

1 Mayor Vini Samuel presiding
2

3 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Samuel called the July 14, 2020 city council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
4

5 **FLAG CEREMONY:** Pledge of Allegiance
6

7 **ROLL CALL:** Councilman Cope, Councilman Bryson, Councilman Skaramuca, Councilman Trimble,
8 Councilwoman Cristobal, Councilwoman Valentine and Councilman Wood were all present.
9 Attorney Coker was present via telephone.
10

11 **APPROVAL OF BILLS:** Councilman Trimble made a motion to approve the bills as audited with a second
12 by Councilman Cope; bills totaling \$260,095.74 for checks #54686-#54719 and payroll totaling
13 \$281,111.24 for checks #41393-#41412.
14

15 *Motion passed 7-0*
16

17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilwoman Cristobal made a motion to approve the minutes of the June
18 23, 2020 council meeting as written with a second by Councilman Skaramuca. There were no
19 corrections or additions.
20

21 *Motion passed 7-0*
22

23 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
24

25 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
26

27 **PUBLIC WORKS-**

28 Councilman Skaramuca advised the public works committee had met and discussed the Willis Property
29 south of Montesano on Highway 107; applied for a SEPA and is moving forward with what he is planning
30 on doing; still working on the ten year capital improvement plan and looking what rate increases would
31 look like; \$6 a month for water and sewer, \$4.50 for storm.
32

33 **FINANCE-**

34 Councilman Trimble reported the finance committee met tonight; sales tax is trending comparative to
35 other years which is positive; through the month of April there was \$277,000.00 in sales tax collected;
36 revenues are generating forward.
37

38 Mayor Samuel informed the council that according to the local paper, there were 17 businesses in
39 Montesano who applied for business funds from Grays Harbor County with a total loss of \$800,000.00
40 due to closure or change in practice.
41

42 **PUBLIC HEARING-**Mayor Samuel asked to set a public hearing for the annexations for the next meeting
43 or the first meeting in August depending on when we can get all notifications filed appropriately
44

45 **OLD BUSINESS:**

46 **CARES act/FEMA funding-**

47 **Potential eligible items-**

48 **FEMA Guidance**

49 **CARES Act Guidance**

50 Mayor Samuel advised her position has changed to taking the funding for the CARES ACT and use it to
51 backfill wages; we have had two situations where employment has been impacted due to testing or
52 potential infections; delays in work create a different level in costs. Audio Visual upgrades are needed
53 and will probably be brought to the council as a supplemental budget;

54

55 Councilmen Bryson and Skaramuca advised they are in favor of using the money for wages backfill;
56 discussion on making 100% sure what is and is not available for backfill of wages for CARES Act money,
57 we want to get this right.

58

59 Mayor Samuel repeated what the council's consensus was; to move forward with payroll backfill after
60 identifying the sourced information stating payroll could be funded this way and finding out if our first
61 submissions are rejected do we get a "second bite at the apple." Discussion on the other items on the
62 list for both the FEMA funds and the CARES Act funds ensued.

63

64 **NEW BUSINESS:**

65 **East Pioneer Avenue Sidewalk-Academy to Glenn-** Public Works Director Olden recommended we
66 award the bid for the East Pioneer Avenue Sidewalk / Academy to Glenn Street to Rognlin's Inc. for the
67 amount of \$180,000.00.

68

69 Councilman Bryson made a motion to authorize the mayor to sign the contract with Rognlin's which was
70 seconded by Councilman Skaramuca.

71

72 Councilman Trimble asked some questions as to whether this project was something that was added on
73 to the public works schedule or was it a project that was planned at the beginning of the summer; public
74 works crew getting called off of one project to go to another might not allow them to complete the jobs
75 they have already scheduled; burnout is high. Director Olden added he likes to have the really
76 expensive projects handled by contractors and the other stuff we can do with our crew. There was
77 some discussion on this.

78

79 *Motion passed 7-0*

80

81 **Marcy / 1st Street Improvements-Change Order No 1-**Director Olden advised there is a fairly old water
82 main here that needs to be replaced and since we are rebuilding the street now, it makes sense to
83 replace that main now. This had been in the budget.

84

85 Councilman Wood made a motion to allow the mayor to sign the change order for Marcy/1st Street
86 Improvement with a second by Councilman Bryson.

87

88 *Motion passed 7-0*

89

90 Councilman Wood requested going back to the subject of A/V equipment and how the sun is creating a
91 problem with people knowing who is even in the room; due to size and distance from the camera and
92 the sun washing everyone out. He proposes authorizing the mayor to move forward with the purchase
93 of A/V equipment to make this work better. Mayor Samuel reminded everyone this is not a budgeted
94 item and she is asking for authorization to spend up to \$10,000 with the thought that this would not
95 cost that much.

96

97 Councilman Wood made a motion to authorize the mayor to spend up to \$10,000 on the necessary
98 audio visual equipment to improve public participation and observation of the council meetings.
99 Councilman Trimble seconded the motion.

100

101 *Motion passed 7-0*

102

103 The Mayor asked Public Works Director Olden to give a report on the most recent TIB award. Director
104 Olden advised we had been awarded from C.O.G. 1.2 million dollars for the W Pioneer Avenue from
105 Main to 4th. Construction money is available 2024-2025.

106

107 **Contract for Fire Department Administration**-Councilman Cope made a motion and seconded by
108 Councilwoman Cristobal to accept the contract.

109

110 **DISCUSSION:** There was much discussion regarding this contract; timing of a new chief and the leaving
111 of the existing chief; Attorney Coker advised the city has the authority to use Chief Rux as much or as
112 little as it needs; Councilman Trimble had issues with the statement in the recitals in the contract saying
113 the city has not been able to find a new chief due to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating he felt that was not
114 why we had not found a new chief. Councilman Trimble stated he agreed with recital #3 stating Corey
115 Rux has the necessary skills and capabilities to perform the administrative services required by the city
116 however he would not be in favor it.

117

118 Councilman Wood asked what it meant by “administrative only”, what work will be done. Mayor
119 Samuel explained this had to do with dealing with purchase cards, budget items, volunteer candidates,
120 union issues and what the designation of duties are within the staff. What is not included is fire
121 response. There were concerns from other councilmembers about one person running two fire
122 departments at one time. Discussion ensued regarding if this was the best use of administrative power
123 and salary; the other department heads are already working very hard in their departments in light of
124 this COVID time. There are very few options to choose from and we need to not find ourselves in this
125 position again. More discussion ensued.

126

127 *Motion passed 5-2 with Councilman Trimble and Councilman Wood voting nay.*

128

129

130 **City Update**-Mayor Samuel updated the council on surplus vehicles and advised there are at least one
131 maybe two which need to be surplus; part of our sidewalk is blocked off around city hall due to a part
132 of our roof coming off so a new roof will most likely be in next year’s budget; Chief Vance will be letting
133 the mayor know in the next few days as to whether we are cancelling National Night Out; Charlies Sports
134 Bar COVID exposure which involved three employees whose tests came back negative; this will be
135 something we will be dealing with for a while and we will deal with it as it comes. Discussion on Phase 3
136 requirements and how this was supposed to help open up our economy; it appears the gatherings are
137 what are causing our uptick in infections; we will likely be in Phase 3 for at least six months, responsible
138 gathering is what needs to happen. Mayor Samuel also added there has been some pushback on the
139 rules and restrictions which has created frustration so she will be meeting with businesses to listen and
140 talk about what is happening, hear their frustrations and ideas of what can make this all work.

141

142 **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTION:**

143

144 **Annexation Ordinance-City West**- informational

145 **Annexation Ordinance-City East**-informational

146 **Annexation Ordinance Hiner**- informational

147

148 **Annexation Ordinance CVT / Fournier**- informational

149

150 **Annexation Ordinance West Simpson Area**- informational

151

152 **Annexation Ordinance Sylvia Ridge Area**-informational

153

154 These all should be set for hearing at the next meeting. Councilman Wood asked for clarification on the
155 process of annexations. There was discussion on how this is happening; through petition and/or
156 through non-opposition. Councilman Wood had concerns over whether petitions were received by all
157 these areas or are we just using non-opposition as the RCW says we have to have a petition.

158 Clarification on this was requested by Councilman Wood. The mayor advised more information will be
159 presented to council before action is taken. Discussions on potential build out when adding these other
160 properties was had. Concerns about sending our population over 5,000 and how that would affect our
161 future in grants, financing options etc.

162

163 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

164

165 **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

166

167 Councilman Wood expressed a need to be mindful of long term consequences and feels we need to
168 safeguard that 5,000 number; we don't want to rush into this.

169

170 Councilwoman Valentine commented on how well the Saturday Market went and how great it was to
171 see the community participate; it is good to have these annexation discussions and to talk with those
172 folks who do not want to get annexed to see what the reasons are.

173

174 Councilwoman Cristobal had no comment.

175

176 Councilman Trimble-mask up!

177

178 Councilman Cope agrees with what Councilwoman Valentine said and agreed with what Councilman
179 Trimble said; wear masks

180

181 Councilman Bryson wanted to complement the council on their discussions; it is important to get things
182 right; thank you to Councilman Wood for bringing some questions up.

183

184 Councilman Skaramuca advised he had issues/questions about some of the names on the annexation
185 list; (the rest was inaudible)

186

187 **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Samuel stated she wanted to offer kudos to Principle Alex Pugh and Vice
188 Principle Ann Green for the graduation ceremony they put on; teachers and staff planned for everything
189 and did a great job; she really appreciates all the council's engagement; echoed Councilman Bryson's
190 comments on not always having to agree; thank you council for all the work they do and the discussions
191 they have.

192

193 **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilwoman Cristobal made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Councilman
194 Wood making a second.

195

196 *Motion passed 7-0*

197

198 Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:44 p.m.

199

200 These minutes were transcribed by Clerk Lillegard from the tape recording of the council meeting. Clerk
201 Lillegard was not present at the meeting due to corona virus meeting parameters set forth by the
202 governor.

203

204 Kim Lillegard, Deputy Clerk

205 Recording available.

Approved