

Sumas City Council Meeting

Sumas City Hall, 433 Cherry Street, Sumas, WA 98295

Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Mayor Bruce Bosch

Council Member Jesse Clawson

Council Member Josh Clawson

Council Member Richard Postma

Council Member Todd Daniels

Council Member Bob Bromley

1. Opening Meeting - Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review/Correct and/or Approve Minutes

a. April 10, 2023, Draft Minutes

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to approve April 10, 2023, Minutes, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

3. Public Hearing

a. Conditional Use Permit Application - 1107 Lawson St

Mark Koelsch, Hannagan Road, Bellingham, the applicant for the conditional use permit application had a question on the lot size requirements for a multi-family unit stating the code does not apply to his lot. Rollin Harper, City Planner states the lot size coverage applies to all uses being built allowing thirty-five percent of the lot coverage. Morgan Roller, Morton Street is concerned that this does not meet the lot size requirements and will allow renters to be able look down into her backyard. Councilmember Daniels & Bromley met with the applicant and updated the council on the committee meeting results; they found the project does not meet the requirements as is.

Rollin Harper City Planner stated the council will need to find out if this project meets the criteria for the conditional use application to be approved. Sunny Aulakh Public Works Director would like to request a sidewalk on the southside of the property and pave the alley to the property line as a condition of approval. Councilmember Bromley discussed the conditions one for the ADA-compliant crosswalk, the project will need to meet thirty-five percent of the lot coverage and the refuge area will need to be enclosed or placed in the garage. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to deny the application because the project does not meet the lot coverage requirements and is not harmonious with the area, Council Postma seconded; four in favor one nay.

Rollin asked Jim Wright City Attorney to clarify to the council what the process should be moving forward. Jim advises the staff to bring back a revised report of decision stating what criteria is not met for the councils' review.

Mark Koelsch the applicant wanted to know if he reduced the project size to a smaller multi-family unit will he need do restart the application process again, Rollin states if the council is interested, they can allow the public hearing to remain open to submit revised plans.

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to continue the hearing allowing the applicant to submit a revised plan, meeting and addressing the council and community concerns. The hearing for the conditional use permit application will be continued to May 22, 2023, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded, all were in favor.

4. Citizen Input

Jessica Koehler, Harrison Street, asked if any paperwork submitted late be added to the agenda.

5. New Business

a. Call for a Public Hearing for Whatcom County Buildable Lands Report

Mayor Bosch called for a public hearing May 08, 2023, at 7:00 pm for the Whatcom County Buildable Lands Report-2023 Revision. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to set the public hearing for the Whatcom County Buildable Land Report-2023 Revision for May 08, 2023, at 7:00 pm, Councilmember Postma seconded, all were in favor the motion.

6. Staff Reports

Public Works Director

Sunny Aulakh updated that the crew is doing asphaltting around town for road repairs. Nathan Larson has completed his water training and is now a certified water operator. Tully McConnell has completed his training and he is a certified building inspector. Also, Jason Clawson is now the vice-president of the Evergreen Rural Water Association.

Finance Director

Jennifer Bell updated the council and said she will have the first quarter financial reports to present at the next council meeting. Jennifer advises the city is in the process of two other audits, one is an energy audit, and one is the retirement system. Also, we have started to receive our insurance money and FEMA money from the flood damage.

LD Recovery Manager

Patricia Mullett updated the council that this will be her last week working with the City of Sumas. She presented to the council a list of projects in her concluding report.

The ongoing project for the city is the Disaster Recovery Grant CDBG-DR which is being finalized. Also, the FEMA elevations/acquisitions program is moving forward; currently there is only one house on the list for acquisition. Sumas Days is set for June 23 & 24, 2023 and they are looking for volunteers. The NW WA Disaster Grant is in the final approvals/denials for the local businesses to receive the grant funding. Patricia states there are a few ongoing needs, finding FEMA elevation matches for homes that will have to pay for all cost out of pocket. Patricia stated there are grant applications she has applied for and not finalized. Councilmember Jesse Clawson thanked Patricia for all she has done. Jesse inquired about the businesses that applied for the grant money, he thought all businesses that applied would receive funds. He has heard some businesses have been denied the disaster grand funding and if they have any recourse. Patricia stated the business may want to reach back out the NW WA Disaster Grant committee to see if anything could be done.

Mayor

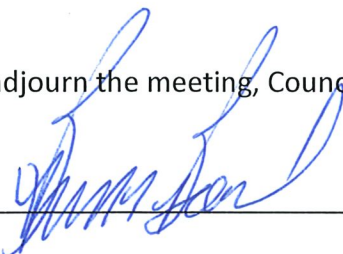
Mayor Bosch stated he has a couple of meetings this week, one is with the Flip Committee, hopefully to start moving forward with solutions for future flooding issues. The City of Sumas 2021 flood is classified as a 200-year flood; the Flip Committee is realizing that the capacity of the river has been reduced due to the sediment and will be looking at ways to help fix this issue.

7. Voucher Approvals

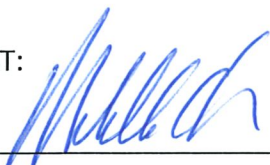
The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check numbers 23409 thru 23431 in the amount of \$301,927.88; voided check 23296-V (1,179.75) and EFTs in the amount \$97,413.54. Councilmember Postma made a motion to pay the bills, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

8. Adjournment

Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor of the motion carried.


_____, Mayor

ATTEST:


_____, City Clerk