

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Regular City Council Meeting
December 1, 2021

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Steve Johnson, Police Chief Casey Stratton, City Administrator Darrin Raines, Public Works Superintendent, Asst Fire Chief John Bramstedt, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pauley stated that there is a request to change Item C to change from Resolution for Property Tax Levy to Property Tax Refund Levies and Levy Certification. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda with the adjustment. It was seconded by Councilmember Ancich. Motion carried.

GRAYS HARBOR PUD PRESENTATION

Schuyler Burkhart, Commissioner Martin, and Ian Cope from the Grays Harbor Public Utility District were present. Schuyler Burkhart replaced General Manager Dave Ward after he retired earlier this year. District 3 Commissioner Russ Skolrood retired this year also. He was replaced by Jon Martin. The system is currently maintained by a staff of 165 employees. The PUD is celebrating 81 years of service. The lobby has been closed since March 2020. They do have a drive-through or a walk-through set up in their vestibule. The PUD was approved in 1998 to provide telecom service. The PUD is only a wholesale provider for fiber optic connections. They provide fiber connections to multiple retail internet service providers. They have been working on completing line and substation maintenance. They continue to focus on vegetation management. Outages have decreased approximately 10 percent since 2020. They are below the five-year average. Over 98% of the PUD's power comes from emission free resources. Their goals for 2022 are to focus on core utility business of service, strengthen their financial position, and continue work to maintain and improve reliability.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPERTY TAX LEVY/BUDGET

Councilmember Moran made a motion to open the hearing. It was seconded by Councilmember Wenzel. Motion carried. There were no public comments. Councilmember Moran made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Sperring – Mr. Sperring stated that he would like to comment but since he didn't see them posted he could not comment. Finance Director Pope stated that the documents weren't completed until late this afternoon, but would email them to him if he would like.

Steve Davis (in chat box) – Mr. Davis stated that the meeting minutes from the last meeting were never posted. Mayor Pauley stated that the last meeting had been cancelled so the minutes from the 11/3/2021 meeting are being approved tonight and then will be uploaded to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITY OFFICIALS

City Administrator – Administrator Raines stated that we will be meeting with Harbor Architects to discuss when we can go out to construction for the new municipal facility.

Finance Director – Director Pope thanked everyone for their help in putting the budget together.

Police Chief - Chief Stratton stated we needed budget increases to be in compliance with the State mandates. This Saturday is the annual Shop with a Cop. We also will be doing Santa cop again this year. Officer Tarnowski is on the mend from Covid.

Asst. Fire Chief – Asst Chief Bramstedt stated they have 200 calls year to date. Rescue #24 is having some brake work done. We are at critically low personnel. We have only been responding with one or two personnel. We are still without a chief. He asked Councilmember Ancich to rejoin the Public Safety Committee.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pauley gave the Fire Department kudos. On November 23rd we had a house fire. They responded along with Aberdeen Fire, Cosmopolis Police, and Cosmopolis Public Works. Since the last meeting, Ocean Shores Mayor, Crystal Dingler, passed away. Councilmember Jon Martin has been appointed mayor. Mayor Pauley recently acquired an original 1930 report which was a proposal for a pulp mill in Cosmopolis. This will be something he will donate to the City to put in a case in the entry way of the new facility.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Reappointment of Judge Geoff Arnold** – Mayor Pauley stated the would like to reappoint Judge Arnold. This term would expire 12/31/2026.
- B. **Ordinance 1370 (Property Tax Levy)** - Finance Director Pope read the ordinance. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. It was seconded by Councilmember Wenzel. Motion carried.
- C. **Property Tax Levy Certification/Refund Levies** – Director Pope stated that we have two refund levies from the County one is for \$432.23 and the other is \$839.71. Councilmember Moran made a motion to accept the refund levies. It was seconded by Councilmember Wenzel. Motion carried.

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor