

MOSES LAKE CITY COUNCIL
November 11, 2014

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Matthew Borschowa, Paramedic, led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: The minutes of the October 28 meeting were presented for approval.

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 November 11, 2014 the Council does approve for payment claims in the amount of \$1,595,017.97; prepaid claims in the amounts of \$49,950.84 and \$43,879.48; claim checks in the amount of \$734,390.27; and payroll in the amount of \$324,914.73.

Accept Work - Steel Water Main Replacement Project - 2014: POW Contracting, Inc. has completed the Steel Water Main Replacement Project - 2014. The work should be accepted and the 60-day lien period entered into.

Accept Work - Peninsula Park Phase 1 Project - 2014: Central Washington Excavation, Inc. has completed the Peninsula Park Phase 1 Project - 2014. The work should be accepted and the 60-day lien period entered into.

Accept Work - Municipal Airport Runway Overlay Project - 2014: Granite Construction has completed the Municipal Airport Runway Overlay Project - 2014. The work should be accepted and the 60-day lien period entered into.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the November 4 meeting were presented for approval.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the comments of Ryann Leonard be included and the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - None

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND QUOTES - None

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, OR PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE - BUDGET - 1ST READING ADOPTED

An ordinance was presented which adopts the budget for 2015.

The ordinance adopting the budget for the City of Moses Lake, Washington for the year of 2015 was read by title only.

The public hearing was opened. There were no comments.

Action Taken: Dr. Curnel moved that the public hearing be closed, seconded by Mr. Lane and passed unanimously.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES - TAXATION - 2ND READINGS

Ordinances were presented which fix the estimated amount to be received by the City from property taxes and sets the tax levy rate.

The ordinance fixing the amount to be received for municipal purposes from taxations on assessed valuations on property within the City of Moses Lake, Washington for 2014 was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Avila moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Liebrecht, and passed unanimously.

The ordinance fixing the estimated amount to be received for municipal purposes from taxations on assessed valuations on property within the City of Moses Lake, Washington for 2014 was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES - AMEND CHAPTER 1.20, 8.08, AND 13.07 - 2ND READINGS

Ordinances were presented which make housekeeping changes to Chapter 1.20, Administrative Enforcement, Chapter 8.08, Garbage Collection, and Chapter 13.07, Water Regulations.

The ordinance amending Chapter 1.20 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Administrative Enforcement" was read by title only.

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

The ordinance amending Chapter 8.08 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Garbage Collection" was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Avila moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

The ordinance amending Chapter 13.07 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Water Regulations" was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Voth moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMEND 2014 BUDGET - 2ND READING

An ordinance was presented which amends the 2014 Budget.

The ordinance amending the 2014 budget for the City of Moses Lake, Washington was read by title only.

Action Taken: Mr. Lane moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE -AMEND 3.27 - REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX - SINGLE READING

An ordinance was presented which proposed imposing a second ¼ of 1% in real estate excise tax.

The ordinance amending Chapter 3.27 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Real Estate Excise Tax: 1986" was read by title only.

Joseph K. Gavinski, City Manager, reminded the Council that the tax is on real estate transactions and is paid by the seller of the property.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Dr. Curnel.

Mr. Ecret pointed out that the City has reduced its amenities to the citizens which makes it harder to promote itself to tourists and businesses and was opposed to adding a tax at this time that is not necessary.

Mr. Lane pointed out that the additional revenue is needed because of the budget deficit and the possibility of borrowing \$1 million but would like to revisit it in the future.

Mrs. Liebrecht was also in favor of revisiting the issue in the future when the City's budget is in better shape.

The motion passed with Mr. Ecret opposed.

REQUEST TO CALL FOR BIDS - None

REFERRALS FROM COMMISSIONS - None

OTHER ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION - None

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

COMPLAINT

Ray Castoreno, 902 S. Hawthorne, stated that he wished the Council to know that he was unhappy about his treatment at the hands of the justice system including police officers, the prosecutor's office, and the entire judicial system.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Laura Lutz, 714 Barbara, requested that the ordinances be amended to allow chickens, turkeys, ducks, and rabbits inside the city limits. She requested that between 5 and 8 chickens be allowed. She provided information on her experience with keeping chickens in Wilson Creek and the benefits of home raised fowl and rabbits.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

LONGVIEW TRACTS - SEWER

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, provided some background on the issue of connecting homes to the city sewer in the Longview Tracts area. He mentioned that there were initially 52 cases that were to be addressed by code enforcement but the Council extended the deadline to connect to sewer to January 1, 2015. He mentioned that 38 of the cases have complied and 14 remain open. He explained that the property owners have been informed of the financing options. He mentioned that it is probable that by January the remaining 14 will still not have connected and the enforcement process will be initiated. He pointed out that this issue has been on-going for over 2 years.

BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT

The October Building Activity Report was provided.

INVESTMENT REPORT

The City received \$18,342.59 in investment income for September 2014.

SALES TAX/TRANSIENT RENTAL INCOME

The City received \$475,742.68 in sales tax and \$63,268.00 in transient rental income in October.

AMBULANCE REPORT

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

Robert Taylor, Finance Director, explained that expenses have increased and revenues are not covering the costs of the ambulance operation. He pointed out that loans have been made to the ambulance fund in order to cover the costs and those loans still need to be repaid.

Mr. Lane pointed out that the overall there will be \$2 million from the General Fund that will be subsidizing the Ambulance Fund. He requested staff provide information on the impact to the City of abandoning the ambulance service.

Mr. Ecret requested that information also be provided on the effect on expenditures, including overtime, by personnel on medical leave, out-of-town transports and how that affects staffing levels, and the staffing of different shifts.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST

Dick Deane, Mayor

W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director