

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Regular City Council Meeting
September 15, 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, Asst. Fire Chief John Bramstedt, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pauley asked to add two items to the agenda. One is Employee Pay Compensation Adjustment under Item C in New Business and Item D – Fire District Ad Hoc Committee creation. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Councilmember Makos seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashley Arcangel – She asked about the changes for permitted fowl. Is this a change for how it's applied for? Administrator Raines stated that we went to the Planning Commission because we were getting so many applications for a conditional use permit for fowl. With the new ordinance, you won't need a conditional use permit unless you want more than what the ordinance allows. She would like one chicken per household member instead of 4 per household. Administrator Raines stated that he would bring that up to the Planning Commission at the next meeting. She asked about the Disc Golf at Makarenko Park. Mayor Pauley stated that we had a workshop at the last meeting. At this time, there is no direct action to installing it. It is still in discussion phases.

Ray Robinson – He stated that there is family on Stanford Drive that currently has chickens. He wants to know how this is permitted at this point. Chief Stratton stated that have applied for a conditional use permit. There was an issue brought up by the commission and the residents have not responded to the requests for more information. We are addressing the issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Councilmember Wenzel stated that they met on the 7th. They discussed becoming a Fire District. It was a very broad discussion. They asked about a new fire chief. Councilmember Wenzel is working with the Fire Department to finish getting the old fire truck and ambulance ready to be surplus. Councilmember Wenzel spoke with Chief Stratton about crisis response and the police reform bills. At a second meeting, they discussed reinstating the Sunday Meal Stipend to \$50 instead of the current \$25. They would like to go to \$100 in 2022. They would also like to put in the ordinance for their Association payments to be made by May 1st of each year. Mayor Pauley is authorizing the Wednesday night training meals to resume. Councilmember Wenzel made a motion to draft a resolution raising the Sunday Duty Meal Stipend to \$50.00. It was seconded by Councilmember Ancich. Councilmember Makos asked if there had to be two firefighters at the station from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Councilmember Ancich said that there are two members assigned to duty on that Sunday and are in the Fire Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. They go over equipment and they are on a standby status for the duration of the day. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIALS

City Administrator – He received paperwork from OFM for the grant received from the Flood Authority. The paperwork will be ready in October for Council approval.

Finance Director – Director Pope stated that the moratorium on Utility Disconnects ends on September 30th. She set up a payment plan based on how much their past due amounts are. She presented it to the Council and Finance Sub Committee. Councilmember Moran agreed with the plan. Councilmember Wenzel thought it was a good tiered system for repayment. This gives people a chance to repay the monies without setting them up for failure.

Police Chief – Chief Stratton stated that we are currently one officer down. We have a prospect for a new hire. Today and until further notice, Officer Johnson and Officer Tarnowski are in quarantine for 14 days. The next 14 days will impact the budget regarding overtime for the remaining officers. Felony Sexual Abuse calls have increased in the last month. Parks restrooms have been having issues with people spray painting them. Superior Transmission graciously donated \$2,000 worth of repairs for DC Layman's patrol vehicle. Chief Stratton states that there some changes needed to the City's municipal code.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pauley stated that Steam Donkey Brewery purchased property on First St. They are looking to move their business there. He has been in meetings with Blue Zones. This is to increase the overall health

