

MOSES LAKE CITY COUNCIL
May 13, 2014

Council Present: Dick Deane, Bill Ecret, Karen Liebrecht, Jason Avila, Todd Voth, Jon Lane, and David Curnel

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Deane.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Curnel led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: The minutes of the April 22 meeting were presented for approval.

Accept Work - 2013 Sewer Lining Project: Planned & Engineered Construction, Inc. has completed work on the 2013 Sewer Lining Project. The work should be accepted and the 60-day lien period entered into.

Action Taken: Dr. Curnel moved that the Consent Agenda be approved, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

Approval of Claims, Prepaid Claims, Checks, and Payroll: Vouchers audited and certified by the Finance Director as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims, certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Council for approval and is retained for public inspection at the Civic Center. As of May 13, 2014 the Council does approve for payment claims in the amount of \$1,731,704.79; prepaid claims in the amounts of \$33,697.23, \$728.40, \$24,650.02, and \$27,928.34; claim checks in the amount of \$1,290,991.05; and payroll in the amounts of \$325,111.64, \$4,255.89, and \$334,691.97.

Mr. Voth mentioned that use of contract labor for building inspections is high and wanted to know if the City had seen an increase in building permits and whether a permanent building inspector should be hired.

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, explained that there was an increase in building permits so a corresponding increase in the costs for building inspections and the need for a permanent building inspector is being discussed by staff.

Action Taken: Mr. Voth moved that the claims and checks be approved, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - None

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND QUOTES - None

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, OR PUBLIC HEARINGS

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM - PUBLIC HEARING

Planning Commission and staff have been working since 2004 on amendments to the existing Shoreline Master Program in order to comply with new legislation governing shoreline management. The Planning Commission recommended to the City Council that the Shoreline Master Program be adopted.

The public hearing was opened. There were no comments.

Action: Mr. Voth moved that the public hearing be continued to June 24, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, explained the process for adoption of the new Shoreline Master Program and the history of the review of the Shoreline Master Program.

HERON Bluff TRAIL PROJECT

Letters were read from Tom Jones, President, Cove West Homeowners Association, Richard and Brenda Teals, and Gary Harer, Municipal Services Director, concerning the Heron Bluff Trail Project.

Tom Jones, 4091 Cove West Drive, Cove West Homeowners Association President, stated that the residents of Cove West and Bluff West have concerns about the trail as proposed and many felt that the impact to the neighborhoods was not considered. The residents were concerned that the trail will dead end in Bluff West and cause an increase in crime. The residents are not opposed to the trail along the shoreline but are opposed to the trail dead ending at Cove West as it is currently proposed but would like the project put on hold until an equitable solution can be determined by the City and the residents.

Gary Harer, Municipal Services Director, stated there were many criteria to meet in order to obtain the grants for the Heron Bluff Trail and any major deviation would mean the City would lose the grants. He pointed out that the trail route was designed to follow the lake shore and connect to Cove West Drive in order to avoid the wetlands between the shoreline and Westshore Drive. He pointed out that the trail does not dead end at Cove West but continues on to connect with Westshore Drive and connect this area to downtown and on out to Big Bend College. He pointed out that an activity trail was dedicated to the public on the Bluff West Plat specifically to provide for connectivity of this area to the rest of the City. He mentioned that his research of activity trails indicates that they do not normally increase vandalism or crime in neighborhoods.

Ed Hoover, 508 Bluff West Drive, stated that he was concerned about how the location of the trail was chosen and the lack of communication with the home owners but that even though the trail abuts his property he is in favor of it.

Chuck Perry, 4204 W. Lakeshore, stated that the trails are beneficial to the community and provides recreation for the citizens. He mentioned that the same arguments against the Heron Bluff Trail were used when the Burke Gilman Activity Trail in Seattle was developed but now it is a desirable location for residents and is heavily used.

Joe Rogers, 816 Laguna Drive, member of the Trails Planning Team, stated that they believe the trail will enhance the quality of life for the residents of Cove West, which is borne out by many studies of activity trails. He mentioned that the original survey indicated that residents want trails along the shoreline and to connect the various areas of the City.

