

MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2017

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of April 11, 2017, with all councilmen present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

Since there was a large audience in attendance the Mayor asked for public input. Ted Lautenbach of 205 Reeds Lane #6, Everson, WA was the first to address the council about the food bank. Of most importance to Ted was that he be given a key to the Sr. Center and that he gets an okay from councilmen for the storage unit that was delivered at the center. He also explained about how the food bank works and what he and his wife do to make it all work. He went on to say that the support from the City of Sumas and its businesses was very poor. Dixie Mitchell, of Everson, came forward to answer that claim saying the food bank had been given free use of a building for the past 7-8 years and that other support had been received throughout the years. Dixie also told Ted and Diane that she is trying to get the Sumas Food Bank to stand on its own without Everson being involved. If that happens Ted will not have to do all he does for Sumas anymore. She asked that when this does happen, if the Everson Food Bank and Ted would stay on through the interim until things are set up for Sumas on its own. A few other people asked questions and made comments including Becky Johns, Day Coordinator for the Sr. Center. The councilmen and mayor approved of the storage unit as needed. Council was unsure of its involvement other than use of a city building and the fact that no key would be needed as Aaron Loreen will be opening and closing the building for the food bank at the center.

Bruce Bosch reported on the Economic Development Committee meeting with regard to a request and application from Martin's Feed for a \$50,000 loan to install electric infrastructure and other smaller items to prepare the trans load site. Previously \$20,000 had been approved, but Martin Ruitter, when meeting with the committee asked for the \$20,000 to be increased to \$50,000. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve a loan for \$50,000 payable at a rate of \$638.37 per month for 7 years at 2%. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it was approved. Jim Wright will prepare the documents for signing.

Chief Haugen asked that councilmen approve a services agreement with Bellingham Public Auto Auction, LLC for use in to surplus police vehicles and/or any other property deemed permissible. The folks we used before have gone out of business. Gary Debont made a motion to allow the Mayor to execute the contract on behalf of the City of Sumas. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Chris also addressed the citizen complaint letter by saying the property had been visited and all vehicles on the property are licensed and moveable except one that the resident is trying to sell. There is no longer any garbage on the property and while not pristine, the City can only legislate things that are code violations.

Geri Lewis asked for passage of Ordinance #1703 which establishes percentages for allocation of bills paid by certain funds for the 2017 Budget Year. Percentages are based on budgeted fund amounts. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Ordinance #1703. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Resolution #763 was passed after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried. This is a resolution that authorizes an interlocal cooperation agreement with other municipalities in Skagit, Whatcom, and Island Counties to participate as a member of a regional consortium that will qualify for homelessness funding, housing shortages and affordable housing to low wage folks. Geri talked about a letter from the Sumas Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to have a beer garden at the Bullarama on July 15, 2017, from 5 p.m. until midnight. Gary Debont made a motion to allow the beer garden. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez addressed looking at TIB as a possible grant source of up to \$50,000 with no matching funds for patching potholes. Sumas Avenue cannot get that money, but Ruben will look at other grants for that. Ruben also reported on the Reader Board issue and will get together the whole group who is working on that, for another meeting to see if they can get something done. Gary Debont mentioned the railroad crossing on Barbo Rd. and what horrible condition it is in again. He was told that the railroad is responsible for maintaining the crossing, not the city.

Becky Johns, who was in attendance regarding food bank issues, wanted to commend city staff for always being right there when they have any needs. Becky is the Day Coordinator for the Sr. Center and is hired by the Whatcom County Parks.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #38276 through #38322 in the amount of \$179,537.46 and Payroll Vouchers #20845 through #20853 + the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$118,063.36 were approved for payment after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve the March Manual Bills. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Council moved into Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes regarding possible litigation at 8:05.

At 8:10 p.m. council reconvened the regular session.

Josh Clawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR

Attest:

CLERK-TREASURER