

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Warden called the Special Meeting 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, Public Works Director DaCorsi, Police Chief Giles, and City Attorney Saxton.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

[Clerk's Note: Citizen Participation was considered during the applicable agenda items.]

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Becken advised Ben-Franklin Transit recently sold advertisement to be placed on the side of the buses that it doesn't necessary agree with or support however due to freedom of speech, the transit company is obligated to display it. The advertisement reads "Don't Believe in God. You're Not Alone" and provides a website to go to.

Council Member Taylor reported the Regional Fire Authority ballot measure did pass.

Mayor Warden stated staff has been doing an audit of rental properties in order to ascertain which property owners need to enroll in the Crime Free Rental Housing Program. Some residents have already complained to Mayor Warden indicating their displeasure with being contacted.

Mayor Warden showed a video from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), Strong Cities, Strong State meeting that he and Council Member Ward recently attended. Mayor reviewed the highlights and discussed the Legislative Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Taylor requested Item "G" be removed from the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve Consent Agenda Items "A – F." Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Checks Nos. 600248 through 600268 in the Amount of \$29,790.82 and Direct Deposits in the Amount of \$138,329.54, for the Period Ending November 14, 2014

- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 11466 through 11477 and 11479 through 11564, in the Amount of \$477,235.62 and Electronic Payments in the Amount of \$122,782.67, for the Period Ending November 18, 2014
- c. Accept Monthly Report by Prosser Economic Development Association for the Month of October 2014 and Authorize Payment for those Services in the Amount of \$2,166.66 and Authorize Payment in the Amount of \$1,416.67 for Grant Writer Services
- d. Approve the DWSRF Project Completion Report for the Disinfection, Filtration, and Source Improvement Project and Request the Final Funding Request in the Amount of \$199,980
- e. Grant the Right of Way Easement to Benton PUD and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Easements Documents
- f. Approve the Developer's Agreement Between the City of Prosser and Benton PUD for the Installation of an Underground Electrical Distribution System to the 3MG Reservoir and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents

Council Member Taylor expressed his concern with the proposed contract with the Prosser Chamber Commerce, noting the increase in funding request which could potentially drain the reserve fund. Council Member Everett agreed with Council Member Taylor's comments and added more money needed to retained in the reserve fund rather than spent down.

Rob Siemens, Chamber Board Member, stated a portion of the request for an increase in funding would go towards hiring a full time employee for advertising at the Walter Clore and Culinary Center as outlined in the "Marketing Plan." A private citizen has contacted the Chamber and advised they would match the \$20,000 requested in order to fund the much needed position.

Fred Lamb, Chamber Board Member, expressed the importance of funding the Chamber's request at the full amount \$132,000 and elaborated on the thought process behind the request and the plan outlined in the contract.

Council Member Taylor agreed with the need however, said that did not negate the concern with overspending without proper reserves in place.

Mr. Lamb stated the Chamber has plans in place to restore the reserve fund and fully believe the efforts of the new marketing position will help accomplish that goal and further stated Council Member Everett was at the Hotel/Motel and TPA Board meetings when this topic was discussed in full detail. At the time Councilman Everett was in agreement with the proposed Marketing Plan.

Council Member Everett stated yes, he was in agreement at that time however now looking at the numbers he shares Councilman Taylor's concerns. He did not disagree that the request was a great use of expenditures but he would rather be conservative and cut back in other areas.

Abbey Cameron, Walter Clore and Culinary Center Executive Director, spoke in favor of the proposed Marketing Plan and the tremendous impact they anticipate will follow if funded. Additionally Ms. Cameron stated the proposed Chamber budget was already very lean and the Market Plan would help build reserves back up.

Discussions continued regarding the Marketing Plan and hopes to increase the reserve fund.

A motion was made by Council Member Aubrey, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve Item "G". Motion passed 5 YES, 2 NO (Taylor, Everett), 0 ABSENT.

- g. Approve the Contract with Prosser Chamber of Commerce for Tourist Information and Promotion Services for the Term of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, in an Amount not to Exceed \$132,000 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Agreement

COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIM CHECK NO. 11478 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,301.18 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 18, 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 no. 11478 in the amount of \$61,301.18 for the period ending November 18, 2014. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT, 1 ABSENTION (Hamilton).

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 14-2911 AMENDING THE 2014 BUDGET FOR THE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT FUND (103) AND FOR THE WATER FUND (403)

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Ward to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2911 amending the 2014 Budget for the Transportation Benefit District Fund (103) and for the Water Fund (403). Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 14-2912 SETTING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF PROSSER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 14-2913 SETTING ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Elder to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2912 setting Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Prosser for fiscal year 2015 and authorizing an increase in the amount of 1%. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Becken to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2913 setting the annual Property Tax Levy for the City of Prosser for fiscal year 2015 and authorizing an increase in the amount of 1%. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 14-2914 INCREASING SALARIES FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES BY A COLA IN THE AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE 100% US ALL CITIES CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR URBAN WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS (CPI-W), JUNE TO JUNE, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 2% EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2914 increasing salaries for non-union employees by a COLA in the amount to be determined by the 100% US All Cities Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), June to June, which is an increase of 2% effective January 1, 2015. Motion passed 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENT.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Prior to entering into budget discussions, Mayor Warden advised that revenue projections are ahead by approximately \$35,000. Mayor asked if Council would authorize a transfer into the Street Fund to partially fund tree removal on Wamba Road which is estimated to cost roughly \$54,000. There was discussion regarding the ownership of the trees and the right-of-way. Council directed staff to enter into conversations with members of the Home Owner's Association affiliated with the homes along Wamba Road in hopes of sharing in the cost to have the trees removed.

2015 BUDGET

Budget Discussion

Finance Director Mauras summarized previous Council discussion and direction regarding the General Fund, Criminal Justice Fund, and the Street, Water including Irrigation, Sewer and Garbage Funds.

Finance Manager Yost advised staff anticipated discussing the Garbage Fund at the November 25, 2014, Regular City Council Meeting when representatives from Basic Disposal Inc., are scheduled to present their Annual Report to Council.

Finance Director Mauras led the discussion on the Street Fund.

Council Member Aubrey expressed his great concern with the condition of many City streets and the overall lack of funding to repair them. He and Councilman Ward stated their displeasure with taxing citizens with the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) \$20.00 car tab fee, and not having anything to show for the tax.

Mayor Warden advised there were only \$90,000 in revenue collected from the TBD tax which is not enough to pay for any large projects.

Discussions ensued regarding the need to get money into the street fund in order to fix the streets and if other areas of the budget should get cut back or transferred to fund much needed projects.

Mayor Warden said he and staff will work on options to bring back at the next City Council meeting for further discussion and consideration.

Finance Director Mauras provided a briefing of the Hotel/Motel and TPA Fund.

Council directed staff to close the Investigative and Narcotics Fund and move monies to the Criminal Justice Fund

Finance Director Mauras reviewed all of the directions given by Council and said staff would prepare a running total of each of the funds for the next Council meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED

Councilman Aubrey commended the Police Department for a job well done on a recent burglary case.

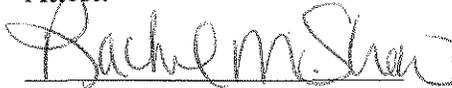
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