Tiffany Quilter, 1407 E. Crossroads, stated that she conducted a study in Moses Lake as part of her master's degree in exercise science. She showed a comparison between Ellensburg and Moses Lake and because Moses Lake is more spread out than Ellensburg, the citizens of Moses Lake should be less active than in Ellensburg. But the opposite is true and Moses Lake is more active than Ellensburg and it is because of the excellent job the Trails Planning Team has done to establish activity trails and the connectivity between the various areas of Moses Lake. She felt that the Heron Bluff Trail would be a great asset to the community.

Jeff Ketchel, Administrator, Grant County Health District, stated that the Grant County Health District and the Grant County Board of Health supports the construction of the Heron Bluff Trail as it will help the health of the community.

Alex Brzezny, Grant County Health District, stated that he was in favor of the Heron Bluff Trail as activity trails promote a healthy lifestyle and contribute to the reduction in obesity. He stated that a complete trail system around the lake would be a chief intervention in the City to promote healthy living and lifestyle and reduce obesity and promote reduction of chronic disease. He mentioned that there is good evidence that concerns that the trails increase crime are unfounded. The crime that is seen is mainly petty vandalism such as noisy pets and litter. If the trails are well kept they contribute to the common good.

Tom Jones pointed out that 95% of the residents of Cove West are adamantly opposed to the trail coming through Cove West.

There was considerable discussion by Council on the history, route, and funding of the Heron Bluff Trail.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that the issue be tabled, seconded by Mr. Avila, and failed with Mrs. Liebrecht, Mr. Avila, and Mr Voth in favor, and Mr. Ecret, Dr. Curnel, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Deane opposed.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the Heron Bluff Trail Project be approved, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed with Mr. Ecret, Dr. Curnel, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Deane in favor and Mr. Avila, Mrs. Liebrecht, and Mr. Voth opposed.

GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Jeff Ketchel, Administrator of the Grant County Health District, presented information on the public health programs and activities occurring throughout Grant County and updated the Council on other health issues and programs the Health District is involved in.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE - AMEND 18.55 - HOME OCCUPATIONS - 1ST READING

An ordinance was presented which amends the home occupation regulations to allow a home occupation to occupy an accessory structure. The request came from Chris Rogers who is currently operating a business in a detached garage along with a request for an increase in signage.

The ordinance amending Chapter 18.55 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Home Occupations" was read by title only.

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, gave the history of the home occupation regulations and mentioned that the Planning Commission recommended that the home occupation be allowed in an accessory building but that there should be no increase in signage.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the first reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION - ACCEPT DONATION - COVENANT CHURCH

A resolution was presented which accepts a donation of \$156 from the Moses Lake Covenant Church to the Police Department. The funds will be used to offset costs for the 2014 National Night Out event.

The resolution accepting a cash donation of \$156 from the Moses Lake Covenant Church was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Avila moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION - ACCEPT DONATION - WALMART FOUNDATION

A resolution was presented which accepts a donation of \$1,200 from the WalMart Foundation to the Police Department. The funds will be used for crime prevention materials that will be shared with the public.

The resolution accepting a grant from WalMart Foundation was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Lane moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Mr. Voth, and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION - ACCEPT DONATION - WALMART

A resolution was presented which accepts a donation of \$2,050 from WalMart to the Fire Department. The funds will be used for fire prevention and education activities.

The resolution accepting a grant from WalMart was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO CALL FOR BIDS - None

REFERRALS FROM COMMISSIONS - None

OTHER ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

BOND RATING UPDATE

Joseph K. Gavinski, City Manager, reported that the City's credit rating has been upgraded from A to A+ by Standard and Poor's.

AMBULANCE REPORT

The cash report on the ambulance operations for the month of April was provided.

BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT

The April building activity report was provided.

SALES TAX/TRANSIENT RENTAL INCOME

The City received \$402,265.84 in sales tax and \$31,468.50 in transient rental income in April.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PROJECTS REPORT

A report on the current projects under review in the Community Development Department was provided.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tom Taylor, Fire Chief, gave a presentation on the operations of the Fire Department.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Dick Deane, Mayor

W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director