



Sumas City Council Meeting

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

Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Mayor Bruce Bosch

Council Member Jesse Clawson

Council Member Richard Postma

Council Member Todd Daniels

Council Member Jessica Koehler

ABSENT

Council Member Josh Clawson

1. Opening Meeting - Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review/Correct and/or Approve Minutes

a. February 26, 2024, Draft Minutes

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to approve February 26, 2024, Minutes, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

3. New Business

a. Presentation from Whatcom County Health and Community Services, Erika Lautenbach, MPH, Director

Erika Lautenbach, Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services gave a presentation to the council. Ms. Lautenbach went over the health department's commitment to our community; organizational development; health and human services, communicable diseases, environmental health, financial services, response systems, leadership, and administration.

b. Engagement of Legal Services from Law Office of Thomas M Pors

Jim Wright, City Attorney explained this engagement letter with Thomas M. Pors, Attorney is for professional service to represent the City in the Nooksack River Water Rights Adjudication. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to have Thomas M. Pors represent the City, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

c. Memo Proposed Changes for Delinquent Utility Accounts

Mollie Bost, Finance Director, went over the proposed changes to the billing of delinquent utility accounts and updating the Sumas Municipal Code section 12.08.050 to reflect the changes. The billing staff would like to eliminate hang tags that have to be delivered to individuals' addresses; also, to change the shut off day for non-payments of utility bills to the second Tuesday of each month. The written notice will only be given with the mailed utility reminder notice. Another proposed change would require payments to be made by 11:00 am on the last working day of the month.

Councilmember Jesse Clawson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1813 Amending Section 12.08.050 of the Sumas Municipal Code regarding Delinquent Accounts, Councilmember Daniels seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

d. Notice of Request for Qualifications, for Grants Portal Management of FEMA Disaster

Sunny Aulakh went over the request for qualifications, this is for our GrantsPortal Management of our FEMA Disasters. We had one company submit their qualifications, Widener & Associates; they currently manage our FEMA grant portal. Sunny said with new FEMA regulations we had to advertise for RFQ's. Widener & Associates will submit a contract for council approval, Mollie also stated their fees are reimbursed by FEMA.

Councilmember Daniels made a motion to accept the qualifications from Widener & Associates for the FEMA GrantsPortal Management & Environmental Permitting, Councilmember Postma seconded; all were if favor the motion carried.

4. Staff Reports

Chief of Police

Daniel DeBruin advised there were numerous police agencies in Sumas for a situation on Saturday, which resolved peacefully. Daniel appreciates all the agencies that helped with the incident and the good working relationship we have with all the local agencies.

Public Works Director

Sunny Aulakh stated the crew have started the pothole repairs throughout town.

Finance Director

Mollie Bost stated she met with the finance committee; they went over the bank statement. Councilmember Daniels stated they did review possible increases in the city facility rental fees; the committee is going to do more research.

City Clerk

1. Request for a Public Hearing, Floodplain Variance Permit & Conditional Use Permit at 110 Morton Street - March 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Michelle Quinn requested a public hearing on March 25, 2024, at 7:00 pm. Councilmember Daniels made a motion to set the Public Hearing for a Floodplain Variance Permit & Conditional Use Permit for March 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM, Councilmember Jesse Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

5. Voucher Approvals

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check numbers 43130 through 43181 for \$108,882.07; voided checks 23319 & 43101 (716.69); EFTs in the amount \$15,695.66 and February 2024 payroll for \$189,070.12. 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 current or potential litigation RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

Mayor Bosch stated the executive session will be till 8:00 pm with legal counsel regarding current or potential litigation RCW42.30.110(1)(i). No Action was Taken.

7. Adjournment

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



_____, Mayor

ATTEST:



_____, City Clerk