

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON 601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Aubrey, Taylor, Hamilton, Everett, Ward, Becken, and Elder were present.

Others in attendance were City Clerk Shaw, Finance Director Mauras, Finance Manager Yost, Police Chief Giles, and City Attorney Saxton.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Grant Writer Quarterly Report

Sue Jetter, Grant Writer, handed out a copy of the Third Quarter Report and discussed the services provides.

Prosser Economic Development Association (PEDA) Quarterly Report

Deb Heintz, Executive Director, thanked Council for their continued support of PEDA and the Grant Writer services and provided updated informational brochures regarding the Grant Writer, Membership Application and a pamphlet about the Walter Clore Center. Mrs. Heintz reviewed the highlights of the third quarter and invite Council to attend an upcoming meeting at the Clore Center to discuss water rights. Mrs. Heintz then introduced Abbey Cameron, Clore Center Executive Director.

Ms. Cameron updated Council on upcoming events scheduled at the Clore Center and discussed the marketing plan. She also spoke on the work being done in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce to schedule future events.

Council Member Everett advised the Hotel/Motel and Tourism Promotion Advisory (TPA) Committee has had recent discussions about the possibility of partially funding a Sales and Marketing position at the Clore Center. The Clore Center received a verbal commitment by a private party to match the funding needed for the position. The recommendation from the Hotel/Motel and TPA Board will be coming forward for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

2015 BUDGET

At 7:26 p.m., Mayor Warden recessed the Work Session of the Prosser City Council to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the 2015 Budget. Mayor Warden called for public comment. With

none being received, Mayor Warden closed the Public Hearing and the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

E-Cigarette Ordinance

Mayor Warden introduced the item.

Council Member Aubrey said he did not support adoption of the ordinance which would ban use of e-cigarettes and said it should be left to a business owner on whether or not to restrict use, not the City.

Council Members Taylor and Aubrey both expressed their displeasure with what appeared to be overregulation and said families and individuals should be able to make up their own decisions about what they feel is acceptable; it's not the City's responsibility on this matter.

Council Member Ward said the City should post a sign at City parks and City facilities banning use on City property, however felt individuals had the right to choose whether or not to engage in tobacco use with an e-cigarette.

Council Member Everett inquired if the Police Department had received any complaints to date.

Police Chief Giles replied no and further stated that the department did not have the man power to enforce the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Becken stated he felt if the schools are having issues with the devices, then the schools should set their own policies.

Council Member Hamilton said if he experienced a citizen using a device while out in public and he was offended by it, he would remove himself from the situation and did not feel adopting an ordinance restricting use was necessary.

Council Member Elder echoed Council Member Becken and Council Member Ward's comments.

Mayor Warden said this item will not be coming back for Council's consideration.

Cost Recovery Direction

Mayor Warden introduced the item and provided a brief history regarding the Council's previous direction to staff on recovering costs for proposed items.

Council Member Becken stated that each item staff brings forward for Council's consideration that has a cost associated to it is different and should be evaluated for cost recovery. By setting a Council policy that would give direction to staff to "always" or "never" bring forward proposals for cost recovery is not something he would support.

Council Member Everett agreed with Council Member Becken's statements.

Council Member Taylor said he felt Council needed to set a direction for staff one way or the other in order to clear confusion while adding the caveat that Council could change the direction as they deem necessary.

Council concurred with Council Member Taylor's comments.

2015 Budget

Finance Director Mauras provided an overview the General Fund, property tax projections and discussed the Summary Report.

Council discussed the City Administrator position and the non union salary increases. Council Member Everett said he would like to discuss this item in greater detail at a future meeting. Discussions ensued regarding whether or not to fund the City Administrator position in the 2015 or 2016 budget and at what percentage should the salary increases be calculated at.

Finance Manager Mauras said based on Council's comments, she would leave the salary increases in the proposed budget and remove the funding for the City Administrator from the 2015 budget. Mrs. Mauras reminded Council that the budget was not in its final form until Council adopts the document and any changes could be made up until adoption.

Council Member Elder inquired about the Police Department's overtime budget and Chief Giles provided an explanation of the line item.

Council Member Aubrey said something needs to be done about the lack of funding in the Street Fund.

Council Member Ward agreed with Council Member Aubrey's comments.

Mayor Warden brought up the option to pursue a street bond to present to the voters.

Council Member Taylor said clear deliverables need to be outlines before he would support pursuing a street bond.

Council Member Everett asked that staff provide year-to-date numbers for third quarter.

Mayor Warden said staff will bring forward a balanced budget with a list of priorities and options for projects and operations for Council's consideration.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED

Mayor Warden reminded Council of the Prosser Community Involvement and Action (CIA) Coalition meeting that has been scheduled for October 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Princess Theater.

Mayor Warden inquired of Council's preference to cancel the November 11, 2014 City Council meeting due to the Veteran's Day holiday and schedule a Special City Council meeting on

November 18, 2014. Council agreed to revisit the item once they determine how far along in the budget discussions they are at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

