

City of Sumas  
Council Meeting  
Minutes of December 09, 2019

The Sumas City Council met on December 09, 2019 with all councilman present besides Josh Clawson. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the November 25, 2019 meeting were approved.

Mayor Christensen opened the meeting asking if there was any citizen input and reminding everyone that at this time there is not to be any new testimony or discussion on the TriStar application. Lizette Custer, 409 Lawson Street, wanted to refresh the councilmembers memory of her support of the Wayfinding program, this is an excellent opportunity for the city. Ms. Custer also would not like to see the dog park next to the Historical Building, a lot of families use the area in the summer.

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing for P. Shane Bradley Conditional Use Permit. Rollin Harper, City Planner, spoke about the application permit in the medium residential zone, creating two lots on Moe Hill. The Bradley's are requesting to construct a single-family residence on each of these lots, each of these will have accessory dwelling, built around the back and under the house. Mr. Harper went over the information submitted with the Draft Report of Decision that was given to the council in their packet.

Mayor Christensen asked if there was any public comment on this application, Lizette Custer 409 Lawson Street, asked if 1248 is the minimum square footage. Mr. Bradley spoke that the footprint will be about 925-1000 square feet, it is kind like a mother in-law suite. Ms. Custer wanted to know if this are just spec houses and to be sold, her concern with this kind of housing and how it impacts the surrounding homes character. Mr. Bradley has a tenant living in his current housing situation with no problems. Todd Daniels wanted to know if it was just like a basement, Mr. Bradley showed a sample of what it will look like. The parking will be along the house not on the road. Rich Postma wanted to know if there will be a separate access door, Mr. Bradley advised there would be a separate entrance into the apartment. Gary DeBont would like to see some landscaping conditions. Gary DeBont made a motion to close the public hearing, Todd Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Todd Daniels asked if the property had to be owner occupied, Rollin advised no it was not listed in the report of decision. The landscaping plan request is listed in the report of decision if the council chooses.

Bruce Bosch motioned to approve the application and the draft report of decision and not require the landscaping requirements. Gary DeBont would like to see the landscaping provision included in the final draft of the report of decision Bruce Bosch accepted the amended proposal to include the landscaping requirements listed in the report of decision. Todd Daniels seconded the motion to approve the application with the landscaping provision to be applied, all were in favor the motion carried.

Jennifer Bell, Finance Director, presented to the council KCDA Membership Application, this will provide state wide pricing that has been researched prior for prices on equipment from different vendors. There is no membership cost. Bruce Bosch motioned to allow the Mayor to sign the membership application, Gary DeBont seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Jennifer Bell also presented Ordinance 1757 amending the 2019 Salary Ordinance, Chief Daniel DeBruin, will be move to step 3 effective December 01, 2019. Gary DeBont moved to adopt Ordinance 1757, Bruce Bosch seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Jennifer Bell presented Ordinance 1758 Establishing the 2020 Salaries and Wages. Todd Daniels moved to adopt Ordinance 1758 establishing the 2020 salaries and wages, Rich Postma seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Jennifer Bell presented Ordinance 1759 Adopting the Budge for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2020. Bruce Bosch motioned to adopted Ordinance 1759 adopting the 2020 budget for the fiscal year, Gary DeBont seconded, all were in favor the motioned carried.

Jennifer Bell brought forward the Whatcom County Humane Society Contract, Bruce Bosch motioned to allow the Mayor to sign the contract, Gary DeBont seconded, all were in favor the motioned carried.

Mayor Kyle Christensen wanted to discuss the Whatcom County Fire District Annexation request, the cost will be approximately an additional \$20,000.00 impact for the City each year. Mayor Christensen asked the council members if they would be interested in bringing forward a resolution allowing the Whatcom County Fire Department to bring the annexation request to the voters, at no expense to the city. The current contract the city has with the Whatcom County Fire District goes through December 2020. Todd Daniels inquired how this would affect the residents, Jennifer advised that the City would then become part of their district, the citizens would be able to vote or sit on the board if annexed into the district.



Jim Wright, City Attorney, spoke that if the city passed the resolution it would appear on the people's personal property taxes the funds going directly to the fire district and not going through the city tax base. Bruce Bosch suggested it be sent to the finance committee for review, Mayor Christensen set up a committee meeting to meet before the next council meeting.

Mayor Christensen asked the parks committee to meet about the dog park and bring back some recommendations to the council with possible locations.


Mayor Christensen also spoke about the Wayfinding Program, the City will be able to use the hotel/motel tax that the city collects for the initial cost of the program. Todd Daniels is concerned the signage may not benefit the City, he suggested maybe just a local reader board for the community. Mayor Christensen asked the park committee to meet and go over the proposed program and bring back their recommendation to the council members.

Jim Wright, City Attorney called for executive session for current or potential litigation RCW 42.30.110 for approximately 10 minutes.

Back on the record.

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check Numbers #41206 thru #41254 in the amount of \$174,096.64, EFT's in the amount of \$72.00. Manual checks 41198-41205 in the amount of \$41,121.06 and payroll for \$149,339.07. Bruce Bosch made a motioned to pay the bills, it was seconded by Gary DeBont, all were in favor the motion carried.

Todd Daniels motioned to adjourn the meeting Rich Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:   
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City Clerk