

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – February 22, 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, Dearborn, Dawson, Sivewright, and Beeler.

Absent: Hund

Staff: City Administrator Christian, Public Works Director Morgan, Community Development Director Hart, and City Clerk Pevey.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the following changes were made to the agenda with motion passing 6-0.

- 1) Add Discussion right after changes and additions to shift the Community Development Staff Report to a Discussion Item
- 2) Move Consent Item #2 re: 2/1/2024 Council Workshop Minutes to Action Item #6
- 3) Move Consent Item #3 re: 2/8/2024 Council Meeting Minutes to Action Item #7
- 4) Add a new Consent Item #2 to excuse the absence of Councilmember Hund

DISCUSSION

Comprehensive Plan Update – Frameworks

Formerly entered into the agenda packet as the Community Development Staff report.

Community Development Director Hart introduced Frameworks consultant present to discuss the vision and big ideas being presented with the goal of coming together on a working vision for the remainder of the project.

Tyler Quinn Smith, Framework Project Manager, provided an update on the comprehensive plan update work completed to date to include a process recap to date, the refined top nine big ideas broken down into four main categories: Economic Development & Community Enrichment, Transportation & Connectivity, Improved Infrastructure, and Parks and Environment. Quinn-Smith requested confirmation that the nine big ideas and four main categories had captured the essence of the city, and council agreed. Quinn-Smith shared two working visions for 2044 to include a full statement, and a more condensed version. Discussion on “Gateway to Adventure” not an official city motto but addressed in the 2021 Downtown Visioning Plan. Quinn Smith also shared a more condensed vision statement. He then requested input from council on the proposed vision statements as presented and if they have captured the essence of the vision for Sultan in 2044.

Discussion amongst council on the vision statement provided. Suggestion to refine the shorter statement and reconsider the “Gateway to Adventure” due to conflict with other cities claims; also, whether or not both statements were needed. The council agreed with the suggestion to focus on the longer vision statement and take the first two sentences of each paragraph as well as the last sentence to create a better vision statement overall. The council agreed with this final thought process that the vision statement should only consist of three to four sentences at most.

Discussion then shifted to the Vision Framework to show how the vision and big ideas work together moving forward as well as the big idea element matrix to show the deeper connection between the big ideas and the comprehensive plan chapters as addressed. He then shared the continued upcoming meeting schedule for the update moving forward with the next meeting set as a joint council and planning board workshop scheduled for March 7th.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Genny Smith, Sultan, provided written comments expressing concerns with the Mountain View Park Notice of Application of Land Use Action; specifically, regarding the comment period closing before having access to the title report for the property.

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Ron Kraut, Sultan, provided written comments expressing concerns with the Mountain View Park Notice of Application of Land Use Action.

Genny Smith, Sultan: Expressed concerns regarding the Sportsman's Park Gun Range being proposed in the county area of the Sultan Basin Road and the impacts to the city. Requested a Mountain View Park title report to respond accordingly to the Notice of Land Use Application comment period and requested a delay of that process until the report is available. Questioned when Mayor Wiita would release additional information on the funding and development of the park as stated during the February 8, 2024, council workshop.

Jeff Estes, Startup, repeated his request for the city to follow the hearing examiner recommendations regarding new developments. Shared citizen concerns expressed about residential growth and keep being told the city is not in control due to state/county growth management act. Expressed his opinion that he feels the city does have control. Shared the comprehensive plan discussion reminds him of the vibrant community of the past versus today's environment and his feelings on council actions impacting these changes negatively.

Steve Hall, Goldbar, questioned raise increases when a previous meeting expressed budget shortage concerns. Questioned actions allowed in various approved developments. Shared his feelings of discontent on current actions of the city regarding development and infrastructure actions taken to date. Expressed his feelings that summarizing comments is censorship.

Ron Kraut, Sultan, (written handout provided with comments) expressed his concerns regarding the Mountain View Park project and provided his reasons why he felt this way referencing the 2020 PROS Plan as well as the 2022 Capital Facilities Element.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Morgan appreciated citizen comments, addressed comments regarding the county park and expressed he will support parks wherever they are and am sure the city will work with the county on traffic mitigation. Thanked frameworks for the work completed and the discussion this evening on the comprehensive plan vision. Requested when a code update would be brought back to council to address fees in lieu of parks.

Councilmember Aldrich thanked the public for their attendance and comments received this evening.

Councilmember Sivewright addressed Citizen Smith, Estes, and Kraut comments and provided dates of possible email responses provided to them that might have been overlooked; Also addressed Citizen Hall comments by stating the current council can learn from the past and move forward correctly; also defended the current Mayor's hard work in his position as Mayor for the community.

Councilmember Beeler expressed thoughts on the proposed county shooting range proposed in the Sultan Basin area and provided the historical knowledge as discussed on council in previous years.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Wiita shared the annual community clean up set for March 23rd. The city is working on applying for a raise grant from WA Department of Transportation for continued US 2 work. The city is working on funding received for sidewalk improvements from Red Apple to Reese Park on Old Owen Road and the city is in the process of reviewing the next steps. Addressed citizen comments regarding county gun range park by sharing the city has been supportive of the process for the work that has been approximately 20 years in the process. Confirmed there were no guarantees at this point that the park will move to fruition as there are various reviews and work to be done. Responded to Mountain View Park concerns, request for hearing examiner motion; changes to adjustment process and fees in lieu of parks ordinances are moving forward and will be brought to council when they are ready. Also addressed Cascade RV park

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development questions and appreciated the opportunity to have specific questions for the city to review and provide answers. Shared that the Volunteers of America is working on restarting the safe stop program which provides local youth a place to socialize on the weekend. The program is currently seeking volunteers. Shared that the High School Boys Basketball team will be playing in the state tournament at 4:00 pm on Saturday.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

City Administrator Christian stated that ARPA funds were allocated for software improvements in the clerk's office and staff is moving forward in the review process on agenda management software. Also, a review of ARPA projects, as a whole, to be presented at a future council meeting. In addition, the city is working through the process to change the city's URL from @ci.sultan.wa.us to an easier email of @sultanwa.gov. Confirmed that annual staff performance evaluations were in process and would advise when that work is completed.

STAFF REPORTS

Written Reports on file as presented for the following departments: Public Works, and Police. Chief Hess provided additional information and highlights regarding the police activity and attendance at community engagement planned at various events in Sky Valley in 2024. The Chief and Mayor confirmed the importance of calling 911 when someone feels the police should know about the activity being spotted.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Dearborn, the council approved the consent agenda as amended. Motion passed 6-0. The following items were approved:

- 1) Voucher & Payroll Approval for 2/22/2024.
- 2) Excused absence of Councilmember Hund at the 2/22/2024 council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

AB24-01_Ordinance 1394-24_Amending SMC 13.10.020_Water and Sewer Engineering Standards

A brief discussion amongst council members on a requested change to construction work is allowed during holiday hours with no confirmed change to this section as presented. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council approved the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 1394-24 Amending SMC Chapter 13.10.020; Motion passed 5-1.

AB24-18_Bid Award for Asbestos Abatement at 500 Alder Avenue

On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council awarded the bid for asbestos abatement at 500 Alder Avenue to 3 Kings Environmental Inc for an amount not to exceed \$37,094.00 without prior authorization from council; Motion passed 6-0.

AB24-19_Ordinance 1399-24_2024 Salary Schedule

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council adopted Ordinance No. 1399-24 approving the addition of an Administrative Service Director position and establishing the 2024 salary schedule for non-represented employees; Motion passed 6-0.

AB24-20_Resolution 24-03_2024 Salary Allocation

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, the council approved Resolution No. 24-03 establishing wage and benefit allocations for payroll purposes; this will add the position of Administrative Service Director; Motion passed 6-0.

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AB24-13_Resolution 24-01_Council Meeting Procedures Update

Brief council discussion on changes presented and suggestion to limit council members from continual virtual attendance further to include a requirement to be in person or be removed if refuse to return to in person attendance. General consensus to bring this topic for further discussion to a future retreat or workshop. On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, the council adopted Resolution 24-01 approving the updates to the Council Rules of Procedure; Motion passed 6-0.

2/12/2024 Council Workshop Minutes

Discussion on request from Citizen Ron Kraut to amend their comments noted in the minutes of the February 1, 2024, Council Workshop. Clerk Pevey acknowledged that most of the minutes are a summary and working with the Mayor and the citizen, the following verbiage was agreed and presented as follows:

Ron Kraut, Sultan: Stated that the recorded plats of Eagle Ridge and Eagle Ridge II, have large documented open space and native growth protection areas. He believes it would be a good idea to illustrate the areas as such on the city's new Future Land Use Map

On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, Council Workshop. On a motion by Councilmember Beeler, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich to amend the minutes as presented. Amendment and motion as amended passed 6-0.

2/8/2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Discussion on request from Citizen Genny Smith to amend her comments noted in the minutes of the February 8, 2024, Council meeting as follows:


Genny Smith, Sultan expressed concerns about the Mountain View Park Project that she has had for years. Thankful for a letter being drafted to get information to the residents. Said she resides in the development near Mountain View Park and there is confusion regarding the division of the city property and who is ultimately responsible for the management of the stormwater pond.

On a motion by Councilmember Dearborn, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, Council Meeting. On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich to amend the minutes as suggested. Both Amendment and motion as amended passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Dearborn, the meeting was closed at approximately 7:20 pm; The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 14TH DAY OF MARCH 2024

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Tami Pevey, City Clerk

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Russell Wiita, Mayor