

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2024

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid with attendees both in person at City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom Internet Conference Service. Mayor Wiita called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers: Morgan, Aldrich, Hund, Dearborn, Dawson, Sivewright & Beeler.

Absent: none noted

Staff: City Administrator Christian, Finance Director Erdman, Community Development Director Hart, and City Clerk Pevey.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None noted.

PRESENTATIONS

AB24-14_2021/2022 Audit Entrance Conference

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's Office

Morgan Fairbanks, Audit Lead, and Kristina Baylor, Program Manager from the Washington State Auditor's Office present at the meeting. Ms. Baylor explained some background information about the auditor's office. The city will have both an accountability and financial audit for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. Ms. Fairbanks went into the details of what the audit for the city will cover for this time period to include, but not limited to accounts receivable, cash receipting, accounts payable, procurement, open public meetings, the financial condition of the city, as well as a financial statement audit. They discussed the prior audit recommendation regarding federal procurement policy of the city and will review that policy as well to confirm it is still in compliance. Ms. Baylor further explained the ways the auditor's office will keep the city updated throughout the audit process. This includes but is not limited to the levels of reporting, as well as an exit conference to be held at a future council meeting. Ms. Baylor also shared updates to the reporting requirements for a loss of public funds and/or cybersecurity issues. They also provided resources available to the city for use.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(Written comments noted are on file with the City Clerk's Office and available upon request)

Genny Smith, Sultan: Written comments received regarding concerns with any council action that might be taken regarding Mountainview Park.

Daniel Cassidy, Sultan: Written comments representing the staff at Cascade Health Clinic expressing appreciation to the Snohomish County Sheriff's department for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of Sultan.

Jeff Estes, Startup: Requested developers and developments pay for infrastructure costs; requested council to make a motion to follow the hearing examiner recommendation regarding a developments' green spaces, lots, and parks. Requested council to learn the difference between low-income housing and affordable housing. Expressed concern regarding the current year's change to not include written comments with the minutes of the council meeting.

Steve Hall, Gold Bar: Expressed concerns regarding growth versus infrastructure and struggles in the city that need to be straightened out.

Ron Kraut, Sultan: *(provided verbal comments in written documentation)* Expressed concerns regarding the development of Mountain View Park.

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COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Morgan thanked the public for their comments; thanked School Superintendent Chaplik and staff for their hard work on finding a way to provide public access to facilities when the school is closed, while also providing security to the buildings when unattended. Acknowledged the school has a bond on the ballot for school facilities and encouraged all citizens to vote.

Councilmember Hund thanked the auditors for the presentation tonight and expressed interest in taking advantage of some of the training and security checks they offer as it is free.

Councilmember Sivewright thanked the public for their input. Requested discussion items at future council meetings regarding fireworks at 4th of July, as well as safety vape detectors to be installed in the public bathrooms to limit unintended exposure to those chemicals and to alert staff to drug activity occurring in the bathroom.

Councilmember Beeler explained his reasons for becoming a council member, decisions the council has made in the past about growth, the budget struggles they face, as well as the misconceptions on how things have been handled in the past, and offered to have further discussions with citizens expressing concerns that they feel aren't being done correctly. Also expressed his interest in keeping fireworks legal but open to a future council conversation on the topic. Also agreed with a future discussion on potential installation of smoke vape detectors.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Agreed with CM Beeler about the difficult decisions the council faces regarding the state requirements placed on them for growth and shared some of his thoughts on the topic; also welcomed further one on one discussions with citizens on this topic. Attended the January 18th Snohomish County Cities & Towns meeting where they elected new leadership and representatives to various boards and commissions to include Don Schwab from Everett who was elected as the new president and Councilmember Hund was elected as a small cities advisory to the Snohomish County Housing Advisory Board and the Snohomish Health District Board. Mayor Wiita then acknowledged the community lost a young community member over the weekend in a tragic fashion and he is working with school officials and the family regarding a proper memorial moving forward and hope to have more information to share with council as the conversation progresses.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Administrator Christian provided kudos to the public works department for their extra efforts during the recent snow and ice storm. He acknowledged the finance department as well for their hard at work performing year end wrap up of 2023 and their handling of the current audit. Also acknowledged Councilmember Beeler still representing the city serving as a LEOFF 1 Board representative.

STAFF REPORTS

Written staff report from Community Development regarding the next 3-month schedule regarding the comprehensive plan update. Community Development Director Hart reviewed the schedule with the council and advised the council they would see traffic counters being installed in the coming week as part the process.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the council approved the consent agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0. The following items were approved:

- 1) Voucher & Payroll Approval
- 2) AB24-10_Second Reading/Adoption of Ordinance No. 1397-24 amending Sultan Municipal Code 2.05.020 relating to Mayoral salary.

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2024 (Continued)

ACTION ITEMS

None Noted

DISCUSSION ITEMS

AB24-13_Council Meeting Procedures Update

Mayor Witta started the discussion with a brief overview of the changes being presented. Councilmember Hund requested a change to councilmembers who need to attend remotely and that they should be required to state their name during motion discussion and approval. Council discussion over the pros and cons of this change but generally all in support of the suggestion.

Councilmember Morgan noted section 2.5 description on closed session but stated there was no definition section; after discussion it was determined this was a moot point.

Discussion then shifted to the policy change for written comments received not being attached to the minutes and debate over this topic occurred with the Mayor finally suggesting that staff would research this topic further and bring possible suggestions back on this topic for council review.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the meeting was closed at approximately 8:18 pm; The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 8TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

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Tami Pevey, City Clerk

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Russell Witta, Mayor