

MOSES LAKE CITY COUNCIL
November 25, 2014

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

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

DOE - LARSON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - AWARD

Llyn Doremus, Department of Ecology, presented an award for outstanding performance to the City for perfect compliance with state regulations in 2013 for the Sand Dunes and Larson Wastewater Treatment Plants. She mentioned that it is very difficult for a wastewater treatment facility to earn this award and commended the employees that work in this division. She pointed out that the Larson Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned this award for the last six years and Sand Dunes received it for the first time in 2010 and every year thereafter.

1012

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: The minutes of the November 11 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 25, 2014 the Council does approve for payment claims in the amount of \$1,122,249.53; prepaid claims in the amounts of \$100,248.30 and \$19,753.99; claim checks in the amount of \$2,159,044.05; and payroll in the amount of \$316,972.08.

Accept Work - BioSolids Land Application Project - 2014: Northwest Cascade, Inc. has completed the BioSolids Land Application Project - 2014. The work should be accepted and the 60-day lien period entered into.

1202

Resolution - Abandon Easements - Forsgren Associates: A resolution was presented which provides for the abandonment of easements located in Parcels 4 and 5, Commercial Binding Site Plan for Composite Moses Lake Travel Plaza Major Plat.

1013

Larson Wastewater Treatment Plant Final Major Plat and Findings of Fact: The Municipal Services Department of the city of Moses lake submitted a final plat application to subdivide 45.91 acres into 3 lots. The site is zoned Public, is located on Randolph Road, and includes the Larson Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Grant County Animal Outreach facility. The zoning corresponds with the Comprehensive Plan Land use Designations of Public Facilities. The Planning Commission recommended that the final plat be approved with conditions. The Council's approval of this decision incorporates and adopts the Findings, Conclusion and Decision of the Planning Commission.

1126

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

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - None

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND QUOTES - None

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, OR PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE - 2014 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS - 1ST READING/PUBLIC HEARING

1095-

An ordinance was presented which adopts the 2014 Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

The ordinance adopting the 2014 Comprehensive Plan amendments and completing the periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan required by RCW 36.70A.130 was read by title only.

The public hearing was opened.

Larry Angell, Columbia Northwest Engineering, spoke in support of the request from Hayden Homes to change 45 acres from General Commercial to 28 acres of Low Density Residential and 17 acres of High Density Residential.

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

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, explained the process used to amend the Comprehensive Plan.

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

1024 CLAIM FOR SEWER DAMAGES - HOCHSTATTER

Harold Hochstatter, 2104 Marina Drive, explained to the Council the problem he had with a sewer backup into his home and the fact that the City's insurance denied his claim.

The Council requested clarification of any action the City would be authorized to take.

Katherine Kenison, City Attorney, stated that the claim submitted by Mr. Hochstatter was forwarded to the City's insurance company which investigated the incident and reviewed the claim and ultimately denied the claim because there was no negligence on the City's part. She mentioned that the Council has no procedural role in the processing of this claim. If Mr. Hochstatter chooses to pursue the issue, he would need to seek legal representation and file a lawsuit against the City, which would be defended by the City's insurance carrier.

1139 AMBULANCE SERVICE

Chris Mortensen, President of the Moses Lake Firefighters, requested time before the Council to discuss the sustainability of the Moses Lake ambulance service.

Travis Pulliman, Firefighter/Paramedic, 2106 S. Perch, in the absence of Mr. Mortensen, stated that the Moses Lake Fire Department is a full service Fire Department and provided information on the various services provided. He mentioned that the concern with eliminating the ambulance service is that would diminish the quality of service that would be provided.

Debbie Doran-Martinez, Executive Director, Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce, stated that Board of Directors, after a review of the ambulance service feels that it is not in the best interest of Moses Lake to discontinue the service. She mentioned that reducing the size of the Fire Department could affect the fire rating for the City and felt that the negative impacts would outweigh any cost savings.

Jeremy Rodriguez, 4096 Overbluff Drive, Yakima, President of the Yakima Firefighters Association, stated that Yakima has private ambulance services and the majority of paramedics are employed for about two years before they move on to a different ambulance service. This results in inexperienced paramedics providing service to the citizens of the city. An ambulance service staffed by a city's fire department retains its employees for many years and the experienced paramedics area valuable to the service.

Jeff Wainright, 2910 W. Bridges road, Deer Park, Fire Captain with 25 years of experience, stated that they have a private ambulance service and the service is not as efficient as service from a fire department.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 25, 2014

Rich Elliott, 416 Willow, Ellensburg, manager of ALS services in Kittitas County, a hospital based service in the Cle Elem area, and Kittitas Fire and Rescue, and Mayor of Ellensburg, mentioned that there are no private ambulance services in Kittitas County. He provided his reasons for preferring a Fire Department ambulance service to a private company.

Chris McDonald, 1916 Amelia Street, Walla Walla, stated that he has worked for both private and public ambulance services and prefers the public service, due to lack of training and equipment in the private sector. He pointed out that a private based service is a for-profit company and a fire based EMS is a service-based.

Jerry Aamold, 1770 Warm Springs Drive, Wenatchee, former employee of Moses Lake Fire Department, pointed out that once a trained paramedic leaves the City employment, those years of experience are lost to the City.

Shane Heston, Grant County Fire District 13 Fire Chief, stated that the Moses Lake Fire Department has one of the best ambulance services in Central Washington. He pointed out the down sides to eliminating the ambulance service.

Ken Meyers, 6203 Kent Lane, Pasco, stated that they provide the emergency ambulance service and mentioned that high performance CPR cannot be done by two people which is why a fire truck responds with an ambulance to a call. He mentioned that a Fire Department ambulance provides service at all calls which a private ambulance service cannot do. He mentioned that the service provided by the Fire Department cannot be exceeded by a private company because of the better training.

Eric Navarette, 627 N. Arbutus, Pasco, stated that he worked for a private ambulance service which puts the cost before the patient care. The Fire Department puts patient care first. He was in favor of the City keeping the ambulance service.

Whitney Wytko, 10333 Road 5.6 NE, teacher, was in favor of keeping the fire fighters and the ambulance service.

Greg Markley, 5725 S. 292nd, Auburn, representing the Washington State Council of Firefighters, and firefighter from Kent, stated that he is aiding the Moses Lake Firefighters in union negotiations and provided information on the benefits of a fire department ambulance service.

There was some discussion by the Council.

Katherine Kenison, City Attorney, explained that a city is not legally required to provide an ambulance service even though it is a very valuable service to its citizens. She mentioned that of the 143 cities and towns in Eastern Washington there are currently only 9 that provide ALS services. She pointed out that it is very difficult for a city to finance an ambulance service without negatively impacting other essential services that a city provides.

Mayor Deane pointed out that the issue of the ambulance service will be discussed at a study session on December 9.

VACATION RENTALS

Debbie Doran-Martinez, Vision 2020 and Vacation Rental Dwelling Stakeholder Group, stated that the group has reviewed the issue of vacation rentals and has recommended that the City proceed with drafting an ordinance that addresses and meets the proposed criteria.

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, stated that the Planning Commission has been informed that vacation rentals are under discussion and the criteria to be met would be discussed by the Council. He stated that the proposed ordinance will be provided to the Planning Commission prior to its submittal to Council.

Action Taken: Mr. Lane moved that staff be directed to draft an ordinance regulating vacation rentals, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

1053

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1010

ORDINANCE - 2015 BUDGET - 2ND READING

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.

Action Taken: Mr. Lane moved that the second reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed with Mr. Ecret opposed as he felt adoption of the ordinance should be tabled until after further discussion of the ambulance service.

1046

RESOLUTION - ACCEPT DONATION - COVENANT CHURCH

A resolution was presented which accepts a donation of \$117 from the Moses Lake Covenant Church to the Police Department. A portion of the funds are to be used to provide Thanksgiving meals to needy families.

The resolution accepting a cash donation of \$117 from the Moses Lake Covenant Church was read by title only.

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

REQUEST TO CALL FOR BIDS - NoneREFERRALS FROM COMMISSIONS - NoneOTHER ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION1126
1192PLATTING DEEMED INSUFFICIENT AND DRIVEWAY VARIANCE - 721 S. PIONEER

Justin Borst, Sigma Architecture, has been working with city staff on the proposed GESA Credit Union project proposed to be constructed at 701 S. Pioneer Way. The proponent has submitted a request to defer improvements to Lark Avenue and also a variance to deviate from the Community Street and Utility Standards for the driveway separation as proposed for the project.

Also as part of the request, the Council should consider the provisions of MLMC 16.02.110, Platting Deemed Insufficient. The subject site is a legally platted parcel. At the time the property was platted, the development did not require municipal improvements that are now required with current plats. Municipal improvements could include the extension or provision of City water, sewer, storm sewer, curb, sidewalks, street or other provisions. Since the legally platted parcel does not meet our current municipal improvements standards, it falls under the provisions of MLMC 16.02.110, Platting Deemed Insufficient.

Gilbert Alvarado, Community Development Director, mentioned that property platted years ago was not required to install municipal improvements that are now required with current plats and if the Council approves a waiver or deferral of those requirements, a covenant for future improvements will be required. The other issue is the request to waive the driveway separation requirements.

There was some discussion by the Council.

Action Taken: Dr. Curnel moved that the deferral of the required improvements be granted with the stipulation that a covenant be required for the improvements in the future, seconded by Mrs. Liebrecht, and passed unanimously.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that the request for a variance of the driveway separation requirements be granted, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

CITY MANAGER

Mr. Ecret pointed out that the current City Manager will be retiring soon and the Council should begin the search for a new City Manager and involve the current City Manager in that process.

10/15

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the City Manager be requested to develop the criteria and begin discussing the process to find a new City Manager, seconded by Mrs. Liebrecht, and passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND COMMENTS - None

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

ATTEST



W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director



Dick Deane, Mayor