

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2017

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of November 27, 2017, with all councilmen present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing with no corrections.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing regarding the Preliminary Budget and Revenue Sources at 7:00 pm. The Clerk-Treasurer referenced Revenue & Expenditure information that was included in the agenda with regard to the 2018 Budget. Geri reminded councilmen and the public that our two major expenses are running the Police Department and paying for Fire Protection, which both come from the general fund. City property taxes pay for both of those and because of that she is recommending the 1% allowable increase in property tax revenues which would be \$5,554.29. No one from the audience made any comments. Gary Debont made a motion to close the hearing. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the hearing was closed. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Ordinance #1716 adding the allowable 1% increase to property tax collections. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Bruce Bosch spoke for the Finance Committee with regard to the 2018 employee COLA. He asked Geri to speak about that and she informed councilmen and the mayor about the 2% increase in the SS COLA, which is what employees colas are based on. The 2% of the highest paid employee was figured at \$150, and the committee backed Geri's suggestion that everyone be given \$150 instead of figuring the 2%. Gary Debont made a motion to pass the cola which was incorporated into Ordinance #1717, the 2018 Salary Ordinance. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. The committee also recommended approval of adding one more floater to employee holidays in order to keep up with the other cities. Bruce Bosch made a motion to add the floater and Todd Daniels seconded the motion which carried.

Daniel DeBruin informed councilmen that state auditors were not happy with the evidence room situation and that what they are using is obviously too small. He suggested remodeling the larger room near the jail cells to accommodate all of the evidence including bicycles. The evidence room needs to be on site and also has to be protected by an alarm system. It was also decided that staff could start utilizing the unused sewer treatment facility for other records. Daniel estimated the cost to refurbish the room would be around \$1,000. Daniel also talked about the flooding that we dodged basically by a lull in the rain. Others weren't as lucky.

Geri asked for a public hearing to be set for a text amendment. Bruce Bosch made a motion to set the public hearing for the Engels Text Amendment for December 11, 2017 at 7 pm. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez informed everyone that the Christmas lights are being put up and the tree in the park is being decorated for the Monday, December 4, 2017 Christmas in the park. Ruben reported that the dump truck that is used for plowing is back in service after being repaired and checked out. The crew will be focused on tree trimming in the near future.

Jim asked for a public hearing be set for the marijuana moratorium. Gary Debont made a motion to set a public hearing for Dec. 11, 2017 at 7 pm to consider a moratorium on growing, processing, and selling of marijuana with reference to I-502. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Lewis drew council's attention to a letter from Teresa Josephson, who is spearheading the serving of a free community Christmas dinner on December 24, 2017. The City donated towards the

cause last year and she was asking the City to repeat the donation. Bruce Bosch made a motion to donate the same amount as last year (\$200) for the Christmas dinner. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mayor Bromley brought up the fact that all newly elected officials, including those who were re-elected, need to complete the Open Meetings Training that is mandated by the State. This can be done online.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #38953 through #38978 in the amount of \$105,645.08 and Payroll Vouchers #20924 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$18,400.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont, which carried.

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

MAYOR

Attest:

CLERK-TREASURER