

City of Sumas  
Council Meeting  
Minutes of April 13, 2020

The Sumas City Council connected on April 13, 2020 with all councilmembers logged into a live stream meeting. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the March 23, 2020 meeting were approved.

Mayor Christensen asked if there was any citizen input. There were no written comments presented prior to the meeting.

Chief Daniel DeBruin advised the city is running smoothly, compliance with social distancing is being respected. Chief DeBruin stated this a great community and everybody is doing their part.

Sunny Aulakh, PW Director, updated the council members on a piece of property by the cemetery which is about 3.4 acres that the City does not use at this time. The contract with Mr. DeJong was for 10 years and expired December 2019. Sunny advised the contract was for \$225.00 per acre after some research and the going rates, he believes the rate should be increased to \$275.00 per acre. Rich Postma wanted to know if that was per year or month, Sunny advised it is per year. Bruce Bosch and Deborah Morgan asked what the parcel is used for, it would be used for future expansion of the cemetery. Jim Wright, City Attorney, believes it needs to go out for bid under statue, he will research it and bring it back to the council.

Jennifer Bell, Finance Director, brought Ordinance 1765 amending the 2020 salaries. This ordinance moves Mollie Bost, Junior Clerk, to step four with an increase in her salary effective April 1, 2020. Mayor Christensen advised Mollie is doing a great job. Bruce Bosch motioned to pass Ordinance 1765 amending ordinance 1758 establishing salaries for 2020, Deborah Morgan seconded, all were in favor the motion passed.

Jennifer Bell also updated the council on the first quarter treasurers report; showing a snapshot of the most active funds and at the bottom was the total cash balance on hand. Jennifer updated them about the general fund, the first half of property taxes usually comes in April or May and then again in October or November. The general fund generally has bigger expenses in the beginning of the year; city insurance expense, new patrol car, which shows some decrease right now, but that fund tends to have a wave action with big increases and then decreases throughout the year. With the COVID-19, we are is not sure how the property taxes are going to come in or if they will be delayed, the sales tax may have some shortage also.

Mayor Christensen spoke about the possible financial impact due to the COVID-19, looking at the numbers compared to last year first quarter at this time it shows a decrease this year for the same time frame in the current expense, it is anticipated that it will come back up. The department heads are going to be meeting and thinking of ways to be conservative in our spending. Mayor Christensen advised that some other small cities are forecasting a possible 10% drop in revenue for the year. The city is going to be able to weather this storm; we will be careful and watch what we are doing. Mayor Christensen also advised the council that the office staff is back to normal operating hours with the front door remaining locked, only allowing for appointments. Mayor Christensen informed the council he continues to be involved with the Unified Command meetings; on the different ways the countywide effort is dealing with the COVID-19.

Mayor Christensen asked the finance committee to individually stop at the city hall sign and review the bills.

The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check Numbers #41555 thru #41614 in the amount of \$90,222.24, EFT's in the amount of \$12,758.64 and March payroll \$155,612.15 and a wire transfer \$690.82. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Deborah Morgan, all were in favor the motion carried.

Mayor Christensen asked for a motion to adopt the treasurer's report. Bruce Bosch made a motion to adopt the treasure's report, Rich Postma seconded, all were in favor the motion passed.

Executive Session was called for approximately 15 minutes, Jim Wright, City Attorney was present regarding possible legal matters RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), no action will be taken.

Jesse Clawson motioned to adjourn the meeting Rich Postma seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.



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Mayor

ATTEST:



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City Clerk

