

October 12, 2023

Mayor Steve Sexton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:06 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:** Leif Johnson, Mike Luvera, Kristen Morrison, Marv Pulst, Travis Schwetz, Steve Riggs, Joe Stewart, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green** to approve the September 28, 2023 minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Scott Green updated Council on the Audit & Finance meeting wherein the City expenses were reviewed some budget items of note including: \$164K to for the Sewer Replacement Project and \$326K to Tiger Construction for the Fire Department Renovation Expenses.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of October 12, 2023, in the amount of \$776,474.83; September 2023 Electronic AP in the amount of \$31,527.55; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending September 30, 2023 in the amount of \$664,292.20. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments.

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:

No Mayor's Update.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Chaplin encouraged all citizens to register to vote.

Councilor Stavig shared a recap of his experience with the Public Disclosure Commission and recommended the deadlines be added to City calendars.

Councilor Aslett shared about a drive through the Burlington Industrial area in which observation most buildings appeared occupied.

Councilor DeGloria had requested an update on graffiti in the City.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

The Public Safety Committee meeting was cancelled.

Councilor Jamie Weiss gave a Parks Board meeting update wherein the primary focus of the meeting was Maiben Park with some conversation about the Master Plan, timeline & workload challenges, and Pickelball Court locations re-considerations. A joint City Council plus Parks Board was proposed for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

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Public Works Director Marv Pulst shared with Council an 2022 Outstanding Performance Award that the Wastewater Treatment Plant received from the Department of Ecology. Sewer Supervisor introduced some of the department in attendance: Sidney Lease, Greg Ackerman, Aaron Johnson, and Tobias Dishong and shared the role of those staff members at the sewer plant. Next, **Pulst** revisited the topic of graffiti and along with some Staff and Councilmembers a large amount of information and history about graffiti management was discussed including how incidents are discovered and reported, who manages the clean-up, relations to potential gang activity, and possible deterrents.

Parks and Recreation & Library Director Sarah Ward shared an update with metrics from the B'town Fall Fest with over 5K attendees to the event over 2 days. **Ward** announced that Parks & Rec is still looking for basketball referees and to contact the department if interested in a Veteran's Day Parade ride along.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PRESENTATION:

No Presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Request by St. Charles Church to hold their annual Our Lady Guadalupe procession on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 11:30am from Maiben Park to Peterson Road

Councilors Chotzen/DeGloria made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents.

PUBLIC HEARING:**Public Hearing on 2024 Property Tax**

Finance Director Joe Stewart introduced the materials in the Council Agenda Packets related to the 2024 Budget and shared that per Washington State law three public hearings were required for the consideration of any potential tax increases. **Stewart** built in a 1% tax increase model to the 2024 budget based on 2023 input from some Councilmembers. **Mayor Sexton** added that the proposed 2024 budget is balanced without a possible tax increase.

Mayor Steve Sexton opened the Public Hearing at 7:51 p.m. No Public Comments. **Councilors DeGloria/Green** moved to close the Public Hearing. All in favor; motion carried.

A discussion about taxes followed with input from both Councilors and staff wherein there was differing opinions on a 1% tax increase and there was some historical data on tax increases in the City of Burlington shared. **Councilor Aslett** thanked Stewart for including historical data for reference and **Councilor Chotzen** requested a possible document that correlated any voted tax increases to changes in services the City provides. There was further discussion on the process of budget development.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION:**Mobil Integrated Health Provider Program: AKA "Community Paramedic"**

Fire Chief Rob Toth presented to Council the potential for a grant funding through a pilot program with Peacehealth and Northsound ACH for a Community Paramedic position that would be situated within the Burlington Fire Department. **Division Chief of EMS Dan Laine**

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expanded on the history of the program and studied benefits of this position on a community's Public Health resources. Council and City Staff continued to conversation wherein specific scenarios were described, there were inquiries about other resources a new position might require such as a department vehicle, funding was questioned, their was further development on the relationship between Law Enforcement and the Community Paramedic position, and the future possibilities of the program for Skagit County were discussed.

Councilors Green/Aslett made a motion to move Discussion Item #2 to #1 on the Action Items Agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mobil Integrated Health Provider Program: AKA "Community Paramedic"

Councilors Stavig/Chaplin made a motion to accept the recommendation to support the MIHP program and move forward with a written letter of support, whereupon a preference for bi-lingual qualifications is added to the Community Paramedic Job Description. **Councilor Aslett** recused himself from the vote. All in favor; motion carried.

Fire Hall Construction Interfund Loan Resolution

City Administrator Greg Young introduced the detailed documents in the Council Agenda packets regarding loans and terms available to the City of Burlington for the Fire Hall Construction along with other scenarios of the funds should they be utilized in long-term investments. Council held a discussion about interest rates, fixed or not fixed loans, and the dividends from an investment fund among other topics.

Councilors Chaplin/Stavig made a motion to approve the Interfund Loan Resolution with a repayment term of 20 years. All in favor; motion carried.

Bid and Contract Award for Skagit Cycle Center Building – East-West Connector Arterial Rd

Public Works Director Marv Pulst presented materials pertaining to the rebuild of the Skagit Cycle Center for their approval. The main questions were about the start date of the rebuild and TBI grant funding.

Councilors Chaplin/Green made a motion to award the bid and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Trico Companies to reconstruct the Skagit Cycle Center. All in favor; motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Leif Johnson recited the following: pursuant to RCW 42.30.140, a closed session will be held regarding the planning or adopting of the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. This topic is OPMA exempt pursuant to RCW 42.30.

L. Johnson stated that the closed session would last approximately 30 minutes, extended as necessary, and that there would be an action expected at the conclusion of the session. There was a 5-minute pause and the closed session began at 9:15 p.m. **City Attorney Johnson** called for additional time at 9:45 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Session adjourned at 10:06 p.m. **Johnson** reported that no action was expected at that time.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.



Joseph Stewart
Finance Director



Steve Sexton
Mayor