

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Warden called the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Month for December 2013, Scotty Hunt and Ryan Darbyson.

ROLL CALL

Council Members, Brumley, Hamilton, Taylor, Everett, Becken, and Elder were present. Council Member Aubrey requested an excused absence

Others in attendance were City Attorney Saxton, Police Chief Giles, Finance Director Mauras, and Finance Manager Yost. Also in attendance were Robert Merritt, Benton County Fire District No. 3, Consultant, and Fire Commissioner Max Benitz.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (None)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Oath of Office Officer William Spurgeon

Mayor Warden administered the Oath of Office for William Spurgeon in the position of Police Officer.

Council Member Everett stated at the last Fire Board meeting, the Council representatives presented the City's preferred Governance Model to the Fire Board. The Fire Commissioners requested a more formal response from the City in writing. Mr. Merritt and Commissioner Benitz are present to address the any questions Council may have regarding the Governance Model discussion item on the Council agenda.

Council Member Elder encouraged everyone to participate in the February Canned Food Drive for Jubilee Ministry. City staff has placed a collection area in the lobby of City Hall. All donations collected will be provided to Jubilee Ministry.

Council Member Taylor challenged the Council Members to bring in more pounds of food than City staff.

Council Member Brumley stated it was her desire that the City would have adopted a Resolution in support of the Seahawks.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve Consent Agenda Items "A – M."

Council Member Becken stated on page 24 of the packet, the charges related to the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services for the City newsletter were too excessive. Most of the information printed in the newsletter is duplicated in the newspaper and he would like to see that cost go down or be completely eliminated.

There was discussion about DOXO, the City's online automatic bill-pay service and the reduction in paper costs related to those utility customers. Those who sign-up for that service receive an electronic copy of the City newsletter.

Finance Manager Yost stated the City's new financial software system has a similar online bill-pay service that could also potentially assist in the reduction of printing costs associated with utility bills and newsletters.

Mayor Warden repeated the motion. With no further discussion, motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Checks Nos. 600000 through 600004 in the Amount of \$5,661.00 and Direct Deposits in the Amount of \$10,632.16 for the Period Ending January 15, 2014
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 71972 through 71994, in the Amount of \$103,556.46, and Electronic Payments in the Amount of \$213.33 for the Period Ending January 28, 2014
- c. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 10030 through 10086 in the Amount of \$174,642.55 and Electronic Payments in the Amount of \$8,206.74, for the Period Ending January 28, 2014
- d. Approve Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Invoice Voucher Request No. 1 in the Amount of \$6,574.00 for the Zone 2.5 Water Supply Improvements Project and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents
- e. Approve Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Invoice Voucher Request No. 9 in the Amount of \$79,665.64 for the Disinfection, Filtration, and Source Improvements Project and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents
- f. Approve USDA Outlay Report and Draw Request No. 27 in the Amount of \$6,240.50, for costs Associated with the Northwest Prosser Water and Sewer System Improvements Project (Contract Addendum No. 2) and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents

- g. Approve the Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement between the City of Prosser and HLA Inc., for Engineering Services on the OIE Highway Improvements Project, and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents
- h. Approve Maintenance Contract Renewal with Abadan for Konica Minolta Bizhub 283 Copier
- i. Review and confirm the Appointments to Various Board, Commission, and Committees as Appointed by Mayor Warden
- j. Approve a Subscriber Agreement between the City of Prosser and Public Safety Testing to Provide Civil Service Testing and Recruitment Services for a Term Ending December 31, 2016
- k. Approve the November 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes
- l. Approve the November 26, 2013 Meeting Minutes
- m. Approve the December 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes

COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTION 14-1442 SUPPORTING THE PROSSER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 116 – 219 REPLACEMENT OF EXPIRING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVY

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Resolution No. 14-1442, supporting the Prosser Consolidated School District No. 116 – 219 Replacement of expiring Maintenance and Operation Levy at the February 11, 2014, Special Election. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIM CHECK NOS. 10087 AND 10088 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,266.45, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 28, 2014

Council Member Hamilton recused himself due to a conflict of interest. A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve payment of claim check nos. 10087 and 10088 in the Amount of \$7,266.45, for the period ending January 28, 2014. Motion passed 5 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey), 1 ABSENTION (Hamilton).