of the community. Lemay's will be increasing their rates for 2022. The standard service is the 65 gallon on a every other week basis. Residents on this plan will have an increase of \$.70 per month. It is approximately a 3.5% increase across the board. On October 18th, the vaccine mandates will be effect. This impacts our Fire Department. This is a statewide mandate. Mayor Pauley put an exemption form together for any Fire Fighters who would qualify.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1365 (Stormwater Utility Tax)** – Mayor Pauley stated that during the last meeting, we did not have a motion to approve. We only had a motion to read by title only. Councilmember Wenzel made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Councilmember Wenzel amended his motion to read by title only. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Motion carried. Attorney Johnson read the ordinance by title only. Council then voted unanimously to approve the ordinance.
- B. Ordinance 1366 (Stormwater Utility Fund)** – Councilmember Makos made a motion to read title only. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1367 (Permitted Fowl)** – Administrator Raines stated that this was originally brought up in 2019. The Planning commission had set a limit of 4 for chickens and no males. It then became for all fowl. We were getting many requests for conditional use permits for chickens. The Planning Commission recommends that the Council change the code to allow for a limit of four fowl and no male chickens be added to the code. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. Councilmember Makos seconded. Councilmember Moran asked if the people that currently more than four chickens would be grandfathered in. Administrator Raines stated that we would work with them to get it approved. Councilmember Ancich if this is similar to what other cities are doing. Attorney Johnson stated that in Hoquiam this was a big discussion. They ended up going with six female chickens. If you had a lot of an acre or larger, you could have 10, but no males. No other fowl are allowed. Councilmember Ancich asked if the ordinance states whether they must be caged or are free range. Administrator Raines stated that it does not. Motion carried. 4-ayes, 1-no
- B. Traffic Safety Supply Quote** – Administrator Raines stated that is for replacing the modems in the flashing beacons on C Street. The total price for the new modems and software for a year is \$3,897.82. Councilmember Ancich made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilmember Makos. Motion carried.
- C. Employee Pay Compensation Adjustment** – Per Mayor Pauley, the Police Department is extremely short staffed due to unforeseen health issues. This is requiring Chief Stratton to work four days straight outside of his schedule. He is an exempt employee but because of the extra days, he is proposing an allowance of four comp days to Chief Stratton's pay. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Fire District Ad-Hoc Committee** – Mayor Pauley would like to put together this committee to see if a Fire District is feasible. He would like to have Councilmember Makos and Councilmember Moran on the committee as Council representatives. The rest of the committee would be comprised of a representative of the Fire Department and two members of the public. He is asking Council approval to form the committee. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. Councilmember Makos seconded. Councilmember Ancich would like more discussion on this topic before approving. Councilmember Ancich made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting and schedule a workshop. Councilmember Moran seconded. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Ancich - He stated that he has received comments about the Stormwater Utility. The City has been trying to operate as if Weyerhaeuser was still here. We cannot continue to do this. We have to find ways to fund projects. Our streets are in terrible condition. New fees are not fun, but they are necessary to keep things in good working order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cody Bridges, 825 Stanford – Some of his campaign signs were removed by the Code Enforcement Officer at the authority of the mayor. He was told it was because they were on public property. He was advised that they couldn't put signs on public property. He removed his sign from the Welcome to Cosmopolis sign at the entrance. He says his opponent had her sign up for three months prior. He feels it is retaliatory. He stated his representatives had spoken to the PDC and government officials and he was not breaking any laws or codes unless it is stated specifically in the city's code. He stated that other cities have done this. Mayor Pauley stated that Mr. Bridges' signs were not the only signs that were removed. With the entrance to Cosmopolis sign, Mayor Pauley stated he is historical precedence to allow signs there. It feels

it isn't appropriate at this time to remove those. There were signs elsewhere on City property. This isn't allowed and all signs were removed. Candidates were notified. After the election, the City will be revising it's campaign sign code.

Ashley Arcangel, Ocean Avenue – She states that there is still a wall in the middle of the road. She brought this up to the City in August of 2020. She says there has been zero action from the City or Council regarding this. She expects this to be taken care of. Mayor Pauley thanked her for her comment.

Steve Davis – He says that items that have been taken to the City have been overlooked. We spend so much times on things that don't matter. He says that we have allowed campaign signs at the Fire Department in the past. He encouraged the mayor to reach out to someone at the PDC. We have few people left in the Fire Department. This should be worried about. We have critical infrastructure within the Fire Department that needs to be addressed now. He encouraged them to take the ad-hoc committee seriously. He feels an RFA is the way to go but it takes time. Mayor Pauley stated that RCW 42.17a.555 regarding use of public office or facilities for campaigns is what he is referring when referring to campaign signs.

Cody Bridges – He stated that his sign was removed at the entrance to Cosmopolis by the Public Works building. Mayor Pauley stated that wasn't at his direction.

Carl Sperring - With regards to the sign issue, this is silly. In regard to a Fire District for the City, it should be studied carefully. He thanked Chief Stratton for filling in.

Ann Peery – She stated that she raised \$3910 for the Cosmopolis Police Reserves and she collected \$2250 for the Fire Department at the lemonade stand in August.

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor