

Regular Council Meeting of April 19, 2022

Present were: Mayor Neal, Councilmembers Naillon and Moser. Councilmembers Marthaller, McElheran and Hart attended via speakerphone. Absent: None.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Neal. Pledge of Allegiance given. Copies of the April 5th council meeting minutes were read and approved.

Salley Bull, Oroville Market Association Park Use Applications for Madeline Wells Park, Oroville Farmer's Market from May 7th – October 29th and OLVMP, Oroville Farmer's Market at May Day Festival on May 14th. Bull presented the Council with a report recapping the 2021 Farmer's Market season. Bull requested that the park use fees be waived, as in the past. Bull further discussed vendor numbers from 2021 and events planned in 2022. Motion by Naillon, second by Moser that the park use applications be approved, waiving the park use fees; motion carried.

Kevin Newport, Candidate for Okanogan County Sheriff, was present to introduce himself to the community and discuss his experience and the goals he would like to accomplish if elected as Sheriff. Background information given by Newport. Newport discussed his goals, which included re-establishing leadership, employee retention and hiring practices, modify jail booking protocols to get criminals off the streets and alleviate failing jail infrastructure. Newport thanked the Council for allowing him the time to present himself to the community; Council thanked Newport for his attendance.

Tim Ike, J-U-B Engineers, was present to give an update on the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update Approval and Runway Relocation Project. Ike discussed the background of the airport project, J-U-B's involvement in the project and the time it has taken to get the project moving forward. Ike stated that the City needs to approve the ALP Update by authorizing the Mayor to sign the update; following steps will be the finalization of the Environment Assessment, Design of the Runway Relocation and then Construction. Ike discussed funding involved in the project; FAA will cover 90%, WSDOT Aviation will cover 5% and the City will be responsible for the remaining 5%. Further discussion on how long the process has taken, however, progress is being made. Motion by Naillon, second by Moser that Mayor Neal be authorized to sign the ALP Update; motion carried.

Matt Wallitner was present to address some comments from the last City Council meeting. Mayor Neal stated that the rebuttal to Marcus Alden's comments made during the last City Council meeting will be made by Matt Wallitner, however, after the rebuttal is made, there will be no further discussion on the issue. Wallitner thanked the Council for allowing him time to share his thoughts. Wallitner stated that he will make an effort to be brief as he does not believe that the City Council is the appropriate venue to address Chamber business, however, due to the publication in the April 14th edition of the Gazette-Tribune, only one side of the story was given to the community. Wallitner explained that he and his wife own two businesses in town and are current members of the Chamber; explanation given on their involvement in the Chamber. Wallitner wanted to address 3 specific points mentioned in the newspaper article: the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, failed businesses and financial loss to the City. Wallitner detailed the information requested in the FOIA, the FOIA request was denied because the scope of the requested data was unreasonable. Wallitner addressed the claim that 17 businesses failed due actions of the Chamber President; Wallitner stated that the claim that 17 businesses failed may be factual, but to link the failures to the Chamber President is not credible. Wallitner stated that the dollar figure given to the 17 failed businesses cannot be assigned a dollar value; the public does not know how the numbers were created and stating that approximately \$472,000 of lost revenue to the City is not accurate. Wallitner stated that the recommendation given to the Council that they remove all funding from the Chamber has zero data to support the recommendation. Wallitner stated that the Chamber is a group of volunteers with the goal to promote tourism, encourage business and enhance the community and if the by-laws need corrected, the Chamber members need to fix them. Wallitner stated that the Chamber membership has more than doubled since 2018 and he finds it encouraging that the small community is growing.

Tourism Council Kiosk follow-up; Aaron Kester was going to get back to the Council with additional information, however, it has not been received. Kiosk discussion to be tabled to the May 3rd meeting.

Appointments request submitted by Fire Chief Rawley. Chief Rawley stated that the department has two openings, they recently held a test and he is requesting the appointment of Bryce Jardine and Bradley Pedersen-Ellis to the Fire Department. Motion by Moser, second by Naillon that Jardine and Pedersen-Ellis be appointed to the fire department; motion carried.

