

April 14, 2022

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, Joe DeGloria, Rick DeGloria, Scott Green, James Stavig and Jamie Weiss. Staff present: Janice Burwash, Don Erickson, Geoff Hawes, Leif Johnson, Sandra Kottke, Mike Luvera, Kristen Morrison, Marv Pulst, Jim Rabenstein, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, Robert Toth, Sarah Ward and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Bill Aslett/Rick DeGloria** to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 City Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Green presented City finances; more notable expenses include approximately \$10K for a large paint order, \$5.5K for the library truss repair, and \$161K for the Oak Street Project which is covered by TIB funds, \$10K for new park signs, \$5K for the Police Department fence, and \$27K for the Whitmarsh Road repairs.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/J. DeGloria** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of April 14, 2022 in the amount of \$562,316.94 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending March 31, 2022 in the amount of \$578,512.04.

Councilor James Stavig concluded the conversation of expenses with questions about the source of funding for the tourism promo and the \$30K First Steps expense.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was one resident of the City of Burlington and First Steps Center who spoke at the Council Meeting. The resident advocated for life skills workshops to be offered at the First Steps Center and for more communication between upper management and residents, specifically pertaining to residents of the Center having the opportunity for feedback on the program and its services.

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. Contact information for all the City Departments is available at www.burlingtonwa.gov.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Keith Chaplin thanked **City Administrator Young** for the new addition of an Administrator's Report in the Council Packets.

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Councilor Stavig reported that some Council members followed up with the Burlington Residents that spoke at the March 24th meeting.

Councilor Joe DeGloria thanked City employees for the repair of the telephone pole he mentioned at the previous Council Meeting. **Councilor J. DeGloria** requested Item #2 from the Consent Agenda be added to the list of New Business for extended discussion. It was decided that **Marv Pulst** would provide updates on the topic of Poplar Trees in his Officer's Report.

Councilor Bill Aslett was recovering from Covid-19 and urged continued caution concerning the virus.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton nominated **Marv Pulst**, the Director of Public Works, to present the Wastewater Treatment team the Outstanding Performance Award from the Department of Ecology. This is the 8th year in a row **Don Erikson** and his team have received this recognition. **Sewer Department Supervisor Don Erikson** thanked his crew for taking care of the plant every single day of the year and presented the 7 employees in attendance, 4 additional staff not present, and their valuable experience and years served with the City of Burlington.

PRESENTATION:

No Presentation.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Bill Aslett reported on the Public Committee Safety meeting with Chief Luvera and Chief Toth wherein topics covered include building community to disband a neighborhood drug house; supply chain issues delayed the replacement ambulance delivery, and PD updates on vacancies and retention.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Director of Public Works Marv Pulst provided an overview of the Poplar tree history pertaining to **Councilor J.DeGloria's** request. Discussion was had wherein ivy growing on the trees and the proximity to residents and LU School were the main points. A possible solution was proposed to inquire about sharing tree removal costs with the Burlington-Edison School District. Marv Pulst continued his presentation with a detailed report on applications for the RAISE-22 grant, Skagit Economic Development grant, the WSDOT Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian & Bike grants.

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The report included images and updates of the George Hopper & Whitmarsh Road improvements, library beam support implementation, PD fence installation, and Senior Center improvement projects. **Councilor Stavig** asked about light pole grants, of which **Marv Pulst** has two applications underway.

City Administrator Greg Young noted the City sales tax graphs were in line with projections, and updated Council briefly on the Fire Hall schematics and dog park outline.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were 5 items on the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by **Councilors Joe DeGloria/James Stavig** to move Item #2, Authorization to apply for RCO Grant - Inclusive Playground, to New Business for further discussion. Six in favor, Councilor Weiss opposed; motion carried. **Councilor Stavig** shared his dislike of the Consent Agenda. **Councilors Green** and **Stavig** had procedural questions on how to move an item to New Business, what session the item would be discussed, and whether the process requires a motion or a second. **City Attorney Leif Johnson** advised using the gold standard of processes for Council to make a motion and follow with a vote.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve the remaining 4 Consent Agenda Items: NORA Lease Agreement; Resolution to Declare Certain Property as Surplus; Revision to Council Rules of Procedure Allowance for Remote Attendance; and Agreement with Washington State Patrol for Mutual Aid; and to authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. All in favor; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion - Elected Official Salary Commission

City Administrator Greg Young presented the idea of forming a Salary Commission in response to previous discussions held by Council. **Councilor Stavig** had concerns about any increase in taxes to fund increases in Councilmembers stipends. **Councilor Green** observed a Salary Commission for Council compensation is fair. **Mayor Sexton** is a proponent of Salary Commissions as it gives the residents of a city to have an input on the Council salaries, there could even be opportunities for the salary to be put on the ballot for a vote.

No action was taken by Council.

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Bid Award - Dog Park Fencing

City Administrator Greg Young reported on the bid selected for the dog park fencing package. Additionally, there was a neighborhood meeting held seeking dog park design input; despite low attendance valuable information was collected. Councilor Stavig likes that a Burlington company was selected for the bid.

Councilors Chaplin/Green made a motion to award a bid to Guyline Fence Company for a fence at the dog park. 6 in favor, Councilor J. DeGloria opposed; motion carried.

Preferred Financing Option for Fire Hall Renovations

City Administrator Greg Young outlined different financing options for the Fire Hall remodel previously presented such as long-term bank financing and alternatives like: a voted bond issue, federal infrastructure grant, using REET monies, or a combination of these. An in depth discussion was held wherein **Councilor Chaplin** inquired about the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and **Councilor Aslett** found alternative funding options like grants appealing. A concern expressed by several Councilmembers was the importance of the Fire Hall upgrade for Public Safety and the impacts if it was not passed on the ballot by the public. Council would need to have materials prepared by August to be added to the ballot, this topic was brought to Council for discussion to have time for consideration. **Councilor Aslett** requested City Staff to put together some examples of varied project funding proposals for Council to consider and appreciated the early approach of this conversation. **City Administrator Greg Young** made a note to add another discussion to the Council Agenda in approximately 60 days for which **Joe Stewart** will mock up more specific financing solutions.

No action was taken by Council. Discussion was tabled for a future Council Meeting.

Accept a Donation to the BE Soccer Player Scholarship Fund and Rename it to the Nick Nickelson Youth Soccer Player Scholarship

Councilor Chaplin personally experienced this Scholarship with players on his Soccer team benefiting from the fund. Councilor Aslett likes the personalization for it being named in honor of someone.

Councilors R. DeGloria/Aslett moved to approve the acceptance of the memorial funds donated on behalf of Nick Nickeson to the youth player scholarship fund and rename it to the Nick Nickelson Youth Soccer Player Scholarship Fund. All in favor; motion carried.

Authorization to apply for RCO Grant - Inclusive Playground

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City Administrator Greg Young introduced an RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) grant that would fund an inclusive playground. The initial May 3rd deadline requires an authorization form from Council to proceed with the application. The grant could award upwards of a \$650K project resulting from a \$500K grant combined with \$150K City match.

Councilors Chaplin/Weiss moved to adopt the RCO Authorization form to allow for the submittal of the grant application. All in favor; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Joseph Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor