

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Minutes

WORK SESSION

Mayor Watterson convened the work session at 6:30 pm with

PRESENT

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember John O'Callahan

Councilmember Jason Lawton

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

1. 6:30 pm Review of 10/22/2024 Council Agenda

No discussion from Council on tonight's agenda.

2. Council Priorities

Vacant City Property Surplus

Discussion held on the vacant properties the City owns and whether or not the Council would like to sell these or hold for future use. C/T Scharber to send copies of the appraisal on each property to Council for review.

3. Discussion of 11/12/2024 Council Draft Agenda

Mayor Watterson invited council to send in or contact Jen for any items to add to the agenda.

4. Budget Workshop

Lengthy discussion held on the expenditures for the 2025 budget.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watterson convened the regular council meeting at 7:30 pm with

PRESENT

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember John O'Callahan

Councilmember Jason Lawton

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

5. Flag Salute

AGENDA APPROVAL

6. Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the 10/22/24.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Councilmember Gotovac moved to amend the agenda to include a resolution by the Council for the budget to add under New Business. Seconded by Councilmember O'Callahan.

Motion passes 5/0.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan to approve the amended agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Lawton.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7. Meeting Minutes for 10/8/2024

Recommended Action: Motion to approve 10/8/2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Lawton.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

8. Consent Calendar October 9, 2024 through October 22, 2024 consisting of

Payroll EFT's in the amount of \$42,703.48

Claims checks #32770 through #32797 in the amount of \$73,200.83

for a grand total of \$115,904.31

Liquor Cannabis License: None

Recommended Action: Move to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PRESENTATIONS

9. Sheriff Sanders on Public Safety

Recommended Action: None, presentation only

Sheriff Sanders presented a rough proposal of County police coverage for the City at the request of the Mayor. This is informational only and he is neutral in his position of approving or denying a proposal. At the current time County and the City have a mutual agreement of County coverage from midnight to 6:00 am at \$25,000.00, reducing the City's overtime costs. He again states that this proposal is a rough estimate only and they prepared it by looking at the Rainier contract with County and added in the amount of the the City's population. This would include 2 options: First option costing \$260,000.00 with a 2% increase yearly would include an officer in the City limits approximately 80% of the time, jail costs, evidence, overtime, ongoing training and a report at Council meetings. This would not include any code enforcement. Second option costing \$300,000.00 with a 2% increase yearly would include an Officer in the area as well as a fulltime School Resource Officer daily, jail costs, evidence, overtime, ongoing training and a report at Council meetings. He is hoping to add at least 4 additional officers to his department in the 2026-27 year increasing the availability of an Officer in City limits.

Councilmember Lawton asked the question of taxes supporting the County the homeowners pay now? Sheriff Sanders, reported that the taxes received from a property owner within the City limits goes to jail costs only and a property owner outside the City limits goes to jail and officer costs to the County.

Councilmember Eisal asked Sheriff Sanders if the County would still be able to utilize the P.D. Building if they were to contract with the City. Sheriff Sanders replied they would use it as a satellite office indeed. TCSO is also accepting lateral officers at this time.

10. Tenino Community Service Center, Cold Storage presentation

Recommended Action: None, Presentation only.

Jody Stolz/Pat Haller and George Sharp spoke to Mayor and Council regarding their request to purchase the cold storage building they use that is owned by the City. Jody stated the building was built with grant monies and not city funds. The zoning at the site is residential right now which was a mistake and it should still be in the commercial zone and the Planning Dept is trying to correct this prior to the end of the year so they can apply for grant funds to update it as well as build a new bigger building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Burgess 273 Lincoln Ave E: Laura stated she walks to the park daily and sees the police presence daily which is comforting. She doesn't see much crime in town, but hears about it. Code enforcement is needed as we are getting homeless in town who are littering. We need our police department in town. If he doesn't think they should be here, then maybe he should move out of town.

October 22, 2024

Gary Knutter 1161 Central Ave E: The biggest difference he sees going with county is the response time for calls as well as touring through town. The budget issues we have now are up to council to fix and feels you all will find an answer. Public safety is a big issue. He doesn't have the answers for a fix but defunding the PD is not it. We need to make progress for the future.

Gavin Strawn 16731 Mima Acres Dr: 12 years ago his father Eric Strawn was the City's Mayor. One of the first things he did was work on the police department as they lived on Huston St with no sidewalks or fences, people would fly down the road. After calling the police to patrol the area people started to slow down. He realizes it is tough to maintain the budget. He has family that have lived here all their lives and no one wants to see the local Police Department go to county.

Davina Sanchez 382 Briar Ln: Thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to speak tonight. During Oregon Trail Days there was an incident with the Chief being the first to arrive and maintaining order. She has a 5 year old at Parkside Elementary who absolutely loves to see and feels safe with Officer Johnson and Chief Auderer's presence. She was a victim of a 2015 North Thurston School shooting, SRO was vital in de-escalating the situation, what happens here if we don't have our local Police Department. Cutting funds to the Police Department should be our last option. She feels it is poor leadership to cut the Police Department.

Kim Johnson 139 Wichman St S: She actually lives in Rainier as she could not afford rent in Tenino, however she does work in Tenino. She had an incident over the Labor Day at her work and the police were there within minutes. Another incident that happened in Rainier with her daughter being home alone and an unknown man in the yard. She contacted 911 as well as her son and it took them 37 minutes to arrive with her son in a physical altercation with the unknown man prior to their arrival. Keep the local police.

Dusty Johnson, owner T9O Ranch: He stated that even though he does not live in the city limits his business is which brings in revenue for the City. He has heard from many of his clients and the contestants that attend the various events at the Ranch feel comfortable knowing the police are so close for emergencies.

Joyce Worrell, owner Iron Works Boutique: Joyce stated prior to Mayor Watterson becoming the Mayor that herself and Chief Auderer asked him at a meet the candidates forum what his intentions were with the police and at that time he did not want the Police Department so maybe a personal issue. She is very happy that the police are always right here when needed as she has had to call in the last 15 years of having the business. Very grateful for the police in town. Mayor Watterson needs to find a way to keep the police local, we are a City not a little berg.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

11. Equipment Transfer Acceptance for Tenino PD

Total amount of equipment given to the Tenino Police Department is \$ 189,403.79

Recommended Action: Motion to accept Equipment Transfer for Tenino PD

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

12. VFW Agreement for Veteran Monument

Recommended Action: Motion to approve agreement between the City of Tenino and VFW #5878 for the Veteran Monument.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

13. WWTP Influent Screen Amendment

Recommended Action: Motion to approve WWTP Influent Screen Amendment

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

14. EV Charging Station Amendment

Recommended Action: Motion to approve EV Charging Station Amendment

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

15. Ag Park Change Order for HVAC

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Change order for HVAC

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Lawton.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel

Motion passes 5/0.

16. Amendment for Bathhouse archaeological and historical building investigation

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Amendment for Bathhouse archaeological and historical building investigation

17. Budget Accounting Services

Recommended Action: Motion to approve pending legal review

Mayor Watterson explained he plans to pay this person by donating his monthly stipend back to the City and for her to sign a contract with the City for no more than \$18,000.00.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 5/0.

18. Building Services Agreements

Recommended Action: Motion to approve building services agreements

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Eisel.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Eisel

Voting Nay: Councilmember Lawton.

Motion passes 4/1.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Gotovac added to the agenda a Budget Resolution 2024-08 denying the police budget to be any less than the voted on 2024 budget of \$767,553.45 by the Mayor.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Lawton.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton

Voting Nay: Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes 3/2.

ORDINANCES

None

REPORTS

19. Outside Agency

- 1) Chamber of Commerce
- 2) Economic Development Council (EDC)
- 3) South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI)
- 4) ARCH Commission
- 5) Experience Olympia & Beyond (VCB)
- 6) Timberland Regional Library

6) **Timberland Regional Library:** Linda reported the numbers are continuing to maintain. They will be open for voter assistance again this year.

20. Committees/Commissions

- 1) Civil Service Commission
- 2) Façade Improvement Grant Review Committee
- 3) Finance Committee
- 4) Planning Commission
- 5) Public Safety Committee
- 6) Public Works Committee

None

21. Staff

- 1) Chief of Police
- 2) Director of Public Works
- 3) Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
- 4) PARC Specialist
- 5) Clerk/Treasurer
- 6) Mayor

1) **Chief of Police:** Chief Auderer reported in response of Sheriff Sanders' presentation regarding public safety. He thanked the residents for appearing in support of the PD tonight. He stated his department is down approximately 29% under budget this year. He reported in August he provided the Mayor a proposal for a grant writer to assist the department in obtaining some grants and to date he has not had communication regarding same from the Mayor. The grant writer would be paid by the grants she obtains by putting her costs into the request. She is very knowledgeable with getting grants and what ones are available to the P.D. He discussed the public safety tax fund that was implemented last year and should be in the police budget and not the general fund. He also feels that the statement of a "math problem" by Sheriff Sanders is

incorrect, it is a matter of calls responded to and how quickly. He stated his officers are at this time training with TCSO which is already a savings to the City.

2) Director of Public Works

3) Code Enforcement/Building Inspector: Rene reported to date there have been a total of 68 permits applied for with 23 that remain open. They received 2 applications for new residence's and are in the hands of the planning department for zoning approval. He thanked Mayor and Council as well as Chief Auderer and Maria for helping him during his 3 years with the City.

4) PARC Specialist

5) Clerk/Treasurer

6) Mayor

22. Liaisons

1) Bucoda/Tenino Healthy Action Team (BTHAT)

2) Solid Waste Advisory Board

3) TCOMM/911

4) Tenino School Board

5) Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

6) Transportation Policy Board

7) Thurston County Commissioner's Office

8) Legislature

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS 2

Gary Knutter 1161 Central Ave E: He commented that he did not believe the Mayor had a personal reason for defunding the Police Department. He is a hard position with hard decisions to make.

Adam Carney 558 Huston: He commented that grants are very competitive and usually have only one available. It sounds like greater communication is needed for any grant especially digging into them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Eisel announced that BTHAT will be hosting another medicine takeback day at the Tenino Police Station on Saturday the 26th from 10 am - 2 pm.

Councilmember Eisel announced that the PTSA is hosting Trunk or Treat at the Tenino Middle School parking lot from 5 - 7 pm on Saturday the 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

October 22, 2024

Mayor Watterson adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

October 22, 2024