2022 Arbor Day Proclamation read by Mayor Neal; Mayor Neal proclaimed April 29th as Arbor Day in the City of Oroville.

American Legion Hodges Post 84 letter of support request submitted by Arnie Marchand. American Legion Hodges Post 84 is requesting that the State Department of Transportation honor the Veterans of the Vietnam War by dedicating State Route 20 from the Idaho border to the Skagit County line in Western Washington to recognize the sacrifices made by the Vietnam Veterans to the State of Washington and to the United States of America. Motion by Naillon, second by Moser that the letter of support be provided; motion carried.

Kevin & Mercedes Hand, Kevin's Funtime Rentals 2022 Concession Stand Lease, submitted for Council consideration. Clerk Denney stated that the term will be from May 15th to September 15th and will have the same requirements as the previously approved agreements. Motion by Moser, second by Naillon that Mayor Neal and Clerk Denney be authorized to sign the agreement; motion carried.

SCJ Alliance, Construction Engineering Contract Supplemental Agreement #2 for the Central Avenue Project explained by Superintendent Thompson; Clerk Denney stated that the Supplement #2 agreement is for the amount of \$60,115 and will be covered by STBG and TIB funds, no City funds. Denney stated that Council approval and authorization to execute the agreement needs to be pending WSDOT approval. Motion by Naillon, second by Moser that Mayor Neal be authorized to sign the agreement pending WSDOT approval; motion carried.

SCJ Alliance, TIB Consultant Agreement for the Seal Coat project in multiple locations explained by Superintendent Thompson; Clerk Denney stated that the agreement is for the amount of \$16,500 and 95% of the project costs will be covered by TIB and 5% will be covered by the City. Denney stated that Council approval and authorization to execute the agreement needs to be pending TIB approval. Motion by Moser, second by Naillon that Mayor Neal be authorized to sign the agreement pending TIB approval; motion carried.

Chief Langford, grant application process clarification request; Langford would like to know if the Council would like the Police Department to seek approval to apply for grants, or wait until acceptance approval is needed. Discussed potential short time frames and concern on being able to meet deadlines if they have to wait until Council approval is given before applying. Discussed possible grants for AED, Officer Wellness and Body Worn Cameras. Mayor Neal stated that it would be okay to wait until acceptance approval is needed, however, Council needs to be approached ahead of time if a match is needed.

Chief Langford stated that the lease patrol vehicles are still scheduled to be delivered this year, the replacement vehicle in June and the new lease in September.

Chief Langford stated that he is also looking into possible funding for a school resource officer.

Karen Frisbie reported on the Downtown Strategic Plan meeting that will be held Monday, April 25th from 11 am to 1 pm at Rancho Grande; Clerk Denney stated that the agenda has been forwarded to the Mayor and Council.

Benie Miller questioned where the Alden/Chamber discussion goes from here. Mayor Neal stated that both sides have had an opportunity to discuss their concerns, and as it is not an issue that the City has actual involvement in, there will be no further discussion on the issue during future City Council meetings.

Benie Miller questioned the status of getting something done with the Railroad Crossing on the South side of the bridge outside of town. Mayor Neal stated that he has been in contact with the State Department of Transportation and they are working on the process to get the necessary repairs made within the next few months.

Cassandra Clark, member of the American Legion Hodges Post 84, was present to discuss the American Flags and Senior Banners sharing space on the poles; concerned with placement and meeting flag protocols. Superintendent Thompson will work with Clark to have the placement be appropriate.

Motion by McElheran and second by Moser the vouchers \$417,165.25, #30326-30356, DOR-EFT, be paid, the April 15, 2022 payroll of \$48,573.96, #30308-30325, Direct Deposit Run, EFT #202214-202215, be approved and the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes approved _____

Mayor

Clerk