

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Regular City Council Meeting
August 18, 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 Wenzel seconded. Councilmember Makos made a motion to add an item to discuss hiring a consultant for forming a Fire District. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried. It was added as item E. Councilmember Cummings asked to add an executive session to discuss the performance of a Public Employee. It was seconded by Councilmember Wenzel. Motion carried. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Makos seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Sperring, 1006 Bell Drive, on proposed ordinance 1363, it states that the chief would be subject to confirmation of the Council and can be a career chief. Mayor Pauley states that it would provide the option, but it is not the intent. Mr. Sperring stated that his concerns for Ordinance 1364 were noted in the earlier workshop. For Resolution 2021-06 he stated that there was a typo. He stated that it says reserves were deleted but should have been depleted. Finance Director Pope stated that she will correct it to say depleted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilmember Cummings. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Sub Committee – Councilmember Cummings stated that we discussed LTAC funding.

Public Safety – Councilmember Wenzel stated they have met last week to discuss ordinance 1363. Assistant Chief John Bramstedt was unable to attend. They discussed the purpose of the ordinance and why it was changed.

CITY OFFICIALS

City Administrator - Administrator Raines stated the Flood Authority is giving us a \$145,000 grant for the second phase of the Mill Creek Multi Objective Plan to evaluate the creek to the tide gates.

Finance Director – Director Pope stated that she is attending the AWC budget conference and will be sending out budget worksheets the first week in September and hopes to have the first budget workshop at the first meeting in October.

Police Chief – Chief Stratton stated two days ago we released our new hire. She failed to meet the FTO requirements. We wish her luck in her endeavors. At a Chief's meeting, they discussed the drop off of recruitment in the law enforcement field. We have to consider an entry level versus a lateral hire. We received a \$200 a car quote for a graphics package for the two Ford Fusions. Law Enforcement is trying to get clarification from the Attorney General's office on several issues. We probably won't hear from the legislators until January.

Public Works Superintendent - Superintendent Nations stated that we lost a sewer pump from the mobile park. We sent it off to Tacoma to be repaired but we are picking it up and will be back online tomorrow. In the next couple of weeks, we will be working on Mill Creek Park to clean it up and get it ready for winter. We haven't installed a new water meter in approximately four months. We have a few hundred left to go. We haven't had the manpower. We finally received the headache rack and equipment for the public works truck. Harbor Saw is unable to install so we will be doing it.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pauley stated that we had second highest hospitalization rate since the start of the pandemic. Harbor Regional Health is struggling with space. There was a temporary closure of the third largest Chinese port and there are continued strains on local supply chains. These impacts could affect Cosmo and other local businesses. Funding was approved for an innovative project that was proposed to be in Cosmopolis. He with working with the Blue Zones project for a healthier Grays Harbor. There will be a

public session to let people know the benefits of this. Assistant Fire Chief Bramstedt gave the mayor a recommendation for a fire chief. Mayor Pauley will be considering it.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1363 (Fire Chief)** - Councilmember Makos made a motion to approve. Councilmember Moran seconded. Councilmember Ancich asked if the ordinance was reviewed by the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Wenzel stated that a meeting was held but Assistant Chief Bramstedt was not in attendance. Councilmember Wenzel emailed the assistant chief a copy of the ordinance. He stated that this has been on the agenda for three meetings in a row. 4-ayes, 1-no. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1364 (Stormwater Utility)** – Councilmember Makos made a motion to approve. Councilmember Moran seconded. Councilmember Ancich made a motion to read by title only. It was seconded by Councilmember Makos. Motion carried. Attorney Johnson noted that on page 4 it refers to the City of Hoquiam. It should read City of Cosmopolis. We will correct it in the final copy. Administrator Raines stated that the City has funded flood control from the Street fund which gets its revenues from State Shared Fuel Taxes. This takes approximately \$32,000 a year from streets for flood control. Motion carried.
- B. Ordinance 1365 (Stormwater Utility Tax)** – Councilmember Ancich made a motion to read by title. Councilmember Makos seconded. Motion carried.
- C. Ordinance 1366 (Stormwater Utility Fund)** – Councilmember Ancich made a motion to read by title only. Councilmember Wenzel seconded. Mayor Pauley stated it is only one line and asked if it is ok to read the entire ordinance. Councilmembers Ancich and Makos agreed.
- D. Resolution 2021-06 (General Enterprise Fund Reserves)** - Councilmember Wenzel made a motion to approve. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried. Councilmember Ancich made a motion to read by title only. Councilmember Makos seconded. Motion carried to read by title only. Councilmember Wenzel made a motion to change the word “deleted” to “depleted”. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried to change verbiage. Councilmember Ancich asked for discussion. Finance Director Pope stated that we have been working on creating Financial Policies. This is the first step. The pandemic nearly depleted our general fund. We need to set up a reserve policy so that we don’t end up like this again. She worked with the Finance Sub Committee to create the policy. Motion carried to approve the resolution.
- E. Hiring a Consultant for Fire District Feasibility Study** -Councilmember Makos made a motion to send this to the Public Safety Committee then the Finance Sub Committee to look into hiring a consultant for a Fire District Feasibility Study. Seconded by Councilmember Cummings. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – to discuss performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(g). Mayor Pauley stated that it will last for 30 minutes. It started at 7:56. Mayor Pauley came back at 8:26 and extended the executive session 5 more minutes until 8:31. Regular session resumed at 8:31.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Ancich – He asked if we had made any progress for listing surplus items on GovDeals. Director Pope stated that she is waiting on information regarding the fire equipment and then will list on the GovDeals website.

Councilmember Moran – She thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilmember Wenzel – He commended Chief Stratton on the decal package for the new patrol vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Sperring – He supports the resolution for the general enterprise fund reserves. He would like to meet with Administrator Raines regarding the retention pond.

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor