

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

April 27, 2023

Mayor Steve Sexton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present: Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, Anna Chotzen, Joe DeGloria, Scott Green, James Stavig, and Jamie Weiss. Staff present: Jenny Cole, Leif Johnson, Mike Luvera, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, Rob Toth, and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve the April 13, 2023 minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Scott Green updated Council regarding the Audit & Finance meeting with no real expenses of note.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of April 27, 2023, in the amount of \$312,859.72 and March 2023 Electronic AP in the amount of \$39,013.19 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending April 15, 2023 in the amount of \$793,706.53. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments.

Written comment materials were printed for Council.

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.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton updated Council on an upcoming North Star Project dinner scheduled for June 13th. The City of Burlington received a message from state representatives that there will be \$240K of funds provided for the First Steps Center per year from 2024-2025. The Mayor announced that Shelley Acero had retired from the Legal Department with over 24 years of employment with the City of Burlington.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Keith Chaplin shared that he participated on two ride-alongs, one with the Burlington PD and the other with the Meals on Wheels program and got a picture with the Street Sweeper who was cleaning up his neighborhood. **Councilor Joe DeGloria** also had a ride-along with the

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Police Department and thanked the Chief and Officers for their brave work in the community. **Councilor Bill Aslett** gave his appreciation for the Streets Department crew that covered graffiti with fresh paint by the railroad tracks.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Keith Chaplin gave a report from the Public Works meeting with an updated City website underway, pickleball courts continuing to be built, water right & SEPA updates, and newly hired employees to the Streets and Facility Maintenance departments.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

City Attorney Leif Johnson briefly commented on a previous Council Meeting Agenda Item that had been postponed regarding a legislative measure about the Blake decision, due to the newly proposed legislation having failed to pass, and the current legislation scheduled to sunset in July, Council should expect to see a new Agenda Item sometime in June for further discussion to address the City of Burlington's needs. **Library and Parks Director Sarah Ward** shared with Council the anticipated full funding of an ROC grant for the library which would be confirmed in the coming months. **Fire Chief Rob Toth** presented a Fire Station construction update with Phase 1 complete and Phase 2 underway. The presentation included a detailed description and images of the Phase 2 demolition work done including underground plumbing & concrete work, new walls up, some areas with sheetrock and paint, and new slabs for the HVAC systems. **Chief Toth** invited Council for a tour of the Station once the construction was a bit further along. **City Administrator Greg Young** announced that in the coming week an advertisement for the Arts Commission application would run, with the findings presented to Council for review.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PRESENTATION:

Carnegie Center

Margie Wilson shared with Council a detailed presentation of the Carnegie Library with the hope of relaying a clear plan of action for the City Council. The presentation included the building history, structural information, and examples of other restored Carnegie Libraries. The future vision of the Center would include occupants ranging from the Burlington Historical Society to B-EHS Music & Arts students, to the Burlington Arts Commission and the City of Burlington overseeing the management of the building and its public gathering spaces. The presentation listed strengths of the project to include grant funding opportunities, federal tax

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credits, community interest in the project, and a history of CoB completing large capital community projects and buildings. In closing **Wilson** urged the Burlington City Council to support the Carnegie Center Adaptive Reuse project and ignite the revitalization of Burlington's downtown.

2022 Year in Review – Recreation Department, Festivals & Library

Library and Parks Director, Sarah Ward, provided Council with a year in review overview starting with a presentation from **Assistant Library Director Jenny Cole** about the Library wherein some data, programs, and events were shared with some specifics being the Touch-a-Truck event, a newly introduced Family Fun Night, a Community Garden and Seed Library. Upcoming goals for the library are to engage in more partnerships, launch the summer reading program & STEAM mobile, and continue to add “things” for check out like metal detectors or jewelry making kits, to increase bilingual outreach and resources, and continue to create a sense of belonging for the community. **Shelley Johnstone, Kati Klerekoper and Christi Kinney** from the Parks and Rec Department updated Council on Recreation/Festivals/Community Events expanding on the Burlington “hub city” nickname with collected statistics from the department, sharing and explaining the Sponsorship Packet to Council, listing the upcoming City events planned, sharing some department wins like the first ever sponsorships received for the Veteran's Day Parade and available funds in the Youth Soccer Scholarship program, and a relaunch of the BE 5th/6th grade Basketball leagues. In 2023 the Parks & Rec department goals include: the implementation of new programming, retention of staff, build attendance and volunteer involvement, and to grow community participation, the sports leagues & the email listserv.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Street Closure Requested for the Berry Dairy Days Festival, June 16-18, 2023

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/DeGloria** to approve the street closures as requested for the 2023 Berry Dairy Days events and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Comprehensive Plan Update – Final Adoption & Discussion of Code Changes

City Administrator Greg Young introduced the second public hearing for the Comp Plan. The Comp Plan will return to Council for a final review at the next Council Meeting. **Mayor Sexton** opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m. Anna Nelson from Landed Gentry commented that their

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comments had been submitted and thanked the Planning Commission for listening to the Landed Gentry input and City of Burlington staff for integrating their suggestions and commended the City on a great experience of the revision process.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green**. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Chaplin shared appreciation for the inclusion of included emails re: Burlington Hill development and preservation efforts to include some sort of park. **Councilor Chotzen** was curious about the Environmental Heritage Protection Program, for example conservation easements, and how those might be regulated.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION:

Authorization for Advertisement – Maiben Park Redevelopment Master Plan

City Administrator Greg Young opened the discussion for the Maiben Park redevelopment plan by sharing the Park Board’s desire to add a natural playground. Council was invited to approve the project to go out for Advertisement if desired. **Councilor DeGloria** had reservations about the whole proposal having seen numerous Maiben Park Master Plans done historically and inquiring about in-house CoB engineers taking on the project instead of an outside contractor. **Young** responded that the project bid would not be for a complete re-do of the master plan but with the new addition of pickleball courts and a natural playground. **Councilor Chotzen** and **Weiss**, who sit on the Parks Advisory Board, clarified that the intent of a Master Plan redevelopment was to find specialists to design a natural playground design to incorporate into plans already created. After additional discussion, there was some suggested wording alterations from Council in order to better explain the scope of work desired. Brief additional dialogue subjects included Boerner Park and if Maiben Park would benefit from more public parking spaces or not.

2022 Non-Represented Employee Wage Grid Study Results

City Administrator Greg Young started the dialogue around a non-represented wage grid review that was conducted by McGrath consulting highlighting some of the points from several pages of data and explained the process included in the Council Agenda Packets. For example, Step 8 of the 10-step grid was considered “market rate” and with few City employees at a step 8 of the grid there pay would still be considered below market rate. The 10-step wage grid was adopted in 2019 with a proposed 3-year review which was approved by Council in 2022. There was a long discussion of this Agenda Item with council and staff. **Councilor Stavig** commented on the lack

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of employee benefits included in the salaries and brought up poverty in Burlington and asked to see total cost of the positions (including benefits). **Councilor Aslett** observed that the wage grid was compared to other Cities pay rates and not the private sector and the value of paying similar wages in similar sectors. **Councilors Stavig** and **DeGloria** requested the salary data from the compared cities in the report wanting to see the wages from other cities. **DeGloria** also asked for a 4-year history of wage step increases. **Councilor Chotzen** observed that many Burlington constituents may not make the same salaries noted on the salary wage grid but that their positions might not include the same level of leadership responsibilities either and encouraged Council to equate quality staff to quality services. **Councilor Weiss** encouraged Council to consider it a discussion of the positions, not the people currently in those positions, also sharing the value of retention and for salaries to reflect that value. **Councilors Green and Chaplin** noted that some positions were covering two jobs that had originally been hired for one, and to reward those positions with raises. The discussion will be continued at the next Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Joseph Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor