



Sumas City Council Meeting

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

Monday, October 28, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Mayor Bruce Bosch
Council Member Jesse Clawson
Council Member Josh Clawson
Council Member Richard Postma
Council Member Jessica Koehler

ABSENT

Council Member Todd Daniels

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

- a. October 14, 2024, Draft Minutes

Councilmember Postma made a motion to approve October 14, 2024, Minutes, Councilmember Koehler seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

3. **Old Business**

- a. Parks/Public Properties Committee - Morton Street Sidewalk Project

Councilmember Postma spoke about the committee meeting, the residents on both sides of street are not interested in a sidewalk. Councilmember Postma stated he reached out to the school, and they advised not many children use the road. Councilmember Koehler also confirmed there was a vote by all the residents not to put in a sidewalk. The council members advised not to move forward with the WTA Grant for the sidewalk on Morton Street.

- b. Washington State Dept. of Commerce Electric Vehicle Charging Program

Jim Wright, City Attorney, advised he had reached out to Washington State Commerce with his concerns about the contract. The representative from commerce advised section four regarding the unilateral decision making can be stricken from the contract. Jim stated this was his main concern with the contract and once the amended contract is returned; if the council wants to move forward it would be acceptable. Carson Cortez, City Planner, updated that another business would like to receive vehicle chargers. Carson reached out to commerce for a third business to be added to the contract.

Councilmember Josh Clawson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Washington State Commerce Electric Vehicle Charging Contract with section four removed on page six, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

4. New Business

a. Cascade Clearing - Quote to Clear 100 feet of Debris

Sunny Aulakh, Public Works Director explained this is to clean out debris from the creek by the duck bill behind the Jefferson Court.

Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to accept Cascade Clearings quote for \$5,000.00, Councilmember Koehler seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

b. Memo & Ordinance No. 1818 - Establishing the Salaries & Wages for 2025

Mollie Bost, Finance Director explained the ordinance is establishing the salary and wages for 2025. The COLA for next year is 2.5% based on the Social Security COLA rate. The other change to the salaries and wages is with longevity pay, the change starts with the year eleven through fifteen for 1.5 percent of the gross wage, year sixteen through twenty for 2.5 percent of gross wage, and years twenty-one and beyond would be 3.5 percent of the gross wage. The proposed change for longevity pay would increase the annual expense by \$5,824.55 for the next year. Councilmember Jesse Clawson would like a chance for more time to review the updated changes. The ordinance will be brought back to the next council meeting.

5. Staff Reports

Chief of Police

Daniel DeBruin reported that Officer Munden and Officer Huyber, our drone pilots, have been doing joint training with other agencies that have been doing well. The training was for different scenarios and responses for drone coverage.

Finance Director

1. Request for a Public Hearing - 2025 Preliminary Budget

Mollie Bost requested a public hearing for the preliminary budget on November 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Koehler made a motion to set the public hearing for the 2025 Preliminary Budget for November 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm, Councilmember Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

2. Request for a Public Hearing - Setting the Property Tax Levy for 2025

Mollie Bost requested a public hearing to set the 2025 property tax levy on November 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Postma made a motion to set the public hearing for the 2025 Setting the Property Tax Levy for November 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm, Councilmember Koehler seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

City Planner

3. Memo - Grainger General Binding Site Plan

Carson Cortez explained that the council had approved a General Binding Site Plan for Dave Grainger in July 2023. An issue with the proposed road and the railroad intersection and all the requirements the Utilities and Transportation Commission would require putting in an upgraded rail crossing. One solution would be converting the public road to a private road, which includes utility and access easement along the private road allowing the city to access and maintain the utilities. The private road would have to be built to meet all city codes and standards. The transition of the road from public to private would constitute a minor modification to the approved conditions. Carson is looking for a decision from the council with their thoughts with this modification and how to move forward.

Rollin Harper also spoke about this proposal and stated the city will oversee requirements of the structure of the road and the wording of any easements recorded. Rollin feels comfortable with the transitions of the road from public to private. Rollin stated the council does not have to change the language in the conditions of approval, this is just to inform the council of the public road changing to a private road.

Dale Buys, Reichhardt and Ebe Engineering, spoke about the benefits to making this a private road, the owners of the properties would be responsible for the road maintenance. The businesses would create a business park association to maintain the road.

All council members agreed this would be acceptable.

6. Voucher Approvals

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check numbers 43709 through 43727 for \$117,389.13; voided checks 23270 & 43353, EFTs in the amount \$5,281.44 and Wire Transfer \$1,585.34. Councilmember Postma made a motion to pay the bills, Councilmember Koehler seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

7. Adjournment

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

_____, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____, City Clerk