

July 27, 2023

Mayor Steve Sexton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Councilmembers present:** Bill Aslett, Anna Chotzen, Scott Green, James Stavig, and Jamie Weiss. **Staff present:** Brian Dempsey, Don Erickson, Leif Johnson, Marv Pulst, Travis Schwetz, Sarah Ward, and Greg Young.

A motion was made to excuse **Councilor Keith Chaplin** and **Councilor Joe DeGloria** from the July 27, 2023 Burlington City Council Meeting by **Councilmembers Aslett/Chotzen**. All in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green** to approve the July 27, 2023 minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Scott Green updated Council on the Audit & Finance meeting. Expenses of note include: \$95K to Tiger Construction for the Fire Hall Remodel, \$41K for a new Land Pride Mower, and \$53K for a new boiler plus instillation.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of July 27, 2023, in the amount of \$471,270.03; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending July 15, 2023 in the amount of \$815,251.71. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Community member Wade Lance spoke to Council on behalf of Burlington citizens advocating for a more bikeable and walkable city; updating Council about a group of constituents that have met with Public Works Director Marv Pulst and WAsDOT in conjunction with Skagit bus systems. Further discussion with Council included identifying possible routes, the safety of identified bike routes, and some possible problem areas or “pinch points” throughout the City.

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 shared with Council that a meeting between City of Burlington and Mount Vernon and BNSF representatives had occurred wherein discussion revolved around the Skagit River Railroad Bridge Crossing and possible grant funding.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Jamie Weiss mentioned a SCOG report that had been shared with other Councilmembers via email that listed the number of active rail crossings in Burlington.

Councilor Anna Chotzen requested an Arts Commission update, specifically the details of how it was advertised and if any applications had been collected. **Chotzen** recounted a meeting with three representatives interested in the Carnegie Library building. **Chotzen** asked for Council feedback specifically if hiring a specialized facilitator to conduct a community feedback session would be of interest. There were some suggestions for alternative stewards to the building such as a Chamber of Commerce or private foundation rather than the City of Burlington. **City Administrator Greg Young** shared with Council that the current occupants of the old Carnegie Library building planned to vacate the building by the end of 2023.

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COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor James Stavig gave a Public Works recap from the meeting agenda which covered the E-W connector road, Sage Homes construction, the Bike Shop rebuild, Skagit St/Hwy 20 stoplight and the Tammi Wilson Trail updates. **Stavig** requested the agendas of all Committees and Boards be emailed to Councilmembers.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Public Works Director Marv Pulst provided updates to Council regarding the Pease Road Path and Tammi Wilson Path to be completed by November, and the E-W Connector Road bid report. **Sewer Supervisor Don Erickson** reviewed a map of a project underway near the Port of Skagit to expand a wastewater facility that would then be given to the City of Burlington to manage. The project would be funded and built by the Port at a value of \$3.5 – \$4 million according to CoB specs.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PRESENTATION:

No Presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA:

No Consent Agenda Items.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION:

No Introduction Items.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mayor Sexton highlighted Walk-On Agenda Item materials that had been brought to the meeting and asked Council to consider reviewing the proposed item.

Councilors Aslett/Weiss made a motion to add the Agreement with M&M Landscape Architecture for Maiben Park Conceptual Design to the Council Meeting Agenda as Action Item #5. All in favor; motion carried.

Amendment of BMC Ch. 2.60

City Attorney Leif Johnson updated Council of Finance Department advised City Code changes that would reflect up-to-date bank institution names. Some explanation from **City Administrator Young** and **Mayor Sexton** followed to expand on the City's processes for investments versus day-to-day banking practices and the bidding process for selecting the City's primary bank.

Councilors Green/Stavig made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance amending the Burlington Municipal Code, Chapter 2.60, and authorize the Mayor's signature. All in favor; motion carried.

Appointments to the 2024 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

City Administrator Greg Young presented a letter of interest for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to Council for approval. There was some question to the make up of the Committee and **City Attorney Leif Johnson** informed Council that it was comprised of 10 total members, 7 voting and 3 non-voting, all positions having no term limits.

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Councilors Stavig/Chotzen made a motion to confirm the appointment of Jeff Bae to the position of Business Representative on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee effective July 27, 2023. All in favor; motion carried.

Bid and Contract Award – Monroe St. Sidewalks

Public Works Director Marv Pulst updated Council on sidewalk maintenance and repairs and subsequent \$25K of grant funding that contributed to the overall project budget. The project bid amounted to \$94K with additional labor provided by the Streets Department team.

Councilors Chotzen/Aslett made a motion to award the bid and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with WRS for Monroe Street Sidewalk projects. All in favor; motion carried.

Franchise with Waste Management for Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Public Works Director Marv Pulst shared a presentation with Council that documented rates in the City of Burlington’s franchise agreement with WM compared to other rates in the area. Pulst shared that the 10-year franchise agreement was due to expire in August and the newly negotiated contract was based on National water/trash CPI rates and in accordance with the State Transportation and Utilities Commission (UTC). Some discussion was had by Council wherein the senior discounts were appreciated, there was interest in new trash collection bins, and questions about the term renewals options and timeline of the contract renewal were asked as well as inquiry of alternative options. Both **Mayor Sexton** and **Pulst** explained that the two options available to the City were a) to provide a City of Burlington run trash collection service or b) to outsource with Waste Management.

Councilors Green/Aslett made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the renewed franchise agreements with Waste Management. All in favor; motion carried.

Agreement with M&M Landscape Architecture for Maiben Park Conceptual Design

Public Works Director Marv Pulst refreshed Council on the RFQ for Landscape Architects for the Maiben Park Conceptual Design which had several submissions and was awarded to the M&M Landscape Architecture firm. **City Administrator Young** and **Director Pulst** worked with the firm to develop a scope of work and settle on a proposal for \$22K which remained in alignment with the original engineers estimate.

Councilors Chotzen/Aslett made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with M&M Landscape Architecture for no more than \$23K for a Maiben Park conceptual design. All in favor; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Joseph Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor