

City of Mount Vernon
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2020 7:00 p.m.
(Virtual Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 7:00 PM.

Present: Councilmembers Beaton, Carías, Hudson, Hulst, Moberg and Molenaar

Excused: Councilmember Brocksmith, joined for the Executive Session only.

Staff Present: City Attorney Rogerson, Project Development Manager Donovan, Finance Director Volesky, Fire Chief Brice, Police Chief Cammock, Public Works Director Bell and City Engineer Bullock

Citizens Present: 0

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of March 26, 2020 Special Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of April 3, 2020 payroll checks numbered 109970 - 110002 direct deposit checks numbered 76320 - 76565, and wire transfers numbered 839 - 843 in the amount of \$1,152,613.90
- C. Approval of April 8, 2020 Claims numbered 8473, 8494 – 8497 and 8499 – 8660 in the amount of \$640,829.45

Councilmember Beaton moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

- A. Review of Emails from the Public
 - Public comments sent via email to council@mountvernonwa.gov were read aloud by Mayor Boudreau.
 - Jon Humphrey (Bellingham) – Expressed his appreciation of the City's fiber-optic network and urged the City to consider expanding to residences.
 - Mario Brown (Mount Vernon) – Requesting the City to prorate commercial property taxes due to the current economic crisis. Also asked Council to consider allowing commercial properties to convert into affordable housing.
 - Harold Rice, Eliane Vaerewyck, and Julissa Helms (Mount Vernon) – expressed their concern with the risks that are associated with 5G networks.
 - Scott Correa (Mount Vernon) – suggested to the City focus on necessities during this economic downturn. He also requested the City review the prohibition of law abiding citizens to legally carry firearms in public that is stated in the "Practice" (not adopted) Emergency Mayoral Proclamation for emergency disaster drills.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Agreement – Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting Project: Mr. Bullock requested that Council authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Transpo Group USA, Inc. for professional engineering services to assist the City with the design of project.

Councilmember Hulst moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Transpo Group USA, Inc. for professional engineering services to assist the City with the design of project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Approval of Agreement – Freeway Drive (Cameron Way to College Way) Project: Mr. Bullock requested that Council authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with PBS Engineering and Environmental, Inc. for professional engineering services to assist the City with the design of the project.

Councilmember Beaton moved to authorize The Mayor to enter into an agreement with PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. Motion seconded by Councilmember Moberg. Motion carried 6-0.

- C. Ratification of Emergency Executive Orders: Mr. Rogerson requested that City Council ratify Emergency Executive Orders proclaimed by the Mayor. These orders included:

- Executive Order #2020-004: Extending Previous Orders to April 8
- Executive Order #2020-005: Extending All Previous Orders to May 4

Councilmember Hulst moved to ratify stated executive orders. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0.

- D. For the Good of the Order:

- COVID-19 pandemic response and discussion:
 - Police Chief Cammock gave an update on effects of COVID-19 on the Police Department including addressing citizen concerns with non-essential business activities. He also gave an update on number of calls during this time.
 - Fire Chief Brice gave an update on effects of COVID-19 on the Fire Department including the increase in COVID-19 related calls even though the overall call volume is remaining steady. He also gave an update on Emergency Coordination Center (ECC).
 - Mr. Donovan gave an update on the Public Information Center with the County as well as the City's new restaurant map that is available on-line.
 - The Mayor discussed how directors are meeting daily and supporting each other during this stressful time. She also discussed the communication between federal, state and other organizations such as Association of Washington Cities as well as the communications between the other local Mayors. The city has a hiring freeze for all employees except for some public safety positions and also a freeze on all non-essential spending. The City has

enacted a 30-day furlough of 44 employees. This includes both full-time and part-time employees.

- E. Executive Session: To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110{i}.

The meeting was convened into executive session at 7:41 p.m. and was estimated to last 35 minutes. Also attending the session were Councilmember Brocksmith, Mr. Rogerson and Adrian Urquhart Winder from Foster Garvey PC.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

Tyler Rude, Recording Clerk

ATTEST:

Doug Volesky, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor