



Sumas City Council Meeting

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

Monday, November 13, 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. October 23, 2023, Draft Minutes

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to approve October 23, 2023, Minutes, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

3. Public Hearing

a. Application for Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Site-Specific Re-Zone Residential High Density

Carson Cortez, City Planner re-opened the public hearing for the site-specific re-zone to residential high density. This application originally started as a site-specific re-zone to mini warehouse, which the council denied. Jason Heutink, Applicant, amended his application to request residential high density at a previous council meeting. Carson also reminded the council this re-zone application is for the fire district property only; this does include the surrounding property.

John VanWingerden, Wilson Lane, Sumas spoke on the planning commissioner's recommendation, they were not in favor of the mini-warehouse re-zone. The commissioners would have liked to review the entire area instead of making it smaller zones.

Lizette Custer, Lawson St, Sumas, believes this re-zone application will affect the properties surrounding this area and would like more time to review this request.

Helen Solem, Rock Road, Sumas would like to see any re-zoning done through the comprehensive plan update review due in 2025.

Jason Heutink, Applicant, Vedder View Lane, Sumas believes this re-zone to residential high density will help the homes already in this area due to being a residential area. The land has sat empty for over thirty years, there are not many options in Sumas to continue to build new homes.

Helen Solem, Rock Road, Sumas is concerned about the impact of the re-zoning the parcel without further research.

Beth Ernst, Sumas, inquired about why not rezone all the properties in the area, instead of one piece of property.

Rollin Harper, City Planner reminded everyone this application is only for the property listed on the application not the surrounding areas.

Councilmember Bromley made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Bromley made a motion to have an ordinance brought back approving the Site-Specific Re-Zone to Residential High Density, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

4. Public Hearing

a. Setting the Real Property Tax Levy for 2024

Mollie Bost, Finance Director, opened the public hearing. The City can take a one percent increase over the previous year's property tax levy. This will give the City a \$6,959.96 increase for the year 2024. The funds received are split between the general fund, cemetery fund and street fund; with the majority going to the general fund.

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Josh Clawson made a motion to approve Ordinance 1807, Setting the Real Property Tax Levy for 2024, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

5. Public Hearing

a. Preliminary Budget 2024

Mollie Bost, Finance Director, opened the public hearing with going over the 2024 budget highlights. The general funds revenue comes from property taxes, utility taxes, franchise fees and any grants we receive. Mollie went over a couple of the bigger purchases, a new police car, the FEMA projects still in the process. She suggested researching our rental fees and potentially raising the utility rates in the new year.

Councilmember Bromley asked if any businesses in town were taking advantage of our economic development loan fund; Mollie stated at this time two businesses have used this option. He inquired about the Reet Funds being based on the sale of property in town and taking into consideration the slowing house sales, which makes this fund hard to predict.

John VanWingerden, Wilson Lane, Sumas asked about the decline in the general funds and if this is due to the FEMA projects. Mollie stated this fund does cover a wide range of the city costs, so it ebbs and flows.

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were favor the motioned carried.

6. Citizen Input

Lizette Custer wanted to invite everyone to Friendsgiving at the Museum on Wednesday, there will be pie and coffee from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

7. Old Business

a. Sale of Bucket Truck, Open Sealed Bids

Mayor Bosch opened the one sealed bid received for the sale of the bucket. The bid received from Sound Internet dba PogoZone, for \$6,490.00. Councilmember Bromley made a motion to accept the bid from PogoZone in the amount of \$6,490.00, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

8. New Business

a. Nooksack Valley Disposal Rate Increase Request

Nooksack Valley Disposal is increasing their residential rates for Sumas. The proposed increase would raise the average residential bill by \$.92 per month for garbage and recycling. Councilmember Josh Clawson made a motion to approve the Nooksack Valley Disposal Rate Increase, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

b. Interlocal Jail Facility Use Agreement for Correctional Services

Michelle Quinn, City Clerk stated this Interlocal Jail Facility Amendment No. 4 is extending the term of the Whatcom County Contract No. 201806021 dated June 20, 2018, through December 31, 2024. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Jail Facility Amendment No. 4, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion.

9. Staff Reports

Chief of Police

Daniel DeBruin said everything is going well with the police officers. Daniel expressed his appreciation to the council members for all their support of the police department; this is a great community to work with.

Public Works Director

Sunny Aulakh advised tree trimming will be starting soon throughout town; the crew is preparing and winterizing before the weather sets in.

Finance Director

1. Request for a Public Hearing for the Final Budget 2024

Mollie Bost requested to set a public hearing for the 2024 Final Budget on November 27, 2023. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to set the public hearing for the 2024 Final Budget November 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Mollie said the third quarter revenue reports are ready for the council members to review and to contact her if they have any questions.

City Clerk

Michelle Quinn advised the council that the last council meeting in December will need to change due to that day being a holiday. One suggestion was December 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm, a decision will have to be made at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Bromley is concerned about motorized four wheelers crossing over the footbridge, there used to be signs up but are no longer there. Chief DeBruin will follow-up by checking on the signs and making the other officers aware of the situation.

Councilmember Jesse Clawson inquired if there was any current information from the SWID and their progress. Sunny advised he was going to attend a SWID meeting soon, they have completed some of the surveying on the project, Sunny will bring back updated information at the next council meeting. Jesse also said he had received positive feedback on the Trunk or Treat.

10. Voucher Approvals

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check numbers 24841 through 42900 in the amount of \$297,547.16; EFTs in the amount \$9,342.57, voided checks 22195 in the amount (\$163.87) and October Payroll \$183,896.70. Councilmember Postma made a motion to pay the bills, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

11. Adjournment

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


_____, Mayor

ATTEST:


_____, City Clerk