

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 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 recited.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were City Clerk Shaw, Finance Director Mauras, Police Chief Giles, Public Works Director DaCorsi, and City Attorney Saxton.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (None)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Ward to consider add-on item regarding the purchase of two Police patrol vehicles.

Council Member Everett reminded Council of the upcoming States Day Parade and Carnival.

Council Member Ward reported approximately one hundred twenty five members of the military will be in the States Day Parade carrying banners.

Council Member Taylor mentioned former Council Member Ernie Troemel had passed away.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award

Ian Laseke, Department of Ecology, presented the 2013 "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance" Award to the Public Works Department. Perry Harris, Danny Cavazos and Raul Sanchez from the Wastewater Treatment Plant were present to receive the award. Mr. Laseke stated this is the sixth consecutive year Prosser has won the award.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve Consent Agenda Items "A – K." Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Checks Nos. 600164 through 600166 in the Amount of \$2,173.87 and Direct Deposits in the Amount of \$12,137.98, for the Period Ending August 15, 2014
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 11094 through 11153 and 111555, in the Amount of \$239,748.01 and Electronic Payments in the Amount of \$30,854.64, for the Period Ending August 26, 2014
- c. Approve Payment of Washington Trust Bank Claim Checks No. 1055, in the Amount of \$4,775.76 and Electronic Payments in the Amount of \$250.00, for the Period Ending August 26, 2014
- d. Accept Monthly Report by Prosser Economic Development Association for the Month of July 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
- e. Accept Invoice for Operation of the Visitor Information Center and Reimbursable Tourism and Promotional Expenses for the Month of June, July and August and Authorize Payment for those Services in the Amount of \$19,500.00
- f. Approve July 2014 Financial Statement
- g. Approve Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Invoice Voucher Request No. 6 in the Amount of \$10,462.00 for the Zone 2.5 Water Supply Improvements Project and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents
- h. Approve the USDA Outlay Report and Draw Request No. 34 in an Amount of \$70,280.85 for Costs Associated with the Northwest Prosser Water and Sewer System Improvements (Contract Addendum No. 2) and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Documents
- i. Approve Amendment to Interagency Contract between the City of Prosser and Washington State Department of Revenue Regarding Changes Made by Business Licensing Services and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Contract
- j. Appoint Robin Siemens to the Hotel/Motel Local Tax Advisory and Tourist Promotion (TPA) Committees
- k. Approve the amended April 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes

COUNCIL ACTION

APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIM CHECK NO. 11154 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$123.23, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING AUGUST 26, 2014

Council Member Hamilton recused himself due to a conflict of interest. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve payment of claim check no. 11154 in the amount of \$123.23, for the period ending August 26, 2014. Motion passed 5 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey), 1 ABSENTION (Hamilton).

CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF PROSSER AND HLA, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Everett to approve an agreement for professional services between the City of Prosser and HLA, Inc., for the purpose of providing professional engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

ADD ON ITEM

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Hamilton to adopt Ordinance No.14- 2903 approving a grant agreement between the City of Prosser and USDA for the purchase of two Police patrol vehicles and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion passed 5 YES, 1 NO (Becken), 1 ABSENT (Aubrey).

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Non-Union Salary Pay

Mayor Warden provided Council a memo summarizing the non-union salary study of comparison cities and explained the three options for Council's consideration. Discussion ensued regarding how future budgets could support an on-going salary increase and the details of the recommendation.

Mayor Warden said the proposal is a recommendation to bring four positions the City Clerk, City Planner, Finance Manager and Assistant Finance Manager to an "average" pay-range. Currently all four of those positions fall below the statewide average pay.

Council Member Ward said he would support the increase for the 2015 budget, however could not confirm with any certainty that he would support an increase for future budgets.

Finance Director Mauras stated staff is requesting permission to include the proposal in the 2015 preliminary budget numbers and further explained that by including the proposal that did not commit Council to authorize the increase.

Both Council Members Everett and Elder agreed that increases to pay should be merit or performance based.

Council Member Everett further stated he is not against an increase, but rather how those increases are applied.

Mayor Warden stated the City needs to invest in staff similar to how it would in software or other systems that would create efficiencies. The four individuals are dedicated to the City and the community, they take pride in their work and it is important to recognize them.

Council Member Hamilton inquired if there would need to be a utility rate increase in order to support the pay increase. Finance Director Mauras responded, no.

Council Member Everett agreed and echoed Mayor Warden's comments and added that although the employees are worthy of a pay raise, the Council owes it to every employee to have a sound financial future. He said he'd support a smaller increase and the annual COLA increase but could support the recommended increase.

Council Member Ward stated he was comfortable with the ten-percent increase option.

By a nod of heads Council agreed to allow the staff proposed option of a ten-percent increase equally to each of four positions move forward in the proposed 2015 budget.

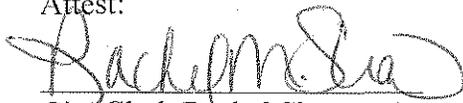
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

