

**City of Mount Vernon**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 9, 2020**  
(Virtual Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 6:01 PM.

Present: Councilmembers Beaton, Brocksmith, Carias, Hudson, Hulst, and Molenaar

Absent (excused): Councilmembers Moberg

Staff Present: Police Chief Cammock, Fire Chief Brice, Finance Director Volesky, Development Services Director Phillips, Public Works Director Bell, and City Attorney Rogerson, Library Director Huffman, Project Development Manager Donovan, Capital Programs Manager Bullock, Senior Planner Lowell, Development Services Director Phillips and Engineering Services Manager Chesterfield

Citizens Present: 1

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of March 11, 2020 Public Works/Library Committee Minutes
- B. Approval of August 26, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of September 4, 2020 payroll checks numbered 110223 - 110260, direct deposit checks numbered 78488 - 78706, and wire transfers numbered 889 - 893 in the amount of \$906,304.36
- D. Approval of September 9, 2020 Claims numbered 10253 – 10257, 10272 and 10279 - 10401 in the amount of \$787,254.45

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-D. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. 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 Peter Donovan.
  - Peter Goldgarb, Mount Vernon resident, supports the Library
  - Kathleen Roche-Zujlo, Mount Vernon resident expressed concern regarding the Presidential order to stop racial sensitivity training for federal agencies and how it may affect local law enforcement. Mayor Boudreau stated that the City does not receive Federal funds for this training or operations, therefore the order will not affect the Mount Vernon Police Department.
  - Andra Heath expressed concern regarding violence and asked Council to hire additional social workers to assist the Police.
  - Suzanne Butler, Mount Vernon resident, supports re-opening the Library
  - Lola Ratcliffe supports de-escalation training for Police personnel
- B. Public Works Update – Mr. Bell, Mr. Chesterfield and Mr. Bullock provided updates on various Public Works projects. Council agreed to allow Mr. Volesky pursue refinancing of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade loan.
- C. Library Update – Mr. Huffman provided an update of Library improvements, programming and operations.

D. Councilmember Comments

- Councilmember Molenaar expressed appreciation for the new Little Mountain parking lot.

E. Mayor's Report – none

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Public Hearing – Adoption of Interim Regulations to Extend Expiration Timelines for Permits and Approvals Subject to MVMC Chapter 14.05: Ms. Lowell introduced an ordinance extending permit expiration timeframes due to COVID-19 allowed by Ordinance 3805. Two emails were received in support of the ordinance and are entered into the record.

Mayor Boudreau opened the public hearing.

- John Ravnik of Ravnik and Associates spoke in support of the ordinance.

There being no further comments, Mayor Boudreau closed the public hearing

**Councilmember Hulst moved to approve Ordinance 3809 extending permit expiration timeframes allowed by Ordinance 3805. Seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion carried 6-0**

B. Donation of Art Sculptures: Ms. Berner ask Council to accept the donation of three art sculptures from Hal and Hella Lee and to authorize the Mayor to enter into three art donation agreements with the artists. The sculptures, entitled Halo by William Weissinger, Goddess by Don Anderson and Fish Vane by Wayne Kanags, have been approved by the Mount Vernon Arts Commission and will be placed in various locations at Hillcrest Park. Councilmember Molenaar spoke about the safety of the sculptures and placement of security cameras at the park.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to accept the art donations and authorize the Mayor to enter into art donation agreements with William Weissinger, Don Anderson and Wayne Kanags. Seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0**

C. 2020 General Fund Budget Amendment: Mr. Volesky presented an ordinance to amend the 2020 Budget General Fund to accommodate the Coronavirus Relief Fund CARES Act \$1,072,200.00, Substitute House Bill 1406 \$65,029.18 and the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation \$897,754.42.

**Councilmember Hulst moved to approve Ordinance 3810, 2020 Budget Amendment as detailed above. Seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-0**

D. For the Good of the Order:

- COVID 19 Pandemic Response and Discussion:

- Mayor Boudreau stated that there have been challenges with group gatherings in the parks system. Education has been the focus however the City may need to begin trespassing non-compliant groups from the parks.
- Park playgrounds have been opened and signs have been posted to use 'at your own risk'.
- Public Health is in discussions about fall events such as trick or treating and is encouraging everyone to get a flu shot.
- Allocation of CARES funding: The City has an additional \$536,000 CARES funding allocated. Mayor Boudreau presented the following items for consideration of use of the funding:
  - \$48,000 Information Services staff time, including filling a vacant position in IS and 2 temporary full-time positions
  - Remodel City Attorney's office, Police reception area and Library front desk area.Council asked for estimates for the remodels and discussed additional uses of more small business grants, hotel vouchers, pre-eviction rent assistance needs and re-opening city services.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Becky Jensen, Recording Clerk

ATTEST:

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Doug Volesky, Finance Director

APPROVE:

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Jill Boudreau, Mayor