

WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers
301 Yakima Street, 2nd Floor
Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2020

5:15 p.m.

Present: Mayor Frank J. Kuntz, Councilmember Position 1 Jose Cuevas, Councilmember Position 2 Jim Bailey, Councilmember Position 3 Ruth Esparza, Councilmember Position 4 Travis Hornby, Councilmember Position 5 Mark Kulaas, Councilmember At-Large "A" Linda Herald (via phone), Councilmember At-Large "B" Keith Huffaker

Staff Present: Executive Services Director Laura Merrill, City Clerk Tammy Stanger, IS Support Tim McCord, Community Development Director Glen DeVries, Building Official Cliff Burdick, Police Chief Steve Crown

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Noise Ordinance

Community Development Director Glen DeVries provided the next suggested steps for additional research and alternatives for the noise ordinance. He suggested a sub-committee be formed that would include three Councilmembers and three Planning Commission members, as well as staff. The Council concurred this would be a good way to look at it, and it may even be possible that no changes are necessary to the code. Councilmembers Bailey, Cuevas and Kulaas offered to be on the sub-committee, and Councilmember Huffaker will be an alternate.

B. Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI)/Residential Foothills

Community Development Director Glen DeVries and Building and Fire Code Official Cliff Burdick presented a power point presentation outlining the draft revisions to the Residential Foothills Low Zoning District. The draft revisions to the zoning district intend to recognize existing city standards such as the Wildland Urban Interface code; emergency vehicle access standards; critical area codes; and current stormwater and street standards. The direction of the Council was to have the Planning Commission continue the work and include the revisions in the 2020 annual review 60-day notice.

The Mayor provided an update on obtaining additional dollars from partners for the Confluence Parkway NEPA project. Link Transit has agreed to an additional amount of money, and he is working with the PUD. He is cautiously optimistic we will get there, with the City contributing a fair share.

The Mayor spoke briefly about the homeless issues in Wenatchee. The city has been receiving a lot of complaints. The Homeless Task Force meets next week and will discuss the topic of a low barrier shelter.

Councilmember Huffaker attended the Chamber meeting this week. He stated home sales are still doing well, although home inventory is down 57% from last year.

Councilmember Esparza, who sits on the Health District Board, said we have crested the second wave for COVID, and it appears masks are working. The Mayor added that Wenatchee is a test site for COVID vaccinations.

Chief Crown provided an update that the Special Services Division (SSD) has fired back up again this week. They will have a training on homeless outreach. They also hope to work closely with the VIPS for graffiti cleanup around the city.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Frank J. Kuntz, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy L. Stanger, City Clerk