

**City of Mount Vernon**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23, 2020**  
(Virtual Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 6:00 PM.

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

Absent (excused): Councilmember Moberg

Staff Present: Police Chief Cammock, Finance Director Volesky, Development Services Director Phillips, Public Works Director Bell, City Attorney Rogerson, Library Director Huffman, Project Development Manager Donovan, Capital Programs Manager Bullock, Senior Planner Lowell, Human Resources Director Keator, Assistant Fire Chief Harris, Information Systems Director Kleppe and Parks and Enrichment Services Director Berner

Citizens Present: 0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of February 26, 2020 Finance and Parks Committee Minutes
- B. Approval of September 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of September 20, 2020 payroll checks numbered 110261 - 110283, direct deposit checks numbered 78707 – 78923 and wire transfers numbered 894 – 898 in the amount of \$1,151,348.46
- D. Approval of September 23, 2020 Claims numbered 10412 – 10641 in the amount of \$1,590,543.77
- E. Resolution No. 982

**Councilmember Hulst moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-E. 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 Peter Donovan.
  - Norma Jean Young, supports adding social workers to support the Police Department, Police oversight and working with Swinomish Tribal leaders and Sister Lucy Kurien.
  - Andrea Heath, supports working with mental health professionals and Police oversight.
  - Scott Correa, supports the cold weather shelter ordinance.
  - Suzanne Butler, suggests broadening the temporary homeless shelters to allow, municipal, county, schools and hospitals to participate.
  - Hal Verrell, Library Foundation President, supports library services and encourages collaboration between the City and Skagit County to move forward with the Library Commons project.
  - Ashiyah Cays Cavan, Mount Vernon resident, supports passage, New Business Item C, homeless encampments.
  - Heidi Epstein, supports re-opening the Library.

- Scott Correa, does not support Severe Weather Shelters ordinance on tonight's agenda.
- Cliff Williams, inquired about a plan to re-open City Hall
- M. Cyrene Wells, Mount Vernon, supports the Library
- Linda Bishop, supports the Library

B. Parks and Enrichment Services Update – Ms. Berner provided the following information:

- Updates on Park Projects - Little Mountain Parking Lot, Little Mountain Skills Park, Little Libraries and Pickleball Court as well as Maddox Creek culvert, downtown hanging baskets and gateway refurbishing.
- Parks and Facility Use and Signage – The dog park, playgrounds, sport courts and 5 of 8 restrooms are open. There will not be any special events or facility rentals through the end of the year. New park signs have been installed promoting safety.
- Summer Virtual Programming – Working with the Library to provide virtual programs.
- Arts Commission update – The Arts Commissions has been conducting business via zoom. Current projects are working to obtain three public art donations, designing plaque template for City art, inventorying City art and updating the Art Brochure.

C. Finance Update – Mr. Volesky provided the following information:

- Resolution for Council Health Insurance – Ms. Keator presented a draft resolution that would allow City Councilmembers to enroll in a City Health Insurance plan offered to employees.
- COVID-19 Financial Impact Update – Sales Tax reported through September is \$5,780,041; this is similar to the same period in 2019. General Fund revenue through August totals \$16,175,646 and includes, taxes, charges for services, licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures and miscellaneous revenue. Property Tax collections are within 1% of projected through September; TBD revenues of \$1,366,889 are on track with the budget and REET through September is expected to be 7% above estimates.
- CARE's Funding Spending Plan - The City was awarded an additional \$536,100 of Coronavirus Relief Funds. An amended contract will be presented to Council on October 7, 2020. Mr. Volesky requested approval of the spending plan that includes various staffing \$66,000, an outdoor payment kiosk at City Hall \$84,825, office remodels \$85,000 and small business grants \$300,275. Mr. Donovan lead a discussion on the criteria for awarding small business grants.
- 2021 Budget Revenue Projections – Discussed preliminary 2021 revenue estimates; the total projected 2021 revenue estimate is \$69,066,189. Property tax estimates include increases for new construction only and the levy rate is expected to drop from \$2.1059 to \$2.0502.

D. Councilmember Comments – none

E. Committee Agenda Requests – none.

- Mayor Boudreau noted that the Fire Exhaust system will be discussed at the October 7, 2020 meeting

F. Mayor's Report

- Public Health reports reduced COVID-19 cases at 34.1 per 100,000 residents. Phase 3 requirements include reported cases of 25 per 100,000 residents. Mayor Boudreau encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Phase requirements and recommendations were reviewed.

- Mayor Boudreau addressed a misleading flyer received by mail. It is a solicitation for donations for Police equipment funding distributed by the U.S. Deputy Sheriffs Association; the City is not affiliated with this organization.
- Thanks to 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Representative Debra Lekanoff for visiting the Police Department on September 10, 2020 to attend a presentation of Police operations and programs. The Governor's Northwest Regional representative Joe Timmons also attended via Zoom.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Skagit PUD Update: Skagit PUD General Manager George Sidhu provided an overview of the PUD systems and an update of PUD projects and programs. Capital projects include pipe replacement, treatment plant upgrades and improvements, transmission line replacement and three state funded water line extension projects. Skagit PUD is also actively engaging with the public and community partners.
- B. Emergency Adoption of Interim Regulations - Severe Weather Shelters: Ms. Lowell presented an ordinance declaring an emergency and adopting interim regulations to allow severe weather shelters for the homeless. The ordinance will allow the City to issue permits allowing organizations to provide temporary housing for the homeless during severe weather events and will replace ordinances that were approved in 2019. This ordinance will allow for shelters to be operated by a religious establishment, fraternal organization, public agency or other entity that meets certain basic building safety standards.

**Councilmember Hulst moved to approve Ordinance 3811 declaring an emergency and adopting interim regulations to allowing severe weather shelters for the homeless. Seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion carried 6-0**

- C. Emergency Adoption of Interim Regulations – Limited Temporary Homeless Encampments (i.e. Safe Parking): Ms. Lowell presented an ordinance declaring an emergency and adopting interim regulations to allow safe parking for the homeless. This ordinance will allow overnight parking at a facility and will replace expired ordinances that were approved in 2019. Ms. Lowell noted that the vehicle maximum has been changed from five to 1 for every ten parking spaces in the lot to mirror state regulations. She also pointed out the City currently has regulations in place to allow homeless shelters in areas of the city.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve Ordinance 3812 declaring an emergency and adopting interim regulations to allowing overnight parking for the homeless. Seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0**

- D. Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County: Mr. Huffman requested Council approval of an Interlocal agreement with Skagit County that will allow the City to provide library services to unincorporated residents of Skagit County. Skagit County will provide funding in the amount of \$14,054 for 2020.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal agreement with Skagit County for the City to provide library services to residents in unincorporated Skagit County and provide funding. Seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 6-0**

- E. Bid Award – 2020 Curb Ramp Improvements: Mr. Bullock stated that Trinity Contractors, Inc. submitted the low bid of \$476,280.00 for the 2020 Curb Ramp Improvements. The project includes curb ramps and sidewalk improvements along Division Street, Foxhill Estate and Eastwind areas and will be financed by the TBD Fund. Mr. Bullock requested Council authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the contractor.

**Councilmember Hulst moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Trinity Contractors, Inc. for 2020 Curb Ramp Improvements in the amount of \$476,280.00. Seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-0**

- F. For the Good of the Order:
- COVID 19 Pandemic Response and Discussion: none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Jensen, Recording Clerk

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Volesky, Finance Director

APPROVE:

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Jill Boudreau, Mayor