

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2017

The Sumas City Council met in regular session with all councilmen present except Gary Debont. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

Mayor Bromley re-opened the public hearing regarding the long subdivision application submitted by Jason Heutink of HD Investments, LLC, referred to as the Heutink Garfield Street Subdivision. City Planner Rollin Harper addressed the Council and went over the items in the draft Report of Decision that had been updated since the prior council meeting. These items included adding findings regarding a letter received from the applicant, a supplemental stormwater analysis received from the applicant's engineer showing the relatively small stormwater contribution coming from the development, and a comment letter received from Tansem Singh and Ranjit Kaur in support of the proposed development. Harper noted that no changes had been made to the proposed conditions of approval. Public Works Director Hernandez addressed the Council and described the maintenance work on the ditches in the vicinity of the project that was begun since the prior council meeting. Hernandez indicated that it appeared the work was improving the functioning of the ditches. The Mayor invited anyone from the public to testify as part of the hearing, but no additional testimony was offered. Council Member Bosch made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Todd Daniels. The motion passed unanimously. Following further discussion, council member Bosch made a motion to approve the long subdivision application and adopt the report of decision as presented. The motion was seconded by Rich Postma and passed unanimously.

City Planner updated the Council regarding changes to the draft Report of Decision that had been made based on direction received from the Council at the prior council meeting. These included tracked changes to findings #20 and #29 and condition of approval #8. Harper described the options available to the Council, including the initial approach discussed at the prior council meeting that would allow 34 Extended Stay spaces on a permanent basis and the alternative approach discussed at the prior council meeting that would allow the same 34 Extended Stay spaces, but would add the condition that the Council could reduce the maximum number of Extended Stay spaces at a future time and within certain limitations to not less than 17 Extended Stay spaces. Harper also noted that an e-mail from the applicant had been received following the prior council meeting and that this message had been included in council packet. City Attorney Wright further described the basis for the Council's consideration of the alternative approach and highlighted the fact that the City Code had only recently been changed to allow any Extended Stay spaces and that it was impossible for the City to be able to anticipate future circumstances and how the increase in Extended Stay spaces would impact the community. Following further discussion by the Council, Council member Bosch made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and adopt the report of decision as presented and including the tracked changes supporting the alternative approach that would retain the ability to reduce the maximum number of Extended Stay spaces. The motion was seconded by council member Todd Daniels, and passed unanimously.

Bruce Bosch deferred reporting for the Finance Committee to Geri Lewis, who re-explained a Personnel Policy change that would allow city employee(s) to opt out of the AWC Medical Coverage in order to be covered by their spouse's insurance. This would save the city money, half of which would be paid to the employee as taxable earnings. Any employee choosing to do this must provide the City with proof that they are covered by some insurance and may re-join AWC's insurance during any open period.

Interim Chief Daniel DeBruin reminded council members about renewal of the Yakima Jail Contract renewal. Jim Wright, City Attorney, mentioned that he had no problem with the contract in that the only changes were in the costs of incarceration. Bruce Bosch made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute this contract. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Daniel made a brief mention of David Smit, the new reserve officer, saying he had put in 6 shifts and had been involved in a few incidents that he handled very well. He also told councilmen that an ad had been placed in the Lynden Tribune for application for a police officer, new or lateral, in order to compile a hiring list that would be certified by the Civil Service Commission. A brief discussion occurred about a new vehicle that will be revisited at the November 13, 2017 meeting.

Geri Lewis presented a resolution cancelling a previously approved check that has never been cashed. Resolution #767 was passed after a motion by Bruce Bosch that was seconded by Todd Daniels and carried. Resolution #768 regarding the 2017 Unclaimed Property was passed after a motion by Bruce Bosch that was seconded by Rich Postma and carried. Resolution #769 setting a policy for issuing Manual Checks was approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels, which carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to call for a public hearing regarding revenue sources and the possibility of a property tax increase for November 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the hearing was set.

City Attorney Wright and City Planner Harper described the circumstances that had prompted the City to consider amending Chapter 20.54 to increase opportunities for repair and reconstruction of structures housing nonconforming uses. Harper noted that the proposed ordinance had been prepared at the Council's request and that the proposed amendments were the same as what had previously been reviewed by the Council with one minor exception under Section 20.54.030(8) where some clarifying language had been added. Following limited Council discussion, council member Bruce Bosch made a motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance #1715 as presented. The motion was seconded by council member Rich Postma and passed unanimously.

Ruben Hernandez reported on the CRS program he had been working on and completing requested documents. The City's rating went from a '6' to a '7', which means we go from a 20% reduction to a 15% reduction in flood insurance rates. Ruben talked about Lift Station #3 and had ample reasons to ask the council for permission to upgrade panels for another \$2,000. Todd Daniels made a motion to approve the extra expenditure. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it was approved. He also talked about needing to meet with the Finance Committee with regard to purchasing a new vehicle.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #38861 through #38894 in the amount of \$20,544.60 and Payroll Vouchers #20914 plus the direct deposit run in the amount of \$18,300.00 were approved for payment after a motion from Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels which carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to place the September Treasurers Report on file. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it was approved.

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

MAYOR

Attest:

CLERK-TREASURER