



WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Wenatchee City Hall Council Chambers

301 Yakima Street, 2nd Floor

Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Frank Kuntz, Councilmember District 1 José Cuevas, Councilmember District 2 Jim Bailey, Councilmember District 3 Ruth Esparza, Councilmember District 4 Travis Hornby, Councilmember District 5 Mark Kulaas, Councilmember At-Large "A" Linda Herald, Councilmember At-Large "B" Keith Huffaker

Staff Present: Executive Services Director Laura Merrill, City Attorney Steve Smith (via phone), City Clerk Tammy Stanger, IS Support Tim McCord, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director David Erickson, Public Works Director Rob Jammerman, Community Development Director Glen DeVries

5:15 p.m. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call. Mayor Frank J. Kuntz called the regular meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Councilmember Keith Huffaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Items:

Motion by Councilmember Keith Huffaker for City Council to approve agenda, vouchers, and minutes from previous meetings; to accept the work performed by the contractor J&K Earthworks, LLC on the North Wenatchee Stormwater Project Phase 1, Project No. 1617, and further authorize the Mayor to sign the Final Contract Voucher Certificate on behalf of the City of Wenatchee; to accept the work performed by the contractor, Central Washington Asphalt, on the 2019 Pavement Preservation project, City Project 1901, and further authorize the Mayor to sign the Final Contract Voucher; and to approve Resolution No. 2020-32 designating the Mayor as an on-going alternate voting representative to the Rivercom Administrative Board. Councilmember Travis Hornby seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

3. Action Items.

A. Arts, Recreation and Parks Commission Appointment

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director David Erickson presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Ruth Esparza for City Council to approve Resolution 2020-29 appointing Lukas Hedtke to position six of the Wenatchee Arts Recreation and Parks Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2021. Councilmember Jose Cuevas seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

B. RCO-RTP Grant Application Authorization

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director David Erickson presented the staff report and provided the City Council with a handout showing the city's project history with the grant program. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Linda Herald for City Council to approve Resolution 2020-30 authorizing application to the State Recreation Conservation Office for a Recreation Trail Program Grant. Councilmember Travis Hornby seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

C. Code Enforcement Board Re-appointment – Luis Gonzalez

Community Development Director Glen DeVries presented the staff report. Council asked questions.

Motion by Councilmember Jim Bailey for City Council to Resolution No. 2020-31, designating the re-appointment of Luis Gonzalez to the Code Enforcement Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2022. Councilmember Jose Cuevas seconded the motion. Motion carried. (7-0).

4. Public Hearing Items.

The Mayor explained the public hearing process.

D. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-29 specifically relating to the assessment rate on lodging businesses located within the tourism promotion area codified at WCC 1.108.020

Executive Services Director Laura Merrill presented the staff report. Councilmember Linda Herald recused herself from this item due to a conflict of interest.

Council asked questions and commented.

Freyda Stephens, Chair of the Tourism Promotion Area Board, spoke to the Council about the TPA's decision to increase the assessment to \$2.00 per room per night, and thanked the Council.

Jerri Barkey, Marketing Director for the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, said she was appreciative of the opportunity to work together with the city to support the tourism industry.

Motion by Councilmember Travis Hornby for City Council to adopt Ordinance No 2020-29 specifically relating to the assessment rate on lodging businesses located within the tourism promotion area codified at WCC 1.108.020 from \$1.00 per room per day to \$2.00 per room per day. Councilmember Keith Huffaker seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-0) (Herald conflict).

5. Reports.

- a. Mayor's Report. The Mayor reported on the following:
 1. He met with Keni Sturgeon, Director of the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, and the Chair of the Board for the WVMCC, this week where they provided an overview of their new comprehensive plan which does contain some capital improvement requests. They may be looking to the city to help facilitate those improvements.
 2. The library may be interested in purchasing the newly renovated building. He will work with staff to take a look at that.
 3. He met with Steve Wright to discuss the LRF funds and they discussed a possible partnership with the PUD to renovate the waterfront from Pybus to Fifth Street, rather than improvements to the 5th Street underpass.
 4. Armando Bendito has agreed to serve on the Housing Authority Board. A resolution for his appointment will be on the next meeting agenda.
 5. Sales taxes are now holding steady compared to August of last year.
 6. He attended an online meeting with the Governor's office earlier this week.
 7. The City has received a safety award from AWC/RMSA. Councilmember Jim Bailey, who proudly serves on the RMSA board, said the award is for a reduction in risk claims.

- b. Reports/New Business of Council Committees
 1. Councilmember Keith Huffaker recently attended the Chamber meeting. He said everyone seems to be doing good and hanging in there. Shiloh Burgess spoke briefly about the contract negotiations between the City and the Chamber. He also mentioned that businesses need to apply for the CARES Act funding. Executive Services Director Laura Merrill provided an update on the status of those grants. At this time, out of the \$500,000 available for awards, only \$180,000 has been applied for. The application closes on October 30.
 2. Councilmember Ruth Esparza reported that she and Councilmember Linda Herald participated in a "Women in Politics" forum hosted by the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center. It can be viewed on the Museum's facebook page and on youtube.
 3. Councilmember Mark Kulaas said the Museum was able to open up this week, now that we are in Phase 2.

The Mayor added that Social Security has moved into their new location (the old City Hall). He had no updates on the new City Hall remodel project – staff continues to work through it. The budget is just about wrapped up, and is looking to be about \$400,000 out of line, for which reserves could be used to balance. Four outstanding budget issues remain – jail, two union contracts, and Rivercom. He hopes Rivercom will be agreeable to a reduction in costs for this year, considering the pandemic and their high reserve balance, while other agencies are struggling.

6. Announcements. Mayor Kuntz announced the next meeting will be a special meeting on November 5, with a regular meeting on November 12 to adopt the final budget.

7. Adjournment. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.



Frank J. Kuntz, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy L. Stanger, City Clerk