

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2018

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of February 12, 2018 with all councilmen present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

Chief DeBruin reported that new hire, Alex Pluschakov, started working today. He spent most of his day in the office going over department manuals to familiarize himself with how our department operates. Everyone is very excited that a 'home grown Sumas boy' has come full circle to possibly give back by serving the community where he was raised. Daniel also reported that the evidence room has been completed for around \$1,000 and Officer Munden did a super job setting it all up.

Geri Lewis spoke briefly about the general fund, which is always in a volatile situation due to the state always finding ways to diminish revenues for cities with poor state management. She pointed out several expenses for the general fund that are not ordinary annual items. A brainstorming Finance Committee may be scheduled for any revenue generating ideas. Geri also brought up the appearance of the post office property and was looking for suggestions on how to address the situation. Evidently they will be moving later this year as their lease is up.....so no one had any earth shattering ideas for any remedy to the current site. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that replacement of our aging telephones will be tabled for now. The price list we received from Barron were all refurbished phones and we also found out that someone bought out Toshiba, so getting replacement phones could just be adding another layer of headache when looking for problem solving.

Ruben Hernandez reported on FEMA storm damage from last year as estimate totals are now in. These estimates are broken down into projects by street and a couple can be partially paid for with water funds, the rest will have to be street money. These funds are at a 15% match for the city, so the grand total out of pocket would be around \$177,490, \$132,313 from Street and \$45,176 from Water. Projects do not have to be done all at once. A game plan meeting will be held between Ruben, the Mayor, Bruce, and Todd. Ruben gave a brief update on TV regarding problems we have had and the successes that seem to have things up and running more smoothly now. NCTC signed on for Hallmark, which will give us 2 additional free channels, that may end up costing us less in the long run. We have to purchase the receivers for these channels. Gary Debont made a motion to add the channels. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried. Ruben brought up BitCoin Mining, which was brought up during his meeting with Bonneville folks. He was told they target small towns and are a huge power draw. Jim will talk with Ruben and see about putting something in place to protect Sumas. Finally, Ruben spoke about electrical system mapping which Braaksma Engineering will do for us. Ruben has applied for a Port of Bellingham grant that would pay for \$13,250 of the \$26,500 total. Gary Debont made a motion to approve the project. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Finally Ruben let councilmen know that he and Bret will be attending the ICC Commercial Inspector training from March 12 through March 16, and hopefully both will pass certification.

Mayor Christensen spoke about a change that could be coming for business licensing, that could place a dollar threshold for businesses that perform jobs in jurisdictions. Currently we do not require businesses that don't have a physical location in our city to obtain a city license. This would change that requirement.....so we will monitor this to see what effect it may have on Sumas. The Mayor also informed council that another academy class could be added in the state supplemental budget. This could really help us as we will have another new officer that needs academy training. Finally Kyle passed on to councilmen, the fact that the state may be reducing CJ Assistance to cities, big surprise!!

The Mayor opened up nominations for Mayor ProTem. Rich Postma nominated Bruce Bosch and Todd Daniels seconded the motion, which carried. Gary Debont made a motion to close the nominations and Todd Daniels seconded that motion which also carried. Bruce Bosch is the new Mayor ProTem.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #39177 through #39217 in the amount of \$167,890.09 and Payroll Vouchers #20944 through #20951 + the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$123,918.20 were approved for payment after a motion by Bruce Bosch that was seconded by Josh Clawson and was approved unanimously. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve the January Manual Checks in the amount of \$6,339.76. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it was placed on file.

Council convened into Executive Session over legal issues at 7:30 pm for approximately 20 minutes.

The regular council reconvened at 7:50 pm.

The council made a motion to grant HD Investments one more lot reconveyance with regard to the Economic Development Loan that is secured by property, while asking Geri to see what land is specifically affected by the Deed of Trust. Gary Debont made a motion regarding the reconveyance above. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Gary Debont made a motion to give the required 60 day notice of contract termination to the public defender and to do an RPF for a new public defender. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Josh Clawson made a motion to adjourn with Todd Daniels seconding the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was closed.

Kyle Christensen, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk-Treasurer