

**City of Mount Vernon**  
**City Council Study Session Minutes**  
**October 7, 2020 6:00 p.m.**  
(Virtual Meeting)

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

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

Staff Present: City Attorney Rogerson, Finance Director Volesky, Fire Chief Brice, Police Chief Cammock, Project Development Manager Donovan, Assistant Fire Chief Harris, Parks and Enrichment Director Berner, Public Safety Administrative Assistant Hall

Citizens Present: 0

A. Public Safety Update:

- Approval of September 2, 2020 Public Safety Committee Minutes

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the September 2, 2020 Public Safety Committee Minutes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 7-0.**

- Police Department 2019 Annual Report Introduction – Police Chief Cammock reviewed crime 2019 statistics indicating most crime categories show decreased numbers. Population has increased while serious crime incidents have declined. Calls for service have also declined but remain at higher numbers than other area agencies.
- Overview of Citizen engagement – Police Chief Cammock reviewed oversight measures including citizen engagement, budget and hiring practices and various citizen groups and boards. Internal investigation of serious matters requires two qualified community members and independent police shooting investigations include six community members representing Island and Skagit Counties.
- Fire Station Exhaust System Update – Fire Chief Bryce provided an update of the Fire Exhaust System at Station 3. Plans have been delayed due to COVID-19 which has affected workload and spending. The two options being considered are an exhaust system placed in the station or placed directly on the apparatus. Will be moving forward with requests for proposals for both options.

- B. CARES Act Increased Funding and Extension - Amendment: Mr. Volesky requested approval of an Amendment A of the agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce for additional federal Coronavirus Relief Funds. The contract provides an additional \$536,100 funding and extends the contract end date to November 30, 2020.

**Councilmember Hulst moved to authorize Mayor Boudreau to enter into Amendment A of the Washington State Department of**

**Commerce contract for additional Coronavirus Relief Funds and Contract Extension. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 7-0.**

- C. 2020 General Fund Budget Amendment: Mr. Volesky requested approval of an Ordinance to amend the 2020 General Fund budget to provide for additional Coronavirus Relief Funds and CARES reimbursements in the amount of \$536,100.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve Ordinance 3813 amending the 2020 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$536,100 for additional Coronavirus Relief Funds and CARES reimbursements. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion carried 7-0**

- D. Additional CARES Act Funding Plan: Mr. Donovan presented the Spending Plan for the additional CARES Act funding. The spending plan includes funding for staffing, an outdoor payment kiosk at City Hall, office remodels and small business grants totaling \$536,100. Funding recommendations for community basic needs in the form of direct payments to non-profit agencies were reviewed. Mayor Boudreau discussed utility assistance distribution. Mr. Donovan explained the criteria and prioritization for small business grants which will be administered by EDASC. A discussion ensued regarding the funding of the utility payment kiosk.

**Councilmember Hulst moved to approve CARES Act funding plan in the amount of \$536,100. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-1, opposed by Councilmember Brocksmith**

- E. 2021 Preliminary Budget – Overview: Mayor Boudreau reviewed the budget process. 2020 revenues did not decline as anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the 2020 budget realized a \$1,540,313 savings due to staff layoffs and furloughs. The primary focus in the 2021 budget is maintaining basic services. Mr. Volesky stated that the total 2021 Preliminary Budget is \$71,172,319 which is a 1.5% increase from 2020. Mayor Boudreau reviewed infrastructure, healthy neighborhoods, tourism promotion and operations. Mr. Volesky stated that the budget does not include a request for increased property tax but does assume a 5% reduction in sales tax from 2019 actuals and adds Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) funds and Managerial accounts. The budget being presented is a balanced budget and follows the City's Fiscal Policies. Property Tax revenues and the budget schedule were reviewed. Mr. Volesky briefly discussed contents and format of the tabs in the budget binder.

- F. For the Good of the Order:
- Councilmember Moberg announced her resignation effective immediately for health reasons. Mayor Boudreau and Council thanked her for her service and wished her well.

The meeting was convened into Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. for a discussion with legal counsel on matters relating to enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation to which the City, 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. The estimated length of the Executive Session is forty-five minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 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