

**CITY OF COSMOPOLIS**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**July 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.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR** – Finance Director Pope went over the loss of revenues due to the Covid-19 pandemic and thanked the departments for their continued help with controlling spending.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – Administrator Raines stated that things have been slow around the City. Our franchise agreement with Comcast is up for renewal. Only two cities in the County have renewed their agreements. We are waiting to see how the remaining cities negotiate their agreement before we finalize ours. Next month, we will be installing our new water meters and tower. The tower will be going up by the cemetery. Cosmopolis will be receiving an AHAB siren. This is being funded by Washington State Emergency Management. It should be installed by late summer or early fall. This will be installed on 1<sup>st</sup> and H street by the main pump station by the Fire tower siren. Mayor Pauley stated that it will sound on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at noon.

**POLICE CHIEF** – Chief Stratton stated that Clerk Shelley Willet is retiring after 38 years of service to the City. Her official last day of work will be September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Her replacement options are under discussion. We are working hard to maintain integrity of our safety during these uncertain times. We are increasing patrols and interaction with public. Mayor Pauley stated that Clerk Willet's retirement is a big loss to the City.

**FIRE CHIEF** – Chief Bridges stated our rating bureau results should be here any day. Our water flow from the hydrants has been higher than it was in the past. This should help our rating. The Cosmopolis Volunteer Fire Association has been helping with training costs. They have purchased materials and made training props. There have been multiple structure fires, vehicle fires, and motor vehicle accidents. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July went well. There were no calls for service.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Pauley stated we lost Mike Siano at the June. He was a 25-year veteran of the Fire Department. Shelley Willet's loss is irreplaceable. It will be difficult to replace her. He attended the ribbon cutting of the Cosi Art Center. It is now open. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, there were no fire calls, but there was a car accident where the car ended up with our landscaping. He commended Officer Coleman for his conduct during the incident. National Night Out that is normally held in August be moved to October 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be putting out a recommendation on it as well. With the current restrictions in place, it makes sense to move it. Mayor Pauley stated that we have had our first death due to Covid-19 in the county.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Brownfield Assessment Program Memorandum of Agreement** – Administrator Raines stated this is the second round of this grant. This is started with Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. They are now including Westport, Elma, and McCleary. We won't have much involvement this time. We are here to participate in helping the other cities. There is no cost to the City. Councilmember Moran made a motion to accept the agreement. It was seconded by Councilmember Ancich. Motion carried.
- B. Fire Equipment on November Ballot**- This was initially scheduled to be on the April ballot. Due to the pandemic, it was pulled. Councilmember Moran made a motion to put this on the November ballot. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Mayor Pauley stated this would be identical to what was put on the April ballot. The cost would be minimal due to the general election this November. We will need at least 306 voters (40% of the voters who voted in the last general election) and a 60% super majority to pass. Councilmember Andrews asked if this

was enough time to put out information to the voters. Chief Bridges stated that he had material already created to put out from the last ballot measure. He is hoping to put thing out monthly. He will also put information out on social media. Mayor Pauley reminded everyone that the association can ask what they want, but City employees cannot ask people to vote yes. We can only ask them to vote, but we cannot influence them. We only have two utility mailings prior to the election and possibly host zoom meetings for Facebook live events. If it doesn't pass, we can put it on the February ballot. Councilmember Andrews want the Fire Department to be given every opportunity to promote the ballot measure. Mayor Pauley stated he couldn't do an interview, but would pass it on to those that can. Attorney Johnson asked when we would have to pass the ordinance. Mayor Pauley stated we would have to pass it the day before the election. Attorney Johnson stated we would need a special meeting to pass the ordinance. Councilmember Ancich asked what the actual numbers were. Finance Director Pope stated that she did not have the numbers at this time, but would provide them at the special meeting. Councilmember Ancich stated that he believed we were asking to pay for the new fire truck we purchased earlier this year plus an aid vehicle. Chief Bridges stated that was correct, but he would like a second apparatus and a command vehicle. Finance Director asked if the amount we are asking would be enough. Chief Bridges believes so. Mayor Pauley stated we need to be specific in our language. Chief Bridges asked if we could be less specific. Attorney Johnson stated the question would need to be presented to the bond counsel. Mayor Pauley stated it is in the best interest to be as specific as possible. It can open us up to questions and have people go against it. Motion carried to put the bond on the November election. A special meeting was scheduled for July 28, 2020 at 7 p.m.

#### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS**

Administrator Raines stated that all members of the board were expired as we found out when we received three variance requests and could not get a quorum. Last meeting, Ken Cummings was approved to join the board. Mayor Pauley is requesting that Miles Wenzel, Valeria Husted, and Roger Nedrow be confirmed to the board. Miles Wenzel is a new member. Valeria Husted and Roger Nedrow have already been on the board. Councilmember Moran made a motion to accept the appointments. It was seconded by Councilmember Ancich. Motion carried.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Moran** – She stated that she is getting a lot comments regarding the Compost program. She wanted to know if we are going to have them pay to use the program. Administrator Raines stated at this time, we should be able to open up grass clippings at this time with virtually not cost to the City. It is the brush that has the biggest costs. The costs have double each time over the last four years. Councilmember Moran stated that most people were concerned about the grass.

**Councilmember Ancich** – He asked if it would be cheaper for the City to truck the brush to Stafford Creek. Administrator Raines stated it is possible it would be cheaper than what we are doing. Councilmember Ancich stated that the people he talked to were not opposed to the idea of have to pay a small monthly fee to be able to dispose of their brush.

**Councilmember Andrews** – He asked if the property we sold had closed. Mayor Pauley stated that it had and construction has begun.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Cody Bridges** – Cody asked what the timeline is for the upcoming variance hearing with the Board of Adjustments as he is someone who has a request. Administrator Raines stated that we have to put out a 10-day notice. We will get them out hopefully tomorrow so we can get them taken care of as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned.

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Finance Director

Attest:

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Mayor