ORDINANCE 14-2864 CORRECTING A SCRIVENER'S ERROR IN PROSSER MUNICIPAL CODE 13.10.420

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Aubrey to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2864 correcting a scrivener's error in Prosser Municipal Code 13.10.420. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

ORDINANCE 14-2865 MODIFYING CHAPTER 5.04 OF THE PROSSER MUNICIPAL CODE, IDENTIFYING BUSINESS LICENSING SERVICE AS THE ISSUING AUTHORITY FOR CITY OF PROSSER BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR REFUNDS BY ADMINISTRATION

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett, to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2865, modifying Chapter 5.04 of the Prosser Municipal Code, identifying Business Licensing Service as the issuing authority for City of Prosser business registrations and providing for refunds by Administration. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

ORDINANCE 14-2866 CREATING FUND 119 THE PARKS RESERVE FUND

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Taylor, to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2866, creating Fund 119 the Parks Reserve Fund. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

RESOLUTION 14-1443 ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Council reviewed the proposed recreation rates and participation counts provided by staff. Council Member Brumley proposed additional programming options. Council Member Everett stated he would like to see additional effort to add more recreation programs.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Brumley, to adopt Resolution No. 14-1443, establishing fees for the Recreation Department. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Everett), 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Prosser Fire District #3 Governance Model

Robert Merritt, Benton County Fire District No. 3, Consultant explained his experience working on Regional Fire Authorities (RFA) and annexations.

Council Member Everett provided an overview of the January 7, 2014, letter addressed to the City regarding deliverables that was discussed at a recent Fire Board meeting.

Council Member Taylor stated he would like the deliverables to be high level and outline the impacts to the citizens and community.

Mr. Merritt and the Council discussed the RFA/Annexation Analysis document prepared by the Finance Department and reviewed the unrestricted General Fund resources.

Council Member Everett stated it is the City's preference to have the Fire Board comprised of five members; two City representatives, two County representatives, and one member at large, based on the Fire District Task Force recommendations.

There was discussion regarding which jurisdiction bears the responsibility of fire inspection programs and hydrants. There is a need to have those services addressed prior to going to the voters and drafted in a post annexation agreement or otherwise outlined in a RFA Plan.

Council and Mr. Merritt reviewed the potential election results and the impacts related to each situation; RFA verses annexation.

Council Member Taylor said he would like the Fire District to move forward with an RFA because of the benefits gained by other districts being able to join.

Council Member Everett stated he prefers RFA because it has the least financial impact to the residents.

Mr. Merritt discussed the Task Force findings and added that the District is willing to support changes which address Council's concerns. There was discussion regarding the findings, part of that being that status quo is not sustainable and a change in governance as well as the way the Fire District is funded is needed.

On behalf of the Fire Board, Commissioner Benitz stated that the Board determined it is in the best interest of the community to let the elected officials set the levy rate. The current Interlocal Agreement is not working and it is the Board's desire to resolve the issues and come to a new agreement.

Council Member Hamilton inquired of Commissioner Benitz if the Fire Commissioners would support an RFA opposed to annexation.

Commissioner Benitz explained the pros and cons of both arrangements and stated ultimately it is the Commissioner's objective to come to a new agreement.

Council Member Brumley inquired what the next steps are in order to move forward.

Mayor Warden stated a response letter needs to be drafted to the Fire District that documents what the City's deliverables are in order to keep the item moving.

Council Member Taylor stated the 1% tax increase may be a stumbling block and therefore the City and the District should consider coming to a separate agreement.

There was discussion regarding the current Interlocal Agreement and the November 26, 2013, letter the District presented to the City reflecting the District's intent to withdraw from the Agreement.

Commissioner Benitz clarified that it was not the District's intent to withdraw from the Interlocal.

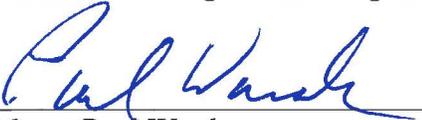
Mayor Warden stated it was his perspective that the District's letter notifying the City of the intent to dissolve the Interlocal was a means to expedite resolution of funding issues and governance model.

Commissioner Benitz concurred and thanked the Council for their time and for moving forward congruently in this effort.

Mayor Warden summarized the deliverables regarding the proposed change in governance model and stated those would be drafted in a letter addressed to the Fire District.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

