

Regular Council Meeting of September 1, 2020

Pursuant to Proclamation 20-28 issued by Governor Inslee on March 24, 2020 and further amended, which prohibits in person meetings, attendance to this regular meeting is only allowed via speakerphone; call in number was provided to the Mayor, Councilmembers, staff and the public.

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Neal.

Copies of the August 18th council meeting minutes were read and approved.

Police Department updates given by Chief Langford. Chief Langford requested permission to purchase a vehicle from the City of Tonasket; discussion on current fleet and the need to replace existing vehicles. Mayor Neal suggested that the vehicle be inspected by a mechanic prior to purchase; Chief Langford agreed. Councilman Moser asked if Chief Langford has talked with Aaron McNair at the Border Patrol regarding the Stonegarden program and the possible purchase of a new vehicle through that program; Chief Langford stated that he is looking into the program, but a partial vehicle grant through that program would not be available until the 2nd year of participation. Discussion on Stonegarden requirements. Councilman McElheran commented on the positive public comments regarding the increase in staffing at the Police Department. Councilman Moser stated that former officer Greg Bardonski passed away on August 27th and asked how the department could help the family; Chief Langford stated that funding would not be an option, but the Police Department will definitely be present when the service is held. Further discussion on approval for vehicle purchase; the vehicle is a 2010 Charger with 77,000 miles and priced at \$6,000. Motion by McElheran, second by Hart that Chief Langford be allowed to purchase the vehicle after it successfully passes an inspection by a mechanic; motion carried.

City Hall position update given by Clerk Denney. Deanna Rowton will retire from the City effective October 31, 2020; Clerk Denney requested that Emily Finsen be approved to fill the position effective October 1st. Motion by McElheran, second by Naillon that Emily Finsen move to the full time Staff Assistant position effective October 1st; motion carried.

Ordinance 896, amending City Hall wages, explained by Clerk Denney, which puts steps in place for the Staff Assistant position. Motion by McElheran, second by Naillon that Ordinance 896 be approved; motion carried.

Downtown Dog Park proposal submitted by The Oroville Initiative (TOI); representative from TOI was not present. Mayor Neal explained that the proposed dog park would be located at the vacant lot North of City Hall; discussed that there is not a water service for the property. Discussed the concern for gifting of public funds depending on what TOI would like contributed by the City. Councilman Moser asked if anyone knew what the Camaray's responsibilities would be if they were to adopt the park, as mentioned in the proposal; not known. As additional information is needed, TOI representative will be asked to be available for discussion during an upcoming meeting; request tabled until representative is available to discuss with Council.

Clerk Denney reported on the County Consortium re: CARES ACT CDBG CV-1 Funds; County will contract with Okanogan County Community Action Council for funds distribution. Clerk Denney recommended that the City join the County Consortium, feels that it would be the best use of the funds. Motion by Hart, second by McElheran that the City of Oroville join the Okanogan County Consortium for the CARES ACT CDBG CV-1 Funds; motion carried.

Letter of support request received from the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing for the Oroville Housing Authority Harvest Shelter Improvements. Councilman McElheran expressed his concern over the screening process for those using the facilities. Councilman Hart agrees with McElheran, however, feels that is an issue that should be handled separately.

Councilman Marthaller stated that the City should have more involvement to ensure that the screening process only allows legal residents. Councilman Naillon questioned what the Housing Authority's plan is for dealing with the pandemic and those using the facilities; Clerk Denney to inquire. Further discussion on letter of support and improvements they are trying to make. Motion by Hart, second by Naillon that Mayor Neal be authorized to sign the letter of support. Those in favor: Naillon, Marthaller, Hart and Moser; opposed: McElheran. Motion carried.

Linda Schwilke submitted a copy of the email she sent to the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding the Bob Neil Rd. Discussion on the intersection of Highway 97 and Bob Neil Rd and concerns about Bob Neil Rd itself. Discussed that the issues need to be pursued. Councilman Hart felt that the City should pursue extending 8th Avenue to tie into Bob Neil Rd; discussion on difficulties of extending 8th Avenue. Mayor Neal to talk with County Commissioner Branch to pursue options for the needed improvements.

Chamber President Karen Frisbie submitted a request on behalf of the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery group to use the City owned building at 1728 Main for warehousing Palmer Fire resources through the rest of the recovery process; explanation given by Frisbie. Councilman Naillon questioned how long the building would be needed; Frisbie stated that they are looking at 2 months, could be extended an additional 3 to 4 months due to phasing of the recovery, but would like to see it ending after 2 months. Council requested that Attorney Howe be contacted to ensure that it would not be a gift of public funds to allow the building to be used; Councilman Naillon would also like to see an end date set. Frisbie stated that she will need an answer by the end of the week. Motion by Naillon, second by McElheran that Mayor Neal be granted the authority to agree to the use based on the response from Attorney Howe and that there be a termination date; motion carried.

Councilman McElheran would like to thank Frisbie for her efforts in helping those affected by the fire; remaining Councilmembers agreed.

Motion by Marthaller and second by McElheran the vouchers \$285,125.19, #27831-27846, be paid, manual checks \$5,283.44, Park Account EFT #990461-990462, Checking Account EFT #990440, Checking Account #27719-27721, 27742-27745, 27775-27785 (void 27776), be paid, the August 31, 2020 payroll of \$84,279.46, #27786-27830, Direct Deposit Run, EFT #202038-202039, be approved and the meeting be adjourned at 7:29 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes approved _____

Mayor

Clerk