

March 11, 2021

MEETING HELD TELEPHONICALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mayor Steve Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, J. DeGloria, R. DeGloria, Scott Green, Chris Loving and James Stavig. Staff present: Janice Burwash, Geoff Hawes, Leif Johnson, Sandy Kottke, Mike Luvera, Katie Olafson, Marv Pulst, Jim Rabenstein, Joe Stewart, Travis Schwetz, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 Council meeting by **Councilors R. DeGloria/Aslett**. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Chaplin** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of March 11, 2021 in the amount of \$194,103.00 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending February 28, 2021 in the amount of \$507,237.29. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

City Attorney L. Johnson stated that members of the public may submit comments or questions by mail to City Hall at 833 S. Spruce Street, ATTN: Greg Young or by email to badministration@burlingtonwa.gov, as the city still cannot by law, hold in-person meetings.

City Attorney Leif Johnson stated that one public comment had been submitted by Rejuvenation MD Skin Treatment and Wellness Center. The business spoke in opposition of the potential homelessness project on 465 Pease Rd. Rejuvenation MD applauded the efforts to find a solution to the homelessness issue the City faces but believes this issue is far bigger than the City of Burlington can facilitate on its own and questions the potential location of the project and the cost of creating this facility. The business expressed concerns about the location being so close to businesses, residential homes and parks. The business agrees that this is an issue that needs a solution but hopes there are other options. **Councilor James Stavig** said he appreciates hearing feedback concerning this matter and will take all comments into consideration. **Councilor Joe DeGloria** shared that he has had many similar conversations with people throughout the community.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Chris Loving asked for an update on plans for the Berry Dairy Days event this year. **Mayor Sexton** shared a virtual celebration decision had been made by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Bill Aslett shared vaccines are starting to flow into valley and the County has done a great job in getting the word out. **Councilor Aslett** encouraged everyone to help spread the word.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton shared an update from Governor Inslee stated the entire state will move to Phase 3 starting March 22, 2021. **Mayor Sexton** also shared about 21% of Skagit County has received the vaccine and expressed a job well done to the County for getting the word out. **Mayor Sexton** also shared the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should be available by the end of the month.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

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George Sidhu from Skagit PUD gave a special presentation to the Council about new Commissioners and exciting projects happening at the PUD. The PUD is currently working on Phase 2 of the Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon project and will replace 5.3 miles of the main pipeline. **Sidhu** also shared the PUD will begin construction on a new campus in 2022 with a potential completion date in 2023. **Sidhu** shared the PUD will be starting a Micro-Hydro Generation project this spring offering the ability to generate their own power in certain locations. **Councilor Joe DeGloria** shared his enthusiasm for this project. An update about the effects of the pandemic on the PUD was also shared. The PUD has been waiving late fees and are asking cities for any financial assistance they could offer. A discussion was held on ways Burlington could help fund a portion of the balance.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Keith Chaplin updated Council on the Public Safety Committee meeting he attended. A discussion was held about potential openings at the Police and Fire Departments as well as a purchase of new radios for the department. **Councilor Chaplin** also shared there was an additional discussion held about the impacts of the new homelessness project on the Police and Fire Department.

Councilor Keith Chaplin also attended the Parks and Recreation Board meeting and shared a potential location for a new dog park was discussed. A location on Section Street was considered as well as a piece of property owned by the Dike District and The Jack Doyle Park. The Committee also saw examples of potential new signage for the parks from different manufacturers.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

City Administrator Greg Young shared a special Council meeting will be held on March 18, 2021 to discuss in length many aspects of the homelessness project the City of Burlington is taking on.

Interim Parks and Recreation & Library Director Sarah Ward shared her excitement about a partnership with Leadership Skagit to put in a free-standing food pantry at libraries throughout Skagit County including Burlington. **Ward** was also excited to share that field usage for the community opened March 8th. Nine organization had reached out for field usage in the spring and seven of those organization turned in applications and have been approved. The organizations include four softball/baseball organizations, three soccer organization, one youth lacrosse league and one youth football league. **Ward** also shared that the volleyball fields have opened back up and expressed how rewarding it is to be able to offer these services to the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Public Works Director Marv Pulst shared an agreement with Gray & Osborne will produce a bid package (design, specifications, and cost analysis) for roadway improvements on East George Hopper Rd. A federal grant has been awarded for this design work. A second federal grant has been secured for the construction phase which is scheduled to occur in year 2025. The project will provide an additional lane along the north side of George Hopper Road extending between Burlington Blvd and the northbound I-5 entrance ramp with a right turn option into Costco. The additional lane will enable future dual left turn lanes into Costco for eastbound traffic thus relieving backups onto the George Hopper Bridge. Proposals from consultant teams with expertise in roadway design and construction were evaluated in accordance with federal

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procurement rules and Gray & Osborne ranked number one in the selection process. **Councilor Keith Chaplin** spoke in favor of this project but shared in the future he will be looking at how projects solve major safety issues as opposed to just volume. **Councilor Chris Loving** questioned the addition of a new lane and the number of stop lights in a short distance and asked the capacity limit of the Costco parking lot. **Loving** shared he feels this will not solve a safety need and spoke in opposition of this project. **Councilor James Stavig** spoke in opposition of this item being presented to the council for a second time and shared councilmembers should ask questions on items to be sure they are making the best decisions. **Pulst** stated that this item is not about approving the project but rather awarding a bid to a company. **Councilor Scott Green** offered some improvement suggestion that could be made in the future to this project and spoke in favor of this project. **Green** shared his support in this projects ability to offer more traffic flow on George Hopper Road. **Pulst** thanked **Councilor Green** for his comments and suggestions.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/R. DeGloria** to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Grey & Osborne in the amount of \$133,000 for roadway design on East George Hopper Road. **Councilors Chaplin/R.DeGloria/Green** and **Aslett** in favor; **Councilors Stavig/Loving** and **J. DeGloria** opposed. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda

NEW BUSINESS:

Interlocal Cooperative Funding Agreement for Shelter Project with Skagit County

City Administrator Greg Young shared the City of Burlington and Skagit County have drafted an interlocal to allow Skagit County to provide up to \$400,000 in funding for the proposed shelter in Burlington. Skagit County receives funding from various sources that may be used to support what our State Constitution defines as the “poor and infirm”, including shelter projects. The County has agreed to provide a portion of that funding to the shelter project in Burlington, as it is consistent with the goals and Constitutional requirements of that funding source. The interlocal relates to the funding of the capital portion of the shelter only. For example, this funding may be used in order to purchase shelter units, perform electrical installation work or remodel the existing structure on the property, among other uses. This one-time funding opportunity will allow Burlington to be reimbursed for those qualifying expenses that may occur. This funding may not be used for ongoing expenses, such as staffing or monthly utility expenses, for example. As long as Burlington maintains the proposed shelter for at least two years, the contract will be satisfied. If the shelter were to close before then, or not comply with the basic requirements of the interlocal within two years, the County may demand that some or all of the funding must be returned. A discussion was held amongst council about many aspects of this project that still needed answers and a decision to move this item to the next meeting was suggested so many of these questions could be answered before an official vote occurred.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/R. DeGloria** to move this agenda item to the March 18, 2021 City Council Meeting agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for IT, 911 Communications, and GIS Services

City Attorney Leif Johnson shared Skagit County provides a number of technology services to the City of Burlington through an interlocal agreement, including IT, 911 communications, and GIS. The existing contract has expired and must be renewed in order for the City to continue receiving services from Skagit County. **L. Johnson** stated

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that discussion on this item is still on going and is not ready to be voted on but will be brought back at a future meeting. **L. Johnson** asked for a motion to strike this item from the agenda for the time being.

A motion was made by **Councilors Stavig/Aslett** to strike this item from the agenda and to be brought back at a future meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

Portable Radio Replacement

Police Commander Eddie Rogge shared over the last couple of budget cycles, the Police Department been phasing the replacement of our law enforcement radios. Skagit County emergency services is transitioning to a digital signal for 911 emergency communications. In preparation for this change, the department has been replacing older radios. The department has reduced the amount budgeted for radios in 2020 due to potential city wide budget issues which in return set the department back in the replacement cycle. The ability to communicate quickly and effectively is essential not only for the services offered but for the safety of those that provide the service. The current 911 dispatch system requires compatible equipment which this request meets in a “budget friendly” manner. There is not an effective alternative. **Councilor James Stavig** thanked **Rogge** for a great presentation.

A motion was made by **Councilor Chaplin/Green** to approve the purchase of the radios as quoted by Motorola Solutions. All in favor; motion carried.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Joe Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor