

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Regular City Council Meeting
July 21, 2021

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Candice Makos, Stana Cummings, Jim Ancich, Debbi Moran, and Miles Wenzel

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Steve Johnson, Police Chief Casey Stratton, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Nations, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION - Grays Harbor Disc Golf Club

Brett Walker of the Grays Harbor Disc Golf Club presented information for a proposal to hold Disc Golf at Makarenko Park. During the presentation he explained what disc golf is and the history of it. He also detailed a planned layout and how they would set it up. Mayor Pauley stated that he and City Administrator Raines had walked the park with the group. They were impressed with the layout and does not affect the walking trails. Councilmember Wenzel asked if it became permanent structures how would it be paid for. Zach Hicks stated that they would have a fundraiser and possible sponsors to pay for the structures. Councilmember Wenzel asked if any tree thinning would need to be done. Steve Walker stated that it would mostly be underbrush and minimal limbing of the trees. Mayor Pauley stated that we are not allowed to remove any conifers from the park due to the limitations placed when the park was donated to us. Mayor Pauley stated that the Parks Committee will need to meet with the organization.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashley Arcangel – She stated the disc golf course would be awesome for the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works – Councilmember Ancich stated that we will be bringing forward Water Connection Fees and Sewer rates to the next Council meeting. They are still looking at a Stormwater Utility tax and future staff needs for Public Works.

CITY OFFICIALS

City Administrator – Mayor Pauley read a report from the City Administrator. He stated the new facility is still in the construction document phase and lumber prices are starting to fall. The Flood Authority is looking at \$145,000 for Mill Creek as a future project. We are awaiting approval from the board. For Bulk Water Sales, we do not have a formal policy. We are working on this.

Finance Director – Director Pope stated that we received our ARPA funds. We received \$232,022 on July 25th and we will see the second half deposited in July 2022. She stated that Utility taxes are trending up.

Police Chief – Chief Stratton stated that the prosecutor should be finishing up the final report on the recent homicide. When that is done, we will be able to release more information. We have hired a new officer and is currently under the FTO program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pauley stated we posted on Facebook for National Night Out. It is coming up on Tuesday, August 3rd. We are encouraging residents to hold block parties. Mayor Pauley stated that he and neighbor will be hosting a block party. The burn ban is still in effect. We have extreme drought conditions. The guidance for open public meetings is that we must have a virtual option. City Hall is not set up with the equipment to do a virtual and in person meeting. September 30th is the tentative date when most regulations are set to end. City Hall will remain closed to the public until then. City Hall will take appointments for in person contact. Spring Clean-up was successful this year. Weyerhaeuser property on First street is for sale. All four of the lots are pending and does have specific zoning. Mayor Pauley stated that someone is looking at bequeathing some property to us. The property is unusable for building but could be used for putting in wells for the City water supply.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1363 (Fire Chief)** - Attorney Johnson stated that this ordinance does not require the Chief to be a current Volunteer Firefighter. The appointment would be subject to confirmation by a majority of the Council. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Wenzel seconded. Councilmember Ancich asked if this has been discussed with the Public Safety committee. Councilmember Wenzel stated that this hasn't been discussed. He stated that this opens up the pool of candidates. Councilmember Moran stated that she thinks it is a good idea and would like to approve the ordinance. Mayor Pauley stated that the committee was side stepped as we have been without a Chief for two months and is a pressing concern. Councilmember Ancich stated that he understands the need but still should be run through the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Ancich made a motion to send the ordinance to the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried. 4-ayes, 1-no.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021 Legislative Session Law Enforcement Update** – Chief Stratton shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the police reform laws passed during the 2021 Legislative session.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Makos – She stated that she is wondering how everyone felt about us hiring a consultation for forming a Fire District. This would give them a dedicated funding source and wouldn't be subject to City budget cuts. She said that at some point we would probably join a fire authority or become a district. She feels that a district would be better for our department. She stated that she thinks the disc golf proposal is great. She looks forward to seeing it at the park.

Councilmember Ancich - He asked about the three chargers and fire equipment we surplussed. Finance Director Pope stated that she has not received the Gov Deals paperwork back from the Fire Dept and the light bars needed to be removed from the chargers. Public Works Administrator Jeff Nations stated that the light bars have been removed and they will get new pictures sent. He also put a new battery in the surplussed ambulance, and the Fire Truck needs a new battery.

Councilmember Wenzel - He stated that he liked the disc golf course presentation. He asked Chief Stratton if the new cars will be getting decals. Chief Stratton stated that yes we will be getting decals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ashley Arcangel – She stated that they still having a retaining wall in the middle of the road. The issue has not been solved.

Ann Peery – She stated the lemonade stand fundraiser for the Police Reserve Officers is still on.

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor