

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

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June 9, 2022

**Mayor Steve Sexton** called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, Rick DeGloria, Scott Green, James Stavig and Jamie Weiss. Absent: Joe DeGloria (excused). Staff present: Jenny Cole, Brian Dempsey, Don Erikson, Geoff Hawes, Leif Johnson, Mike Luvera, Marv Pulst, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, and Robert Toth.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Scott Green/R. DeGloria** to excuse councilor **Joe DeGloria** from the June 9, 2022 City Council Meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by **Councilors Bill Aslett/Rick DeGloria** to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 City Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

**AUDIT OF BILLS:**

**Councilor Green** presented City expenses with only a few figures of note including a Utility Billing Refund, and expenses of \$58K for Grey & Osborne and \$85K for the PD Fence.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Keith Chaplin** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of June 9th, 2022 in the amount of \$292,821.31; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending May 31st, 2022 in the amount of \$621,174.82.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were submitted.

**City Attorney Leif 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](mailto:badministration@burlingtonwa.gov). Contact information for all the City Departments is available at [www.burlingtonwa.gov](http://www.burlingtonwa.gov).

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Chaplin** encouraged everyone to continue taking Covid-19 precautions such as wearing a mask or getting vaccinated with cases continuing to circulate throughout the community and announced that there is a new community garden across the street from the Library.

June 9, 2022

**Councilor Aslett** complimented the sidewalk work on Fairhaven with the form and red cement and thanked the Streets Crew for this aesthetic improvement.

**MAYOR'S UPDATE:**

No Mayor Update.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Cate Anderson, Executive Director for The Children's Museum of Skagit County**, presented Council with an overview of the Museum events and partnerships. Since the outset of the Pandemic they have partnered with organizations like the Diaper Bank and WIC to broaden the reach of social services in the community. The Children's Museum has also worked closely with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group on a Salmon Day event and ongoing conservation education. Other successful events include: Skagit Kid's Reading Week and Winter Wonderland.

**Assistant Public Works Director, Brian Dempsey**, provided a BNSF Quiet Zone Research Update to Council with several questions from Council. Some topics addressed were the impact of median blocks on local businesses, the costs associated with implementing a Quiet Zone, the number of gates and barricades required to meet Quiet Zone requirements, and Liability of the City in the event of an accident. **Mayor Sexton** commented that based on his research if a City implements a Quiet Zone then they also assume some responsibility for accidents and he requested for **Brian Dempsey** to contact the City of Monroe for an update on their Quiet Zone process.

**PROCLAMATION:**

No Proclamation.

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:**

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**Public Works Director Marv Pulst** updated Councilmembers on several projects including: road construction near the Costco intersection, pavement overlays, a Bike/Pedestrian Program Grant to help revitalize downtown, and a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant. **Councilor Stavig** inquired on the submittal and design process for the Bike/Pedestrian grant that would include changes from diagonal to parallel parking along Fairhaven Ave. **Councilor Stavig** also asked about the \$700K match required for the SRTS Grant, which **Marv Pulst** confirmed was part of a Federal Block Grant funding received for use in 2024 and earmarked for design costs. **Councilors Green**

June 9, 2022

**and Chaplin** discussed the options available for changes in the SRTS Grant process considering the proximity of some houses to State Route 20 and the impacts of road alterations.

**IT Manager Geoff Hawes** addressed some of the recent glitches in the Council Chamber Tech with an explanation of challenges in combining different types of technology as done with the combination of analogue and digital systems to offer Zoom. Therefore, the IT Department will provide Council with a proposal for new equipment in the near future. **Geoff Hawes** then walked Council through a series of Darktrace software data that the City of Burlington had collected during the approved trial period. Topics and questions discussed were the forward fighting ability of the Darktrace software, the frequency and management of network alerts, duration of trial period. **Councilmember Chaplin** attended the previous meeting remote and looks forward to seeing the proposal for Council Chamber tech improvements.

**Finance Director Joe Stewart**, reported on the cumulative financial data collected through May 2022, stating that the City is down a little bit on Sales Tax revenue and he will closely observe the figures. The economy is seeing impacts like inflation, rising cost of fuel, and international conflicts that are possible contributors to this downturn.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Results of Fairhaven Mural Call to Artists**

This Agenda Item had been postponed from a previous Council meeting to allow for the City to meet their procurement process guidelines. The City published a “Call to Artists” in the paper and on Social Media sites and contacted the Skagit Artist’s cooperative. Two local artists showed interest but did not submit proposals. Council had an in-depth discussion with lots of expressed support of the project but concerns over the quick “Mural Speed” of the project. There was an emphasis on the creation of an Art’s Council for the City of Burlington to be responsible for facilitating future art projects.

**Councilor Weiss/R. DeGloria** made a motion to award the mural contract totaling \$22,400 to artist Christen Mattix and authorize the Mayor to sign the Mural Agreement. 3 in favor; **Chaplin, Aslett** and **Green** opposed. Motion Failed.

Thus, in the absence of **City Administrator Greg Young** and with the short project bid proposal timeline, Council determined to revisit this topic at a future council meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

June 9, 2022

There was 1 item on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Chaplin** to approve the Consent Agenda Item: Street Closure Requests for the Burlington Library's 2022 Touch-a-Truck Event; and to authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. All in favor; motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Purchase New Ambulance**

**Chief Rob Toth** had overviewed some of the details of this purchase in an earlier Workshop held with Council on June 9, 2022. This purchase was scheduled for 2021 but delays resulted from Covid-19 impacts. **Councilor Weiss** inquired over the decision behind gas or diesel engine and corresponding data for the gas vehicle purchase. It was noted by both **Chief Toth** and **Councilor Green** that the cost of diesel repairs is much higher. **Councilor Weiss** was interested in the details and specifications of the cooperative agreement; there is some flexibility of make & model of vehicles purchased.

**Councilors Chaplin/Green** made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2023 Braun North Star Ambulance and associated equipment, and authorize the Mayor to sign the inter-local and purchase agreements. All in favor; motion carried.

**Revised 911 Inter-local Agreement**

**Mayor Sexton** presented this topic to Council; thereafter a lengthy discussion was held. **Councilor's Chaplin** and **Mayor Sexton** had reservations about the details presented on how tax revenues would be spent for 911 services, they wanted to see a more developed case before seeking funding. **Mayor Sexton** recommends the request for funding to be the last action taken in the order of events. **Councilor's Weiss** and **Stavig** were in support of approving the Agreement in order to allow the public to vote. **Councilor Green** and **Aslett** asked many questions and were cautious to rush to a decision. It was noted that both the La Conner and Sedro Woolley City Councils had approved the inter-local agreement. Councilmembers debated the impacts of an increase in sales tax and the effects on sales/tax revenue in Burlington. Council requested the input of **Chief Toth** and **Chief Luvera** whom both spoke of their support of 911 Dispatch operations but wanted to evaluate a more detailed action plan prior to requesting funding from voters.

June 9, 2022

**Councilor Chaplin/Aslett** moved to reject the amended inter-local agreement with Skagit County 911. **Councilors R. DeGloria** and **Green** in favor; **Councilors Stavig** and **Weiss** opposed. Motion carried.

**Sewer: 2022 Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project**

**Sewer Supervisor Don Erickson**, proposed the approval of a Contract Agreement with SRV Construction Inc. Only one bid was received for the project and it was reviewed by City Staff and fit's within the appropriate budget parameters. **Travis Schwetz** of the Streets Department has worked with SRV and confirmed they are a reputable contractor.

**Councilors Stavig/Green** moved to approve the Agreement with SRV Construction Inc. and authorize the Mayor's signature. All in favor; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION:**

No Discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mayor Sexton** adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

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Joseph Stewart  
Finance Director

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Steve Sexton  
Mayor