

City of Sumas  
Council Meeting  
Minutes of November 9, 2020

The Sumas City Council met on November 09, 2020 with all councilmembers present with Jesse Clawson logging into the meeting via Teams. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of October 26, 2020 meeting were presented and approved.

There was no citizen input.

Rollin Harper City Planner logged in with Teams and spoke about the proposed Amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies Exhibit A included in the packet. This is a state mandate with the county and cities to plan roads and growth over the course of the next twenty years. The county wide review and evaluation program has recently been added to Whatcom County, county wide policy. This is requiring the city to amend our countywide codes to include the review and evaluation program section Q in the countywide planning policies. Also, section R Dispute Resolution Procedure must be added our countywide policy. Rollin advises if the council approves this, it will then go back to the County Council who then will finalize the language and send it back to each city for a final review. Bruce Bosch inquired if all cities were going to adopt this policy, Rollin advised it was on some of small city agendas in the following week. Josh Clawson motioned to approve the proposed Amendments to the Countywide Planning Exhibit A; section Q & R, Bruce Bosch seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing for the 2021 Real Property Tax Levy. Jennifer Bell, Finance Director introduced the property tax levy, the City has received the notice from the county that the inflation factor for property tax was one percent. Jennifer is recommending for the City to do the one percent increase it equates to \$5,989 per year plus any new properties developed or assessed during the year. No comments were received online or written. Bruce Bosch made a motion to close the public hearing, Rich Postma seconded, all were in favor the motion carried

Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve Ordinance 1772, setting the Real Property Tax Levy for 2021, Josh Clawson seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing for 2021 Preliminary Budget. Jennifer Bell, Finance Director went over the 2021 preliminary budget highlights.

Jennifer advises the City is going well and holding steady in all the major funds. Also, proposed is a cola increase of 1.3 percent for employees, minimum wage is going up to \$13.69, there also is an increase to the health insurance; 5% Kaiser and 4% Regence. Jennifer will be going over it and fine tuning it to make sure everything is covered for 2021. There was only one comment submitted by the Historical Society asking for \$500.00 for their budget, no other comments were received. This has already been put the budget for the Historical Society. Jesse Clawson wanted to know more about the increase to the storm water sewer rates and suggested that the City make available to the public on how the increase will be used. Jesse has received some concerns from the community about all standing water around town. Bruce Bosch motioned to close the public hearing for the preliminary budget, Josh Clawson seconded, all where in favor.

There was no citizen input.

Daniel DeBruin Chief of Police advised that Officer Cory Sinclair has passed the equivalency academy and is now a State Certified Officer. Daniel advises everything else is going well.

Jennifer Bell, Finance Director presented Ordinance 1773 Amending Section 13.67.050 of the Sumas Municipal Code increasing Storm Water Service Charges. Jennifer explained the propose rates would be to single-family residences to \$3.50 and multi family residential building to \$7.00 a month, the industrial rates will remain the same. The increase is proposed to start January 1, 2021. Jim Wright City Attorney stated this will address some maintenance issue with some storm water areas, this will allow the city to maintain these areas to follow FEMA's recommendations and help with our flood rating. Bruce Bosch motioned to approve Ordinance 1773 Increasing the Storm Water Charges with the effective date of January 1, 2021, Josh Clawson seconded, all were in favor the motion carried.

Jennifer Bell, Finance Director called for a public hearing to be on November 23, 2020 at 7:00 for the Final Budget for 2021. Jesse Clawson made a motion to set the public hearing on November 23, 2020 regarding the final budget Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Bruce Bosch updated the council that the finance committee had met and reviewed the bank statements and preliminary budget, Bruce stated everything looks good and Jennifer is doing a great job.



The bills were presented for approval and payment. Check Numbers #42129 thru #42178; for \$110,935.40, EFTs in the amount of \$10,817.58 and October 2020 Payroll \$151,396.73. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pay the bills, Josh Clawson seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.


Executive Session was called for approximately 15 minutes regarding personnel RCW42.30.110(1)(g)

Mayor Christensen stated that during the executive session no action was taken.

Mayor Christensen is proposing to create a new position titled Finance Clerk, which Mollie Bost would be promoted. This will then allow the Finance Director to move to part-time. Mayor Christensen also would like to hire a new person for the Utility Clerk/Jr Clerk position, which a new job description has been created. Bruce Bosch made a motion to accept the new staff changes as purposed, Rich Postma seconded, all were in favor the motioned carried.

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

 \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

