

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of February 26, 2018, with all councilmen present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

At 7:03 p.m. the Public Hearing for the Engels CUP was opened. Superintendent Hernandez briefed everyone about the circumstances surrounding the entire situation, which had a few irregularities getting to an end that everyone could live with. This end involved several plan changes, the seeking of a Text Amendment to the code and now the Conditional Use Permit which allows for Residential Dwellings on the bottom units as well as on the top units of buildings in the Business General Zone. The question of garbage and parking issues were put forward by councilmen and answered positively. Gary Debont made a motion to close the hearing. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Christensen reported briefly about the Fire District meeting with regard to renewing the contract for 2 more years using the same formula we are using now to get the annual fee. There seems to be agreeance throughout the council to go forward with this idea. The mayor asked to meet with the Parks Committee, Rich and Josh plus Ruben. This meeting would be to brainstorm ideas for increased ball field use.

Daniel DeBruin reported that the new patrol vehicle had arrived a few months early and he is busy trying to outfit it to get it ready for use. Fuhrman's old vehicle will be retained for employee use.

The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to make a motion on the Engels CUP. Ruben said staff is recommending approval of the CUP. Gary DeBont spoke regarding the things that went on throughout the building and approval process with dissatisfaction. At this time, it was discovered that Terry Engels did not get a chance to address the council before the hearing was closed. So, Bruce Bosch made a motion to reopen the Engels CUP public hearing. Gary Debont seconded the motion. Terry Engels of 275 W. Mayberry Drive, Lynden, addressed the council regarding his CUP request. He related the history of his commercial uses vs. demand for residential housing in Sumas. He was apologetic that things went the way they did, but all in all, this is the best use of his buildings, to be used as residential housing. Gary Debont made a motion to close the hearing. Todd Daniels seconded the hearing and it was closed.

Geri Lewis asked for passage of Ordinance #1720, which amends the 2018 Salary Ordinance with respect to Nathan Larson's hourly wage. He has been bumped up to the 4-year completion mark. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass this ordinance and Todd Daniels seconded the motion which carried. A list of court fines prepared by Michelle Quinn, that are 10 years old or older and deemed uncollectible, was presented to the council for action. Bruce Bosch made a motion to cancel all on the list. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. The Clerk-Treasurer asked for a Public Hearing to be set to extend the Marijuana Moratorium, for March 12, 2018 @ 7:00p.m. Gary Debont made a motion to set the hearing and Bruce Bosch seconded the motion which carried.

Ruben Hernandez reported that the Port of Bellingham matching grant has been approved for electrical system mapping. Ruben also talked about the need for our use of stormwater engineers to go over plans submitted for building, and the possibility of recouping the costs incurred by the city.

The mayor reported that the Friends of the Sumas Library had made \$845.00 by hosting the first Chocolate Friendly at the Sumas library. The mayor also mentioned that he has been contemplating raising the natural gas tax cap and will be meeting with representatives from Puget Sound Energy. The mayor mentioned that there would be a small gathering after the March 26 meeting for Geri's retirement.

Ruben spoke shortly about paperwork submitted by the Merk family regarding several items of concern regarding the Locust Street property owned by their family. One strip of land was not included in the previous vacation, fill that was permitted on Wallace property at the end of south end of Locust, a crushed tile that has never been replaced, and stormwater drainage in the area. The council will spend further time investigating the situation and will bring it back.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Vouchers #39223 through #39246 in the amount of \$52,066.97 and Payroll Vouchers #20952 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$18,900.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont that passed unanimously.

Council went into Executive Session for 30 minutes regarding possible litigation with Jim present. (7:45 pm)

At 8:10 pm council reconvened its regular meeting.

Josh Clawson made a motion to approve the Engels CUP with conditions of approval as presented in the Report of Decision. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Gary Debont made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR

Attest:

CLERK-TREASURER