

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, September 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting & Telephone
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Elizabeth Callaghan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Sara Robinson called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Rob Johnson, Diane White, Timothy Pearce, Steve Shepro, Sid Roberts and Judy Williams. The meeting was quorate.

Also present: Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen, Interim Finance Director Wendy Dowhower, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Attorney Brett Vinson, Fire Chief John Cermak, Police Chief Rob Martin, City Administrator Jennifer Ferguson and Deputy Clerk Sara Robinson.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Pearce, second by Councilmember Williams to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Comments –

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the City Council removed the public comment item on the council agendas. This item is now being added back. The public was invited to submit comments via the city website. The public comments were received and have been reviewed by the council prior to this meeting. The name and topic of the comments were read into record during the meeting. The full comment will be attached to the meeting minutes.

The City received three (3) public comment submissions.

Adam Stevens – Addressing Vacant Council Position #3

Dan & Rebecca Lewinski – Addressing Endorsement for A. Guadamuz for Vacant Council Position #3

Tim Schmitt – Addressing Endorsement for D. Robb for Vacant Council Position #3

5. Committee Reports

- a. Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2020

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6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Vouchers and Payroll Checks
- b. Approve August 13, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. Approve August 13, 2020 Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
- d. WSDOT Trail Lease –Stanwood Port Susan Trial Berm Section

Motion by Councilmember Williams, Second by Councilmember Roberts, to approve the Consent Agenda items a thru d. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Old Business

- a. Heritage Park – Contractor Bid Award

Community Development Director, Patricia Love presented the request to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Taylor's Excavators, Inc. to complete the Heritage Park Improvements related to drainage, irrigation and baseball field renovation. The budget for the project was \$1,755,000 but the low bid came in much lower than expected with a bid alternate. Since this happened staff recommends using grass Sod instead of grass seed. This would make the bid amount \$1,523,000. Using grass seed would delay the process meaning that the fields would not be ready for play in the spring of 2021. The difference between the budget and actual bid would also allow for construction management as well as contingency dollars.

Council had a discussion about using grass seed vs. grass sod. It is unknown how the sports seasons will proceed due to COVID 19 as well as many other unknown's.

Council directed staff to do further research in regards to the different grass applications and present again at the next council meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Williams second by Councilmember Johnson to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Taylor's Excavators, Inc. for the Heritage Park Ball Field Renovation Project not to exceed \$1,523,800. (base bid including grass sod) This motion also authorizes the Mayor to approve use of the Construction Management and Contingency Funds to ensure the project is completed per intent of the approved plans.

Councilmember Johnson – Yes, Councilmember White – Yes, Councilmember Pearce – Yes, Councilmember Shepro – No, Councilmember Roberts – Yes, Councilmember Williams – Yes
Motion passes 5 Yes - 1 No

- b. Councilmember Vacancy

- i. Candidate Interviews

The City received applications and letters of interest from Cody Davis, Angela Guadamuz, Marcus Metz, Darren Robb, Larry Sather and Arne Wennerberg.

Each candidate was given up to 5 minutes to address the Council to express why they should be considered for appointment to City Council Position # 3.

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- ii. Executive Session to Evaluate the Qualifications of a Candidate for Appointment to Elective Office RCW 42.30.110 (h)

At 8:15 pm the City Councilmembers went into Executive Session to be approximately 30 minutes.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:50 pm.

- iii. Councilmember Appointment

The first round of votes was taken.

Councilmember Johnson – Larry Sather, Councilmember White – Larry Sather, Councilmember Pearce – Arne Wennerberg, Councilmember Roberts – Darren Robb, Councilmember Shepro – Darren Robb, Councilmember Williams – Larry Sather

Three Votes for Larry Sather

One Vote Arne Wennerberg

Two Votes Darren Robb

Larry Sather and Darren Robb moved forward.

The second round of votes was taken between Larry Sather and Darren Robb.

Councilmember Johnson – Larry Sather, Councilmember White – Larry Sather, Councilmember Pearce – Darren Robb, Councilmember Roberts – Darren Robb, Councilmember Shepro – Darren Robb, Councilmember Williams – Larry Sather.

The vote ended in a tie.

Three votes for Larry Sather

Three for Votes Darren Robb

The tie was broken by Mayor Elizabeth Callaghan who voted for Darren Robb.

Darren Robb was appointed as Councilmember Position #3.

8. New Business

None

9. Citizen Closing Comments – Removed via motion at the 3-26-2020 Meeting

10. Reports of Officers and Committees

a. Mayor's Report –

Mayor Elizabeth Callaghan noted that August 18th was the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave all citizens of the United States the right to vote regardless of race or sex.

b. City Administrator's Report-

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Jennifer Ferguson congratulated new Councilmember Darren Robb for his appointment to City Council this evening.

Bellingham Cold Storage Stanwood will be going into the Twin City Foods Cold Storage buildings. This will bring a lot of jobs to Stanwood.

Small business shout out to Purple Sunset Boutique. This store is located downtown next to the Stanwood Café. They are excited to be moving into a larger space in the same building. There are several new businesses in town including Copper House Coffee which is located by the YMCA and Just James Boutique located across the street from Jimmy's Pizza.

Community Development Director, Patricia Love gave a one minute soundbite. Work on the City Beautification program was presented to the Rotary group this week and was very well received. The City is accepting 2020 Docket applications through the end of the month. These are requests to change the City Comprehensive plan.

Jennifer Ferguson gave the Public Works soundbite. The Public Works team received new uniforms. They look awesome and will help citizens recognize the crews.

Jennifer Ferguson gave the Finance soundbite. The Finance Team revamped their part of the website. They created an easy way to show citizens how to pay their bill with the one click bill payment system.

c. Councilmember Reports and Questions-

Councilmember Johnson asked Fire Chief John Cermak about the September 11 event. Chief Cermak noted that the tribute will be held virtually via Facebook Live. There will be flags etc. and will recognize all who died that day.

Councilmember Roberts wanted to say thank you to all of the candidates that ran for City Council and participated this evening. It takes a lot of strength. Thank you for stepping out of your comfort zone and running. We all encourage you to run again should the opportunity arise.

Councilmember Shepro echoed Councilmember Roberts by saying thank you to all candidates. He commends you all as it is not an easy thing to do. It is very hard to not be chosen. There are other ways to obtain experience and serve the community. Please consider volunteering. Regarding the Heritage Park, Shepro only said no because of the sod vs grass issue.

11. Adjourn

Mayor Callaghan adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

CITY OF STANWOOD

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Callaghan

Elizabeth Callaghan (Dec 4, 2020 08:06 PST)

Elizabeth Callaghan, Mayor

Jennifer Ferguson

Jennifer Ferguson (Dec 4, 2020 08:14 PST)

Jennifer Ferguson, City Clerk