

MINUTES OF June 11, 2018

The Sumas City Council met in regular session with all councilmen present. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the May 29, 2018 Council meeting were approved for filing.

Susan Marks, Director of Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence, approached the council introduced herself, and stated her address as 315 Pacific Street, Bellingham, WA. She gave the history of the organization and informed the council of the continued funding by Whatcom County, City of Bellingham and City of Ferndale. Small cities, such as the City of Sumas, contribute through an interlocal agreement with the City of Ferndale. They're also supported by many grants. She shared three victim stories and expressed how appreciative her organization is to have the support of local law enforcement.

At 7:14am Chief Daniel Debruin gave the oath of office to our newest Police Officer, Kurt D. Devries. Kurt is an Nooksack Valley High School graduate, served in the US Army and has three years of experience as an officer with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Debruin reported the fiber optic wire has been hung and ready to install high speed internet connection. This is needed to support access to Omnixx, which used to send and receive text based messages over dedicated law enforcement networks. The annual user fees for Omnixx is approximately \$2500. He also advised the council of the PD going to a cloud based server. NW Technology will oversee the cloud server. Chief Debruin will bring exact costs, for Omnixx and cloud based server, to the next council meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Schultz informed the council of the need to amend the 2018 salary ordinance due to our newest office staff. Bruce Bosch made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1726 amending the 2018 salary ordinance. Gary Debont seconded the motion, all were in favor and it carried.

Superintendent Hernandez reported on the tractor and side arm mower he was looking at buying. After using the tractor and mower for a day, he determined it had too many issues to move forward with the purchase. Ruben will continue looking for equipment that will be suitable for the city's needs.

Superintendent Hernandez then reported of equipment needed to support re-transmission of local network channels. The cost will be approximately \$8000. Ruben will meet with TV Committee, Councilmen Bosch and Debont. Ruben then reported on the TIB conference he attended. He will be getting ready to submit grant applications in the fall to support resurfacing Sumas Avenue.

Superintendent Hernandez then reported the Davidson CUP will move forward when new plans are submitted.

Mayor Christensen reported the Jail contract has been signed and sent to Whatcom County. He is also recommending a new program to replace jail services. Friendship Diversion Services, a 501c3 non-profit corporation, is an alternative to standard incarceration services provided by Whatcom County. The non-profit corporation allows eligible criminal defendants an opportunity to make restitution, perform community service, and comply with court orders while maintaining family, community and employment. Attorney Wright stated the program is a good alternative and feels it is an opportunity to provide a savings to the city.

Mayor Christensen advised the council of a meeting with FEMA, regarding the preliminary flood mapping, to be held at Whatcom County offices July 10th, 2018. He then reported the June Chamber meeting will be held at El Nopal June 13 at 12pm. Kyle informed the council of the retirement party for Officer Bill Debruin, it will be held in council chambers June 29th from 1pm to 3pm.

Attorney Wright spoke briefly about bitcoin operations in Washington State. The impacts have been high in the central areas of the state, threatening to overwhelm the rural energy grid that powers bitcoin operations.

Lizette Custer, residing at 409 Lawson Street in Sumas, approached to the council to invite them to Pioneer Days at the Sumas Museum June 23rd from 12pm to 4pm.

The May 2018 Treasurer's report and manual checks was presented to the council. Bruce Bosch made a motion to adopt the May 2018 Treasurer's report. Gary Debont seconded the motion, all were in favor and it carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve May 2018 manual checks. Gary Debont seconded the motion, all were in favor and it carried.

The bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Voucher 39568 through 39617 in the amount of \$393,588.68 and payroll voucher 20984 through 20991 plus the direct deposit run in the amount of \$121,435.27. All bills were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch, seconded by Gary Debont, which carried with all in favor.

Council went into Executive session on possible litigation with Attorney Wright present at 7:47pm.

At 8:15pm council reconvened to regular session.

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

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer