

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON 601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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 led by "Kids That Care" award recipients Havoc Prieto and Wyatt Ohler.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were Finance Director Mauras, Finance Manager Yost, Police Chief Giles, and Public Works Director DaCorsi.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Everett advised the Fire District budget was approved at the last regular Board meeting. A copy of the budget document has been provided to the Finance Director.

Council Member Aubrey stated he and other Council Members attended a great training hosted by City Clerk Shaw on Open Public Meetings and the Public Records Act.

Veteran's Day Proclamation

Mayor Warden read aloud a proclamation regarding Veteran's Day. Council Members Ward, Elder and Aubrey were also acknowledged as Veterans.

Historic Downtown Prosser Association (HDP) Quarterly Report

Dan Smith, Executive Director thanked Council for their funding and continued support, reviewed the third quarter highlights and discussed upcoming programs.

Prosser Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report

Humberto Rodriguez, Executive Director provided Council with an overview of the Third Quarter Report and touched on the highlights of the quarter including the State's Day Parade which has proven to be the largest in Central Washington.

Council Member Taylor said he'd like to see the Chamber use the tour bus as a means of transportation for meetings.

Mr. Rodriguez advised the current contract does not allow for that however the Chamber is exploring options for a second van to utilize for that purpose.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review Draft Contract with Prosser Chamber of Commerce for Visitor Information and Tourism Services

Council Member Taylor stated he had previously asked staff to prepare a side-by-side comparison of the 2014 and 2015 Chamber budgets and a chart of revenues versus expenses and reserve funds. Finance Manager Yost explained that information will be made available at the next City Council meeting. Council discussed the proposed increases and objectives of the Chamber Board as it related to the proposed 2015 budget. Council expressed concern related to the proposed increases if reserves were to get depleted and whether or not the Chamber would be able to sustain services if that were to occur. Council directed staff to provide the financial items as discussed and bring back the Chamber of Commerce contract at the next Regular Business Meeting for Council's consideration.

Review Ordinance Increasing Salaries for Non-Union Employees by a Cost of Living Allowance in the Amount of 2% Effective January 1, 2015

Council discussed the proposed salary adjustment for non-union salaried employees in addition to the COLA and reviewed the potential budget impact. Council Member Hamilton stated he would like to see staff get a total of a ten percent increase including the COLA.

Review Ordinances Regarding the Setting of Property Taxes and Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Prosser for Fiscal Year 2015

After reviewing the proposed ordinance, Council directed staff to bring back a one percent property tax and ad valorem tax ordinance for Council's consideration and action at the next regular meeting.

Review Proposed Amendment to the 2014 Budget for the Criminal Justice Fund, Transportation Benefit District Fund (103) and for the Water Fund (403)

Finance Manager Yost explained the proposed budget amendment for the 2014 Budget was related to the Transportation Benefit District Fund 103, Criminal Justice Fund 148 and the Water Fund 403 and discussed the impacts.

September 2014 Quarterly Financial Report

Council commended staff on the detailed information outlined in the report. Finance Director Mauras provided an overview of the report and discussed the highlights throughout. Council inquired about the costs savings related to the transfer of dispatch services with South East Communications (SECOMM). Finance Manager Yost explained without doing an in-depth study and analysis of the impacts, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact dollar amount, however, the cost savings are best recognized in the way the City is able to budget. In years past the revenues and expenditures were difficult to balance and now the City is in a much better financial position.

2015 Budget

Finance Director Mauras reviewed a summary of Council discussion and direction at previous budget workshops and outlined the remaining decision points needed. A *Utility Rate Scenario* handout was provided to Council and there was discussion regarding the various water, sewer, garbage and irrigation rates as presented. After much discussion, Council directed staff to move

forward with Option No. 1 which was water rate increase at 4%, sewer at 4.5%, irrigation at 3% and garbage at a 0% increase.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED

Council Member Everett provided an update on the Prosser Regional Fire Authority.

Mayor Warden stated he and Council Member Ward will be attending the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

Council Member Hamilton stated he would like to see the City outright ban any edible marijuana related products.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Work Session of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:


City Clerk Rachel Shaw

