

**City of Cosmopolis  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2019**

**Mayor Frank Chestnut presiding.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Jim Ancich, Debi Moran, Dale Andrews, and Kyle Pauley. A motion was made by Councilmember Debi Moran and seconded by Councilmember Jim Ancich to excuse Councilmember Sperring. Motion carried.

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Darrin Raines, Attorney Steve Johnson, Clerk-Treasurer Julie Pope, Fire Chief Jerry Schreck, and Police Chief Casey Stratton

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Chestnut asked to remove item F as the situation has resolved itself and add to item F the subject of the fire boat. Motion was made by Councilmember Debi Moran and seconded by Councilmember Jim Ancich to accept the agenda with the addition of item F. Motion carried.

**PORT OF GRAYS HARBOR**

Mayor Chestnut stated he would like to suspend the regular scheduled meeting to introduce the Port of Grays Harbor Commissioner Stan Pinnick, Deputy Executive Director Leonard Barnes, and Communication Executive Kayla Dunlap. Kayla Dunlap stated their mission is to encourage international trade, economic development and tourism. The Port of Grays Harbor had a record-breaking year with the handling of 3 million metric tons of cargo, 125 vessels and tug calls. She anticipates a similar productive year. Ms. Dunlap had spoken about the funding of the future projects stating that RCO would be involved with the funding of the paving at the boat launch area. Deputy Executive Barnes expounded on the overview by Communication Executive Kayla Dunlap for the future plans of the Port of Grays Harbor. Chief Davis asked if the Port has any active water rescue. Mr. Barnes stated they do have. The Port contracts with the tugboats each year and the tugs also have firefighting ability too. Commissioner Pinnick took this opportunity to thank Mayor Chestnut for his services to the Port district, the community and his support of the shipping club. He stated that Mayor Chestnut was a pleasure to work with. Mayor Chestnut recessed the meeting for 5 minutes before resuming the regular meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)**

Cheryl Turner asked City Attorney Steve Johnson if Hoquiam had a boat, he stated they do not. She then wondered why Aberdeen didn't have a boat. She then asked if he knew why and stated that perhaps it was because of liability. Attorney Johnson speculated that it was probably a big part of it. Captain Cody Bridges asked how the liability is any different from walking into a burning building or stepping in front of an active shooter or pulling a victim out of the water into a boat but not getting into the water. Attorney Johnson said it would take hours to explain the difference

**ARRPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the consent agenda consisting of July regular meeting minutes and Vouchers #24564 and #24619 in the amount of \$203,559.10, Payroll Vouchers #14359 through #14375 in the amount of \$55,698.75 and EFTS dated 6/30/19 through 6/30/19 in the amount of \$13,986.43. Councilmember Moran made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Councilmember Dale Andrews. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Works** - Councilmember Jim Ancich said they had met today and discussed equipment purchases and seal coating the parking lot.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**Clerk-Treasurer** – Per Clerk Treasurer Pope said the auditors arrived Monday for the 2017 and 2018 year end audit. Next Monday they will be doing their entrance interview. She will email the exact time so the Mayor and Council can attend if they choose. They will go over our issues from the last audit to make sure we have addressed those issues. They will focus on the departments that they were not able to from the last audit. Clerk-Treasurer Pope will be concentrating on getting all the information together at the next meeting regarding the 2019 budget.

**Police Chief** – Chief Stratton stated that he is working with Aberdeen on an animal control contract. We already have a contract with them regarding dangerous animals. The second feasibility study for the new purposed municipal building is completed. He has posted pictures and information on the City's website. The new building will house the Police station, City Hall and the Court. Chief Stratton stated that we would

not receive our new car until sometime in November as the company that is retrofitting it is very busy. He also listed items that he is dealing with as far as being the City's Code Enforcer.

**City Administrator** - Administrator Raines said that we had received our final approval from the Department of Ecology signing off on the dam. This was a major hurdle. The repair should be started in a week and be completed in a couple of days. We will be filling it up about a month before we must shut it down for the winter. He received a couple of quotes for the asphalt sealing of the Fire Department's and City Hall's parking lots. It has been approximately 6 years since it was done. The quote for the Fire Department was \$1761.47 and the quote for the City Hall's was \$2720.00. Councilmember Debbi Moran made a motion to accept the bids for a total of \$4481.47 for asphalt sealing and restriping both parking lots. Councilmember Jim Ancich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Administrator Raines said during budget time during 2018 the Council approved the purchase of a new excavator and a trailer. He received a couple of quotes, but he is still working on getting a lower price for the trailer. The lowest quote he received was for \$107,476.09. He needs permission to look for a better price that will not exceed \$107,476.09 for a mini excavator and trailer. Councilmember Moran made a motion to pursue looking for a better quote and giving the Public Works Committee the approval to make the decision. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jim Ancich. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Ordinance 1335 (Camping)** - Attorney Steve Johnson read Ordinance 18.68.110 of the Cosmopolis Municipal Code. Councilmember Debbi Moran made a motion to repeal Ordinance 18.68.100 and adding Ordinance 18.52.160 to the Cosmopolis Municipal Code. Motion seconded by Jim Ancich. Motion carried.
- B. Ordinance 1336 (Park Hours)** Attorney Johnson read Ordinance 1336 of the Cosmopolis Municipal Code. Councilmember Kyle Pauley made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1336 and Councilmember Debbi Moran seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- C. HDR Task Order #6 (Amendment)** – Administrator Raines requesting \$4457.00 for the extra work done by HDR required by the Department of Ecology. Councilmember Debbi Moran made a motion to pay HDR the \$4457.00. Motion seconded by Jim Ancich. Motion carried.
- D. HDR Task Order #7** – Administrator Raines requested postponing this as the paperwork was supposed to arrive today, but it did not.
- E. 2019-6 Wellness Policy** – Clerk-Treasurer Pope stated we need a policy authorizing the payment of paying the regular full-time employees for their gym membership. The City now has to treat this as a payroll item, they will have to submit a bill and then will be treated as a fringe benefit item on the employee's pay check. A motion was made by Debbi Moran and seconded by Kyle Pauley to approve 2019-6 Wellness Policy. Motion carried.
- F. Fireboat** – Councilmember Debbi Moran made a motion to reconsider the Council's action from the last meeting. Councilmember Jim Ancich seconded the motion. Councilmember Andrews asked if he could speak to what they were talking about. He stated that he was very confused about the issue, so he had asked Clerk-Treasurer Pope for all the Council meeting minutes from 2015 up until the last meeting. He wanted to read them all again to reassess the situation. Nothing was said about the boat until October 2016. At one time each department was asked to make a wish list of all the items they would like to have. Not once was a boat mentioned. In the meeting on October 2016 Captain Davis mentioned there was a boat available by a private citizen. Again, nothing more was said about the boat. Chief Dutton stated they needed \$50,000.00 -\$25,000 for equipment and \$25,000.00 for their budget. He stated they had purchased a boat October 2017. Councilmember Moran made a motion to pay \$9,200.00 approved to. Councilmember Ancich seconded the motion stating that he did not approve of the way this came about. Motion was carried. Councilmember Andrews wanted to know why if the boat was purchased in 2016 the City was not asked to purchase the boat from the Volunteer Fire Association until October 2017 and why the price had changed from \$9,200.00 to \$7,500.00. He asked why this has gone on for 4 years. He stated that he had looked for any information on when the boat had been used which opened up discussion about the City's liability. Councilmember Andrews asked why they City does not have any insurance on this boat. Without it we can't protect the firefighters, the people we are rescuing or property. He feels we did not go thru the right policy and process to get to where we were on making that vote.  
Mayor Chestnut call for a vote on the motion to reconsider the Council's action from the last meeting regarding. Motion denied with Councilmember Moran voting yes, Councilmember's Pauley, Ancich and Andrews voting no.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) discussing current or potential litigation. Mayor Chestnut stated the session would last for 10 minutes. The Executive Session started at 8:00 p.m. and lasted until 8:10 p.m. No action was taken.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Pauley** thanked the citizens for their participation in their turnout at the National Night Out and The Festival in the Park. He looks forward to more discussion on the boat issue.

**Councilmember Andrews** states that Councilmember Moran, Ancich and himself were slandered and defamed on Facebook. He thought it was quite unfair and he was disappointed how this issue was brought out.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Cody Bridges** stated that he alone is announcing his resignation tonight. He has been with the Cosmopolis fire service for 8 years and 70 years of family history. He stated he is embarrassed by this City in the last few months. City Staff and certain people expressing public outrage that is starting to reflect on the Fire Department and he doesn't want to be a part of it anymore. "I am done" stated Mr. Bridges, and he also stated that the City no longer has a fire chief. Mayor Chestnut responded that is news to him. Mr. Bridges said he will be turning in his equipment sometime this week. Mayor Chestnut said that he was sorry to hear that.

**Steve Davis** said not everything that happens at the City Council is always noted on the minutes there are discussions that are held but don't make it into the minutes. He stated the approval for purchasing the boat from the Firemen's Association occurred in 2018. Councilmember Andrews corrected him saying it was in November of 2017. Mr. Davis stated he was corrected. It was approved of on November 2017 and never followed through with. Attorney Johnson said there was a motion made to reimburse the Association for the boat, but it was illegal because it was over the bid limit. It was approved and rescinded on the same night because it was over the bid limit. Mr. Davis asked why it couldn't be reimbursed to the bid limit and let us work out the details on the rest of it. Attorney Johnson again stated the it was approved and rescinded in the same night. Attorney Johnson says that it does not show in the minutes. Mr. Davis appreciates Councilmember Andrew's research to get the history regarding the boat. Councilman Andrews said there is a difference in the price it should have been brought up before now. Mr. Davis said that it was, but it did not show in the minutes he also he agrees that everything should be done with proper procedure. He did state he would like to find a resolution for this because it has cost us tonight. We have lost some critical members of our department and he is ashamed of that. He said they have worked with the Mayor, Councilman Sperring and Councilmember Moran trying to get the boat issue resolved. Attorney Johnson asked to speak to this, but the Mayor reminded everyone that this is public comment. Councilmember Pauley stated there is a boat still in a garage, so this issue is not over.

**Candice Makos** said Mr. Davis keeps saying the fire department volunteers are certified but she would like to know if they are certified regarding the use of a rescue boat. Mayor Chestnut addressed the issue stating that the volunteers will be certified if the boat issue goes forward.

Mayor Chestnut adjourned the meeting.

---

Clerk - Treasurer

Attest:

---

Mayor