

1 Mayor Vini Samuel presiding
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3 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Samuel called the May 26, 2020 city council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
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5 **FLAG CEREMONY:** Pledge of Allegiance
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7 **ROLL CALL:** Councilman Trimble, Councilman Cope, Councilman Skaramuca, Councilman Wood,
8 Councilwoman Cristobal and Councilman Bryson were all present. Councilwoman Valentine was
9 present via phone.

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11 **APPROVAL OF BILLS:** Councilman Trimble made a motion to approve the bills as audited with a second
12 by Councilman Wood. Bills totaled \$186,197.03 for checks #54609 to #54637; payroll totaled \$98,980.91
13 for checks #41364 to #41367.

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15 *Motion passed 7-0*
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17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilman Cope made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12,
18 2020 council meeting with a second by Councilman Bryson. There were no corrections or additions.

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20 *Motion passed 7-0*
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22 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

23 Councilman Wood advised the Flood Authority and Chehalis Basin Partnership met however he would
24 update the council when we came to the resolution review which was on the agenda.
25

26 Mayor Samuel advised Council of Governments met with the primary pieces getting everything
27 electronic and in order.
28

29 **NEW BUSINESS:**
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31 **Spruce Avenue Improvement Contract Award-Authorize the Mayor to sign-** Councilman Skaramuca
32 made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Rognlins Inc. for \$336,709.15 for the
33 Spruce Avenue project with a second by Councilman Bryson.
34

35 *Motion passed 7-0*
36

37 **Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)-Informational-** Mayor Samuel advised public works put
38 in three sidewalks. Councilman Skaramuca advised the McBryde Avenue sidewalk would be done in
39 phases; phase one will be east between Adams Street and Medcalf Street. That is all that has been
40 designed so far. There will be a hearing at the end of June for this item.
41

42 **Downstairs Conference Room-Discussion**

43 Mayor Samuel asked the council to consider making the upstairs room a permanent place for council
44 chambers. The CARES act allows for some funding and it wouldn't take a lot of funding for us to be able
45 to get a better setup; she would like to take the seats out of the downstairs room right now, keeping it
46 for hearings and court; we have already started to make the upstairs work better for meetings. Mayor
47 Samuel advised she believes there is money to help fund this and would like the councils input.
48

49 Councilman Bryson brought up the idea of getting some sort of hearing assistance devices to be
50 incorporated as hearing in this big room is sometimes difficult.

51
52 Councilman Wood suggested purchasing a conference call system that would use a cell phone which
53 would allow us to use it if the need to vacate city hall ever arose.

54
55 Discussion ensued; suggestions were made.

56
57 **City Update-Informational**

58 We are in Phase 2; businesses are opening, smaller restaurants not opening yet but are doing take out;
59 we will keep city hall closed most likely until mid-June which allows us to get some clarification in the
60 Phase 3 language as well as get hand sanitizer stations in place.

61
62 Mayor Samuel advised the council Fire Chief Rux is going to be leaving us; she has one potential person
63 she is looking at to replace him and we will be looking to do a pretty quick advertising with a 30 day
64 closure; Chief Rux is working on the language for the job description.

65
66 Medic Dean Bohren is retiring from the fire department and Office Scott Shope is retiring from the
67 police department the end of June.

68
69 Councilman Bryson asked the question as to whether the cemetery restrictions have been changed.
70 Mayor Samuel advised they have; the VFW conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony while practicing good
71 social distancing.

72
73 Councilman Wood asked the question as to salary savings with the retirement of some folks concerning
74 the rehiring salaries. Mayor Samuel advised in the salary area most likely there will be a savings as the
75 new hire for the fire department to replace Dean is at a lower scale then Dean was at 30 years and the
76 police department is accepting both lateral and entry level applications.

77
78 **RESOLUTIONS:**

79 **A resolution of the Montesano City Council continuing its support for a basin-wide solution to flooding**
80 **and aquatic species restoration-Informational**

81
82 Councilman Wood explained the history behind the formation of the Flood Authority; Thurston County,
83 Grays Harbor County and Lewis County, the cities of Montesano, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Centralia,
84 Chehalis, and Bucoda are all together in looking for basin wide solutions to help ease the impact of
85 floods and storms and to cooperate to help each other with major projects to help protect the counties
86 and cities. The Flood Authority has asked the individual cities and counties to pass a resolution to
87 support a basin wide solution; reaffirming our support and commitment.

88
89 **PROCLAMATION:**

90 **Honoring the Montesano High School Class of 2020**

91
92 Mayor Samuel read a proclamation honoring the Montesano High School Class of 2020.

93
94 **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

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96 Councilman Cope echoed the sentiments of the proclamation, best of luck to them and to Chief Rux.

97 Councilman Bryson agrees we are going to miss Chief Rux, Dean and Scott; likes the idea of making
98 longer term accommodations upstairs.

99
100 Councilman Skaramuca echoed what previous council members said; public works committee will be
101 meeting June 3rd.

102
103 Councilwoman Valentine expressed thanks to our community for the hard work they have put into
104 following the guidelines for social distancing and safety and gave her heartfelt congratulations to
105 everyone in the Senior Class of 2020 at Montesano High School.

106
107 Councilman Trimble echoed the comments for Dean and Scott, wishing them well in their retirement;
108 best of luck to Chief Rux.

109
110 Councilwoman Cristobal agrees that Chief Rux will be missed and his contribution to this city leave a
111 legacy; we will welcome the new fire chief when he or she arrives; during these unprecedented times it
112 is unfortunate our high school class has missed out on so much, she appreciates the proclamation.

113
114 Councilman Wood on July 11th is the graduation of some sort; appreciates the proclamation for the
115 senior class who are all post 911 babies; echoed sentiments about Corey, Dean and other retirees as
116 these are great accomplishments.

117
118
119 **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**
120 Mayor Samuel commented that even though there is a sadness in all these kids have missed she feels
121 the city has rallied around these kids and efforts have been made to make them feel special; she is
122 grateful for the community we have; Saturday morning market will be in July and August, sponsored by
123 the Chamber; National Trails Day is Saturday the 30th so go on up to the lake and help maintain the
124 trails.

125
126 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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128 Councilman Cope made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilman Wood
129 *Motion passed 7-0*

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131 Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 p.m.

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

136
137 Kim Lillegard, Deputy Clerk
138 Recording available.