029-2033 timeframe. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council approved Ordinance 1384-22 adopting the updates to Chapter 9 of the comprehensive plan as written; On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council approved amendment #1 to update the transportation improvement plan updating the dates and moving the east west connector out to the 2029-2033 timeframe; Motion and amendment passed 7-0.

AB22-87_Ordinance 1383-22_2022 Budget Amendment #4

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1383-22 approving the 2022 Budget Amendment #4; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-86_2023 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Wiita restated the legislative priorities proposed for 2023. In addition, during the discussion Public Works Director Morgan confirmed the need to identify a process on how the name the Sultan Basin area park and that further follow up conversations on this topic will be presented to council in 2023. On a motion by Councilmember Hund, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the 2023 legislative priorities; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-17_Utility Rates for Water, Sewer, & Stormwater

a. Ordinance 1379-22_Water Rates (2nd Reading/Adoption)

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1379-22 regarding Water Rates; Motion passed 7-0.

b. Ordinance 1380-22_Sewer Rates (2nd Reading/Adoption)

On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council adopted Ordinance 1380-22 regarding sewer rates; Motion passed 7-0.

c. Ordinance 1381-22_Stormwater Rates (2nd Reading/Adoption)

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1381-22 regarding Stormwater Rates; Motion passed 7-0.

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AB22-91_Resolution 22-14_90-day reserve fund allocation.

Finance Director Erdman discussed the 2022-year end overages. Mayor Wiita explained the reserve fund policy was updated last year and that this is the first year this document is required as part of that update and that it will become part of the annual budget process each year moving forward. On a motion by Council Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted resolution 22-14 detailing the funds beyond the 90-day reserve and their allocation; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-79_Resolution 22-11_6 Year Capital Improvement Plan

On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved the Mayor to sign Resolution 22-11 adopting the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan; On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council approved amendment #1 to Resolution 22-11 moving the East West Connector project out to the 2029-2033 timeframe; Motion and amendment passed 7-0.

AB22-76_Ordinance 1373-22_Property Tax Levy (2nd Reading/Adoption)

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1373-22 approving the 2023 Property Tax Levy; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-77_Ordinance 1377-22_Police Bond Levy (2nd Reading/Adoption)

Motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan to adopt Ordinance 1376-22 approving the 2023 Police Bond Levy; Motion passed 7-0. Later it was discovered that the motion passed stated the ordinance number as 1376-22 versus the correct ordinance number of 1377-22, therefore on a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council reopened this motion to reconsider the issue of the wrong ordinance number referenced during action; Motion passed 7-0. All in agreement that it was adopted with the wrong ordinance number, therefore all in agreement to vote down the motion on the table. Finally on a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1377-22 approving the 2023 Police Bond Levy; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-92_Resolution 22-15_Teamsters Local 763 Memorandum of Understanding

Due to a conflict of interest, Councilmember Aldrich recused herself from the discussion and removed herself from the room. Mayor Wiita confirmed this was a one-year extension to the current agreement which will include a 5% cost of living increase as well as two one-time payouts to occur in January and December 2023. Councilmember Beeler expressed concerns with the rate increase and whether the city budget could sustain additional increases in the future. On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Hund, council adopted Resolution 22-14 authorizing the Mayor to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding with Teamsters Local 763; Motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Beeler voting nay. Later it was discovered that the motion passed stated the resolution number as 22-14 versus the correct resolution number of 22-15, therefore on a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Hund, council reopened this motion to reconsider the wrong resolution number referenced during action; Motion passed 6-0. All in agreement that the wrong resolution number was adopted, therefore all in agreement to vote down the motion on the table. Finally on a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Hund, council approved Resolution 22-15 authorizing the Memorandum Of Understanding with Teamsters Local 763; Motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Aldrich recused, and Councilmember Beeler voting nay.

AB22-93_Resolution 22-16_2023 Salary Allocation

Councilmember Beeler noted a Scribner error within the resolution that needed to be corrected to state 2023 versus 2022; City Clerk Pevey acknowledged that would be corrected before publication. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan adopted Resolution 22-16 approving the Salary Allocation for 2023; Motion passed 7-0.

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AB22-94_Ordinance 1385-22_2023 Salary Schedule

Councilmember Beeler expressed his concerns about the whether the city budget could sustain additional increases in the future. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1385-22 setting salaries in 2023 for non-represented employees; Motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Beeler voting nay.

AB22-68_Ordinance 1374-22_2023 Budget (2nd Reading/Adoption)

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance 1374-22 approving the 2023 Budget; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-95_Cancel December Council Meetings

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council cancelled December 2022 regularly scheduled council meetings; Motion passed 7-0.

AB22-96_Subcommittee Review for Voucher Approval thru End of Year

City Clerk Pevey confirmed voucher approval to the subcommittee would be sent via DocuSign and subcommittee members would be called in advance to notify them. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council authorized the finance sub-committee to review and approve 2022 vouchers for payment in December 2022; Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan the meeting was closed at approximately 8:16 pm. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

Council moved into closed session starting approximately 8:40 pm to discuss Union Negotiations; it was noted due to conflict-of-interest Councilmember Aldrich recused herself from the session.

DocuSigned by:



Russell Wiita, Mayor

DocuSigned by:



Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk