

1 Mayor Vini Samuel presiding  
2

3 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Samuel called the July 28, 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 \$70,666.57 for checks #54720-#54738 and payroll totaling  
13 \$107,236.26 for checks #41413 -#41414  
14 *Motion passed 7-0*  
15

16 Mayor Samuel advised everyone there was no hand recorder this evening and instructed everyone to  
17 please speak clearly and speak into their microphones.  
18

19 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilman Skaramuca made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14,  
20 2020 council meeting with a second by Councilman Bryson. The minutes were approved with no  
21 corrections or additions.  
22 *Motion passed 7-0*  
23

24 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None  
25

26 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

27 **Forestry Committee-** Councilman Cope advised the Forestry Committee did not meet however Forester  
28 Hiner was in attendance and asked that he give a brief report to the council. Forester Hiner advised the  
29 commercial thinning project from last year has been completed; timber sale to Sierra Pacific this year  
30 with the adding of another 30 acres which brought in almost \$400,000 in revenue and is completed; the  
31 main timber sale is ongoing and is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  finished; we are currently laying out next year's timber sale.  
32

33 **Flood Authority-** Councilman Wood advised the Flood Authority met and was focused on small projects  
34 of which we do not have anything in the mix; Chehalis Basin Partnership is still focused on a list of  
35 potential projects with focus on water usage in the Chehalis Basin.  
36

37 **PUBLIC HEARING:** Mayor Samuel advised we do not have a public hearing.  
38

39 **OLD BUSINESS:** Leadership Conversation-Update-CARES Act Reimbursement for COVID-related  
40 expenses-informational  
41

42 Mayor Samuel advised this was regarding the questions asked at the last meeting in regards to wages  
43 and CARES Act money, current budget or not how is this addressed,  
44

45 Councilman Trimble advised he had attended a webinar with commerce, three different cities and the  
46 auditor's office. The biggest thing the auditor's office said was to document, document, document  
47 because this is a federal grant and we have responsibilities to meet. He feels 100% backfill of wages is  
48 not in the best interest as this has already been budgeted. He would caution on this.

49 Mayor Samuel explained more regarding the wages and time being shifted.

50

51 Councilman Wood brought up the question or concern over the definition of “substantially dedicated  
52 time.” What is our criterion for this? Mayor Samuel directed them to read a specific section on page  
53 three of the Leadership Conversation document. CFO Blancas added that commerce has been  
54 intentional in not defining substantially dedicated and is leaving that up to the local jurisdiction to define  
55 this. Lengthy discussion ensued.

56

57 Mayor Samuel advised if we are not going to use the money towards salaries she would send the list of  
58 items needed to the finance committee to figure out what budget line items these would be paid out of  
59 since the money has to be spent before it is reimbursed. The budget will have to be restructured in  
60 order to fund these items prior to being reimbursed. Timing of reimbursement was discussed.

61

62 **NEW BUSINESS:**

63

64 **2020 Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Grant Applications-Authorize Mayor so sign.**

65 Councilman Skaramuca made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant application with a  
66 second by Councilwoman Cristobal.

67 *Motion passed 7-0*

68

69 **Addendum to Municipal Lease-Purchase Agreement-Authorize Mayor to sign.**

70 Councilman Skaramuca made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Lease Purchase agreement  
71 with a second by Councilman Trimble. CFO Blancas explained this was a correction on the original  
72 schedule as there was a mistake in the numbers that the bank provided the first time.

73 *Motion passed 7-0*

74

75 **GH Communications E911 Center’s Sales Tax Revenue-Informational**

76 This should have been included in the city update. Mayor Samuel advised at the E911 meeting last week  
77 the revenues came in a little disconcerting; 20-25% less than what is expected; Grays Harbor tax  
78 revenue in June was down. Past history shows Montesano mirrors Grays Harbor County’s trend in sales  
79 tax which is a concern. More discussion on what this means ensued.

80

81 **City update-Informational**

82 The city is in full blown construction; the forest is going well; we are hitting our budget expectations as  
83 of last month; we are going to progress until something changes. There was an outbreak at a local  
84 establishment, the numbers have increased but still fairly low numbers; we expected this would happen  
85 when things opened up.

86

87 Councilman Wood asked Mr. Olden about keeping certain businesses open during construction, how  
88 that has changed due to restrictions and construction; is construction interfering with some of these  
89 businesses? Director Olden spoke however there was difficulty in hearing him.

90

91 Mayor Samuel added these are challenges for these businesses and the best thing we can do is to stay  
92 on track and get it done as quickly as possible.

93

94 Mayor Samuel advised we are putting in for .09 funds for the medical treatment facility; the plan is the  
95 same we are just asking for infrastructure pieces of that space.

96

97 **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTION: None**

98

99 **EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

100 **RCW 42.30.110 (g) – Relating to Fire Chief Recruitment**

101 **RCW 42.30.140- Relating to collective bargaining**

102

103 Mayor Samuel advised she would like to entertain public and council comments prior to going into  
104 executive session.

105

106 **PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

107

108 **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

109

110 Councilman Cope issued notice that on August 11<sup>th</sup> he will be absent from the meeting; listened in on  
111 the Greater Grays Harbor Incorporated Business Forum with a presentation on the county's response  
112 and operations during this; it definitely scares you to hear some of the comments and realities; please  
113 mask up, avoid large groups, wash your hands and be safe.

114

115 Councilman Bryson commented on the discussions tonight was good; commented on the impact on  
116 local businesses and commended some of the businesses who took proactive steps to not contribute to  
117 the problem and be part of the solution.

118

119 Councilman Skaramuca commented on an interesting conversation on the CARES Act Funds; feels we  
120 should still backfill some of the wages; public works committee would like to meet prior to the August  
121 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

122

123 Councilman Trimble had not comment.

124

125 Councilwoman Cristobal had no comment.

126

127 Councilwoman Valentine appreciates the way the community is working together, masking up is  
128 frustrating and the rules keep changing which is frustrating; she appreciates the hard work everyone is  
129 putting in to get us to the point of this being over.

130

131 Councilman Wood advised he would share a link to a document from MRSC referring to annexations in  
132 Washington Cities and Towns; he hopes everyone will study up on this; maybe we didn't know what we  
133 didn't know.

134

135 **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Samuel advised she had the pleasure of reading this document also; we  
136 are still waiting on some annexation petitions to come in; kudos to Saturday Morning Market; masks are  
137 being worn and the market vendors are doing a good job in this area; kudos to the Historical Car Show  
138 who took lemons and made lemonade with the car cruz and virtual car show; the Fosses did a great job  
139 and she is thankful they are in our community.

140

141 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

142 Mayor Samuel advised staff they were free to leave as there was no action expected to come out of the  
143 executive session.

144

145 Executive session started at approximately 8:17 p.m. At 8:35 p.m. Mayor Samuel advised they would  
146 need 10 more minutes.

147 Executive session ended at approximately 8:45 pm with no action being taken.

148

149 **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:55 p.m. Councilwoman Cristobal made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a  
150 second by Councilman Wood.

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152 *Motion passed 7-0*

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154 Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

155

156 These minutes were transcribed by Clerk Lillegard from the Facebook recording of the council meeting.  
157 Clerk Lillegard was not present at the meeting due to corona virus meeting parameters set forth by the  
158 governor.

159

160 Kim Lillegard, Deputy Clerk

161 Recording available.

APPROVED