



Sumas City Council Meeting

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

Monday, September 23, 2024, 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 Jessica Koehler

1. **Opening Meeting - Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Review/Correct and/or Approve Minutes**

- a. September 09, 2024, Draft Minutes

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to approve September 09, 2024, Minutes, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

3. **New Business**

- a. Sumas Historical Society & Museum

The Sumas Historical Society & Museum is proposing to name the City of Sumas park where the tennis courts are to Sycamore Park. Lizette Custer from the historical society stated they will be providing the sign. Councilmember Koehler made a motion to adopt the name Sycamore Park, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

- b. Facilities Improvement Reimbursement Agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

Sunny Aulakh, Public Works Director explained this contract is for the replacement of the line and an upgrade to the existing poly pipeline that runs between the chemical tank and the discharge port. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is agreeing to reimburse the city for the cost associated with this project. Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract for the Facilities Improvement and Reimbursement Agreement, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

c. Three Quotes for Line Replacement and Upgrade for PSE

Sunny Aulakh, Public Works Director went over the three quotes for the replacement of the line. The lowest quote was from P&P Excavating, LLC for \$54,336.00; Sunny is recommending using P&P Excavating to do the line upgrade. Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to accept P&P Excavating LLC bid, Councilmember Koehler seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

d. Opportunity Council FY 2024-2025 Home Heating Energy Vendor Agreement

Mollie Bost, Finance Director explained that the opportunity council assist our low-income customer with energy assistance. The contract is a renewal for the services they provide throughout the year to our customers. Councilmember Koehler made a motion to approve the Opportunity Council Home Heating Energy Vender Agreement, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

4. Staff Reports

Public Works Director

Sunny Aulakh updated the council that we will be chlorinating our water starting September 25 - October 3rd, for water maintenance per the Health Departments protocol. The water will be retested in next thirty days and Sunny will bring back the results to the council. Sunny stated he did attend the last SWID meeting, they are working on their FEMA projects.

Finance Director

Mollie Bost updated the council that the Washington State Commerce Grant is closed, and it helped 228 customers in Sumas. Mollie advised that we will be starting a financial audit with the state in the next few weeks. Also, it is budget season, the first public hearing will be in November. Mollie reminded the council if they have any ideas for the remaining ARPA money, please let her know by the end of the year.

City Planner

1. Memo - Proposed Population & Employment Proposal

Carson Cortez went over the memo stating this s the latest version of the Whatcom County population and employment projections for the comprehensive plan update process. The projections are for how much the population in the county could grow over the next twenty years once that was established. It broke it down to the seven cities and unincorporated Whatcom County. The City of Sumas was determined to have occupied 1.2% of the county's total population growth in the past ten years.

Carson is projecting that if we were to annex all the UGA areas that we have proposed, this could increase our population by 1,000 people and 200 jobs over the next twenty years. Carson explained that we need to give Whatcom County a formal proposal by the end of October.

Mayor

Mayor Bosch stated he will be meeting with the Port of Bellingham representatives regarding our industrial area and assisting with bringing businesses into our town. Mayor Bosch will also be meeting Councilmember Scanlon of the Whatcom County Council talking about our flooding issues.

Councilmember Koehler inquired if the City was going to put in a comment on the EIS for the GSA project. Also, discussion on the possible revenue loss with the removal of the building, Mollie will research revenue loss.

5. Voucher Approvals

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check numbers 43637 through 43655 for \$20,504.45; EFTs in the amount \$150,077.37. Councilmember Postma made a motion to pay the bills, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

6. Executive Session

- a. Executive Session with legal counsel about legal risks of current or proposed action RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

Executive session for discussion with legal counsel about legal risks of current or proposed action till 8:05 pm.

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to approve the Northwest Lineman College Task Order No. 05, Councilmember Jesse Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

7. Adjournment

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

_____, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____, City Clerk