

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2018

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of March 26, 2018, with all councilmen present except Gary DeBont. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved for filing with no changes.

Ruben reported for the Street/Water/Sewer Committee with regard to the FEMA Funding that we have been approved for. He is still working through some of the paperwork, and there was a question about doing all of Sumas Ave. versus just patching. Ruben thanked Geri Lewis for completing grant paperwork when Ruben was at Building Official Training.

The Mayor spoke about the Fire District contract renewal and what he had learned from Chief Jerry DeBruin. They are pretty much in agreement over the payment amounts for the next two years, which would amount to a \$9-10,000 increase annually based on valuation and millage rate. The other change they suggested is that the City make monthly payments instead of the two payments we have been making for years. Bruce Bosch made a motion to allow Jim Wright to draw up a two-year contract extension with the Fire District with the above criteria. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. The Mayor still intends to meet with Josh & Rich regarding ball field use.

Daniel DeBruin informed councilmen that 2 entry-level patrolman applicants had passed testing and would move on to oral boards, along with one lateral applicant. Oral boards are Thursday. Daniel also reported on the progress of Alex Pluschakov who is attending the academy and it doing very well.

Geri Lewis asked Jim Wright to talk about the two ordinances regarding the natural gas tax change. The monthly cap for taxing is raised from \$500 to \$1,000 per month and Puget Sound Energy is okay with that change. One ordinance is for the Use Tax and the other is for Distribution Tax. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve Ordinance #1722 with regard to Use Tax on natural gas. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce Bosch then made a motion to approve Ordinance #1723 with regard to the Distribution Tax on natural gas. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez spoke to the council and mayor about the inquiry from Vern & Sonja Merk regarding a number of things they mentioned in a letter to the council. He pretty much addressed all the concerns they had except the fact that an area they question about being included in the vacation they petitioned for last October, actually was not included in the petition to vacate. If they want to follow through with that part that was not vacated, they will have to petition for another vacation. The Mayor asked Ruben to speak with Vern about it. Ruben explained a couple of bids for the playground that was approved last year for up to \$40,000. Both bids are drastically higher than what was approved. A short discussion ensued about donations and/or possible a couple more bids. This will be brought back for discussion. Ruben relayed to everyone that he and Bret had taken a class and passed their tests to qualify them to do commercial inspections. He also told everyone about a couple of cases of vandalism that will cost the city some bucks to repair. Several ideas were thrown around about lighting & surveillance cameras.

The Mayor reminded all of the upcoming spring cleanup day on April 7, from 9 until noon.

The new bills were presented to the finance committee for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #20961 through #39333 plus #1 & 2 in the amount of \$33,763.81 were approved for payment after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels. Payroll Vouchers #20961 plus the Direct Deposit

Run in the amount of \$19,400.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels.

Kyle Christensen announced the movement that will be taking place in the office after Geri retires. After the revamping of job descriptions, Shelley will be taking over the Clerk-Treasurer position, Michelle will be taking over the Deputy Clerk position while retaining some court duties, and Mollie will be moved up to Jr. Clerk which will retain most of her regular duties plus train for billing. An ad will be posted in the Lynden Tribune for the position being vacated by Mollie. These changes will take effect April 1, 2018.

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

MAYOR

Attest:

CLERK-TREASURER