



**City of Mount Vernon  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2023  
Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hulst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Brocksmith, Carías, Hudson, Hulst, Molenaar, and Morales  
Absent: Councilmember Beaton (excused)  
Staff Present: Public Works Director Phillips, Police Chief Cammock, Parks and Enrichment Services Director Berner, City Attorney Rogerson, Development Services Director Pratschner, IS Director Thomas, Senior Planner Manville-Ailles, Senior Permit Technician Morrison  
Citizens: 13

**1. COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Public Comments - Email

- Arthur Huff- wrote about the proposed chicken ordinance.

Public Comments - In person

- Joseph Coomer- spoke about the forest fires and earthquake proof buildings.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of September 13, 2023, regular Council meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of September 20, 2023, payroll checks numbered 112209 – 112222, direct deposit checks numbered 96157 – 96421, and wire transfers numbered 1255 – 1259 in the amount of \$1,476,247.76.
- C. Approval of September 27, 2023, Claims numbered 23000 - 23195 in the amount of \$3,439,871.07.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve  
Consent Agenda Items A – C. Motion  
Seconded by Councilmember Carías.  
Motion carried 6-0.**

## **REPORTS**

- A. Committees
  - 1. Finance & Parks and Enrichment Services
  - 2. Development Services (cancelled, no report)
- B. Councilmember Comments
  - 1. Councilmember Brocksmith shared that he attended a meeting regarding affordable housing. He also shared attended the Skagit County community court open house and shared his experience. He invited the public to attend the Fire Station 3 open house on September 30 from 10am-2pm.
- C. Committee Agenda Requests (none)

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Public Hearing – Repealing MVMC 2.61 (Design Review Board) and Amending MVMC 14.05 (Procedures) and 17.70 (Design Review) to Implement Revised Design Review Process, CA23-0198: Mrs. Pratschner requested approval to adopt Ordinance 3873 repealing the Design Review Board and amending MVMC 14.05 and 17.70 to implement the revised Design Review process.

Pro Tempore Hulst opened the public hearing.

Mr. Phillips read a letter from SICBA. The letter expressed their support for the proposed ordinance.

Ellen Gamson spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Would like to streamline and process instead of dissolving the Design Review Board.

Christian Carlson spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. He expressed that the Design Review Board can make projects less cumbersome by granting waivers and variances. He cautioned that leaving the authority with a department director or staff who has political pressure could lead to problems down the road.

Balisa Koutje spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

Pro Tempore Hulst closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Brocksmith expressed that the proposed ordinance is not what they asked for months ago.

Councilmember Hudson would like edits to the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Molenaar wanted the process to be more efficient and have less delays.

Councilmember Morales would like to discuss and explore the changes

at a committee meeting.

Pro Tempore would like to explore additional changes to the proposed ordinance.

**Councilmember Brocksmith moved to refer the proposed amendment to the Development Services Committee. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0.**

- B. Closed Record Public Hearing – Continuation of a Nonconforming Use and Setback and Parking Variances, PLAN23-0214 & PLAN 23-0215: Ms. Manville-Ailles presented Council with a request to adopt Resolution 1043 authorizing the continuation of a non-conforming use and setback and parking variances at 314 E Section Street, PLAN23-0214 & PLAN23-0215.

Mayo Pro-Tempore Hulst opened the closed record public hearing.

Hearing no comments, Pro-Tempore Hulst closed the closed record public hearing.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve Resolution 1043. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carias. Motion carried 6-0.**

- C. Public Hearing – Amendments MVMC 17.102 (Nonconforming Buildings or Uses) 14.50 (Procedures) and 14.15 (Fees), CA23-0197): Ms. Manville-Ailles presented Council with a request to adopt Ordinance 3873 for amendments to MVMC 17.102 to include provisions for less complex projects to be administratively approved; to change the non-administratively approved permits from a Type IV to a Type III permit process under MVMC Chapter 14.05; and to amend the fees associated with the revised permits.

Pro-Tempore Hulst opened the public hearing.

Pro-Tempore Hulst closed the public hearing.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve Ordinance 3873. Motion seconded by Councilmember Morales. Motion carried 6-0.**

- D. Approval of Street Closure Request – Mount Vernon Downtown Association (MVDA): Ms. Berner presented a request for Council to approve two street closure requests from the MVDA for the 2023 Downtown Trick or Treating event and the 2023 Downtown Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting event.

**Councilmember Molenaar moved to approve the street closure requests. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-0.**

- E. Approval of Agreement – Silver Arrow Bowmen Club: This item was removed from the agenda.
- F. RCO Parks Maintenance Grant Application: Ms. Berner presented a request for Council to adopt Resolution 1044 approving the RCO Parks Deferred Maintenance Grant resolution and authorizing the Parks and Enrichment Services Director and the Mayor to execute an agreement process if the grant is awarded.

**Councilmember Morales moved to approve Resolution 1044. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 6-0.**

- G. Approval of Agreement – King Technologies, PLLC: Mr. Phillips presented a requested approval of an agreement with King Technologies, PLLC to finalize the development of the Mount Vernon ADA Transition Plan.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Morgan Morrison, Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Boudreau, Mayor