

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
City Council Meeting
September 16, 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, Deputy Police Chief Heath Layman, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Andrews made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran to accept the consent agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Andrews. Motion carried.

GREATER GRAYS HARBOR PRESENTATION

Lynnette Buffington, CEO and Grant Jones, Director of Business Development presented the City Council with a report stating the municipal services agreement and how they help local businesses. They have assisted 268 businesses this year with Covid-19 relief options, assist with funding applications, help to navigate through the Governor's phased response plan, provide startup assistance, tourism development, and general business consultation.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS

ATTORNEY – Attorney Johnson stated that we have court tomorrow and we are trying to get caught up. He stated that we cannot issue warrants that this time unless it is a serious crime. This is creating a snowball effect.

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF – Deputy Chief Layman stated they have been busy with lower level thefts. The department is working on replacing Clerk Willet. They are presenting a conditional offer for a new clerk. They hope to have it completed this week.

FIRE CHIEF – Chief Bridges stated that they have had multiple calls since the last meeting. He stated that they are still having equipment issues regarding a transmission in Engines 22 and 23. There is a pump problem in Engine 23 and a fuel leak in the boat. They have two recruits that are doing well. They hope to have EMT classes open up soon to put them through the course. GH Transit is no longer going to be able to fund the training. They have turn out gear that will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. He believes it is 16 to 17 sets. The gear only lasts 10 years. He commended Susie Marie Brenanstahl for her fundraising efforts for the departments. She raised over \$9,000 this year for a total of \$35,000. They have built training structures with the funds. They thank her for her efforts. Chief Bridges stated that he believes that people have forgotten what all they do for the community. He stated that volunteers put in their time during the worst times of other people's lives. They give up their evenings and holidays to help the community. He would like the working members of the City to reflect on what they do. Chief Bridges also thanked the Druzianich family for donating over \$5,000 to Susie Marie's fundraiser. Councilmember Andrews stated that he liked the article regarding the Fire Department in the Daily World. Mayor Pauley stated that Susie Marie raised \$9377 dollars this year for a grand total of \$33,149.43. Councilmember Andrews would like the mayor to issue a proclamation for Susie Marie's efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLOOD AUTHORITY – Administrator Raines stated that they are working on the next round of grants. At this time, we are ranked number three. This is for a study for the Mill Creek basin.

MAYOR

Mayor Pauley stated that he and Chief Bridges instituted a burn ban for the City because of dry conditions and smoke from the wildfires. Our current air quality is Unhealthy. The ballot box is now installed at City Hall. Ballots will be collected for the general election. We are working on the designs for the new municipal building. We should have drawings for the Council soon. He would like to set up schedules for the committee meetings. We are working towards streamlining processes. Starting next month, we will have two Council meetings a month through the end of the year. He hopes to have a preliminary budget to present to the Council soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021 Budget (Revenues)** – Finance Director Pope presented the Council with a slide show discussing revenues as of August 31st of this year. She stated that there are many unknowns regarding revenue forecasting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Property Taxes are up eight percent year to date. This is the only tax that should remain steady or slightly higher. Sales tax is down twenty eight percent. B&O tax is down twenty percent and is expected to decline more due to the mill being down. The mill represents eighty four percent of the B&O taxes collected. Electricity Utility Tax has taken the biggest hit. It is down thirty one percent year to date. The moratorium on utility disconnects and late fees is in effect until October 15th, but it is expected that the Governor will extend this. Overall tax revenues are down seventeen percent from 2019. Fuel taxes are down thirteen percent. Fuel taxes are not expected to reach pre-Covid levels until 2022. This will be a big impact to our streets. Our utilities are suffering from the moratorium on utility disconnects and late fees. We have 94 accounts past due totaling \$23,589. Year to date we have only received fifty nine percent of budgeted revenues. If the economy was fully reopened by the end of the third quarter, we would not see the increased revenue until April or May of 2021. Revenue forecasts will change as the pandemic evolves. She is assuming that if the economy opens soon, it will take at least to the end of 2021 to get us to pre-pandemic levels. There are too many unknowns at this time. We will have to create a tight budget for 2021. We can do a budget amendment during 2021 if the revenues come in higher than anticipated.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Makos - She stated that Jamin Turner of our Public Works crew had come to the aid of a citizen. He helped the citizen who had fallen into a ditch. She thanks him for stopping to help. She asked the City Administrator to let Mr. Turner know he did a good job.

Councilmember Ancich – He stated that the Fire Department equipment issues need to be addressed. He would like the City Administrator to get with the Fire Chief to get a plan of action. Administrator Raines stated he had spoken with the Public Safety committee. They feel the items are fixable and they will be working on a plan to get these items fixed. Councilmember Ancich would like an inspection done to determine what needs to be fixed and what we need to purchase so we can set up a plan to address the Fire Department needs.

Councilmember Andrews – He would like to get a plan to address Fire Department equipment needs. He recognizes the Fire Department volunteers for all that they do for the City.

Meeting adjourned.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor