

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
City Council Meeting
April 15, 2020

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Debbi Moran, Dale Andrews, Candice Makos, Jim Ancich, and Stana Cummings.

STAFF PRESENT

City Administrator Darrin Raines, Fire Chief Cody Bridges, Attorney Steve Johnson, Police Chief Casey Stratton, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Andrews. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran to accept the consent agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Andrews. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports at this time.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS

Finance Director – Gave the Council a budget report for year to date figures. First Quarter looks bad as it usually is. She stated that second quarter will be much worse. Property Tax due date was pushed to June 1st. Sales tax collections won't be due until July. These are big sources of revenue for the City. The two deputy clerks were furloughed one day a week to save costs. She stated that we are going to have to make big budget cuts for the remainder of the year. Only the absolute bare necessities will be the only items we will be able to purchase.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – He stated that things have tightened up for us. Public Works has gone to a 4-10 work schedule with most of their time being spent on call. This is to limit exposure as we are so small that if one person was infected, it would spread throughout the City crew. We laid off our part time employee and our custodian. This is to save as much money as we can. The Mill Creek Dam was finally repaired last week.

POLICE CHIEF – We cut out all training and cut out a lot of active patrolling to save fuel costs. We changed our shift schedule to 14 days on, 14 off to limit exposure to the virus. We decided to go back to the regular scheduling as this is much easier on the officers. We have let the Police Clerk know that her hours could be cut. We have seen a dramatic spike in violent crime and mental illness calls. Concealed Weapons Permits and Weapons checks are done by appointment only. Court payments are to be made online. No cash at this time. Everything else will be by appointment only.

FIRE CHIEF – We are keeping up with regulations that are changing every day. Trying to maintain PPE inventory which is difficult to find. Grays Harbor County has set up a process for us to order through them. We don't always get what we ask for. Justin Spargo is a new application for the department. Met with the Public Safety Committee. The Committee and the Mayor approved the applicant to join the department.

MAYOR'S REPORT

He thanks everyone for bearing with him during these unprecedented times. He expects this to last through the remainder of the year. He has daily contact with the Health Department and frequent talks with Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Representative Derek Kilmer, Governor Inslee's office, Representative Jim Walsh, and many others. He issued emergency proclamations, adjusted City hours and access to City Hall. We are looking at closing City Hall to Public access altogether. The health of the City is the priority. We are cutting off any unnecessary funding. We won't be charging late fees or shut offs for the City's utilities. We are encouraging people to pay as the balance will still be there when the restrictions lift. Currently we have twelve cases of Covid-19 currently in the County. As for the supplemental budget, we don't know exactly what the numbers will be. We are working with the best guesses. We appreciate any input from the Council.

ATTORNEY

Judge Hatch issued an administrative order cancelling court for the entire month of April. He hoped there would be Court on May 21st. Any arraignments and things of that nature would have to be done by telephone.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Equipment Surplus** – This is help supplement our budget. We ask to put them on the GovDeals website to be distributed by the funds they came out of. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the surplus list from Public Works, Police Department, and Fire Department be auctioned on GovDeals. Councilmember Ancich seconded the motion. Councilmember Ancich asked how the funds would be distributed. Finance Director Pope stated that the funds would go back into their respective equipment funds. Motion carried. 4-ayes, 1 nay.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Makos- She asked about the money received from surplus, would be put back into respective equipment funds and would they be able to buy new equipment? Mayor Pauley stated that no new purchases would be allowed unless it was essential. Mayor Pauley stated that any purchases must go through a process and be approved prior to purchasing the item.

Councilmember Ancich – It was brought to his attention that the City’s website is not up to date. Mayor Pauley stated a page on the site listing the Mayor and Council has not been updated. It will be updated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Sperring, Bell Drive - He stated that this is unique being on a Zoom meeting. Good efforts. This is a challenging time. The City has had them before and will get through this.

Meeting adjourned.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor