

CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor 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 Elder, Everett, Hamilton, and Becken were present. Mayor Warden and Council Members Rainer and Troemel requested an excused absence.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Becken stated he was happy to be back after his recent absence.

Council Member Hamilton said he is pleased about the new location of the recycling bins.

Council Member Everett reported unfortunately due to the poor weather, the Balloon Rally ended up being a disappointing event weekend. He thanked everyone involved for their efforts and stated the Committee was hopeful that next year the weather will be better for the 25th Annual Rally.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2014 Preliminary Budget

Finance Director Mauras provided an overview of the Mayor and Council, Finance, City Attorney, Building and Planning and the Police Department's budgets and discussed the highlights of the Department Manager requests. There was discussion regarding requests for increased line items and a review of the detailed information provided by the Department Manager for the specific requests.

Discussion ensued regarding City Hall lunch hour closure and the need for additional staff in the Finance Department in order to keep internal controls in place as well as have the front doors remain open during the lunch hour.

Council agreed to set this item aside and revisit it again at a future City Council Work Session meeting when all Council Members and Mayor are present.

There was discussion regarding the Drug Enforcement Fund and a review of the expenditures to date, which were none. Council also discussed the Criminal Justice Fund.

Council stated they would like to revisit the Police Department budget when Chief Giles returns from training to further discuss his departmental requests.

Finance Manager Yost explained a Public Hearing has been scheduled for the October 8, 2013 Regular City Council meeting and the Police Chief should be present at that meeting to review his budget with Council. Additional departments have been scheduled for that meeting and the Department Managers will be present to address any Council questions at that meeting as well.

Council Member Hamilton inquired if any of the numbers presented in the 2014 Budget support additional personnel.

Finance Manager Yost stated there were requests for increases in the Water and Waste Water Departments to sustain the need for additional personnel.

Council Member Hamilton stated he will not support any rate increase and is opposed to raising rates or taxes to support personnel.

Council Compensation Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor explained the Finance staff and some Council Members recently inquired if the Council could move to a flat monthly compensation in lieu of the current by meeting pay model. The benefits would be an elimination of timesheets for Council Members and a reduction in processing time by the Finance Department. Additionally, the flat rate would more accurately compensate the Council Members for their time. After reviewing the Council salary survey provided by Association of Washington Cities (AWC), it is apparent a large majority of cities use monthly salaries to compensate its Council Members. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor inquired as to the Council's position of adjusting the Council's compensation.

Both Council Members Hamilton and Becken stated it was their preference to leave it as is with no changes.

Council Member Everett said he would prefer to move to a flat rate and further explained he had no preference as to what that rate is, however the amount has not be adjusted since 1979.

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor stated he too was in favor of moving to the flat rate compensation model.

Council Member Hamilton said he would be in favor of moving to the flat rate model if there was no increase in the compensation and the salary amount equaled the current compensation received by Council.

Council Member Elder said he was in favor of moving to a monthly flat rate compensation model and did not have an issue if the amount compensated was higher than the current level due to the fact that the issue has not be revisited since 1979.

Council directed staff to bring this item back at a future City Council meeting for further discussion when all the Council Members and Mayor Warden are present.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Paul Warden

Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

Rachel M. Shaw

City Clerk Rachel Shaw

