

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

October 26, 2023

Mayor Steve Sexton called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:59 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:** Kelly Blaine, Jenny Cole, Leif Johnson, Brad Johnson, Mike Luvera, Jim Rabenstein, Steve Riggs, Joe Stewart, Travis Schwetz, Kyle Spevacek, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve the October 12, 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. Budget items of note include: \$29K for Fertilizer Treatment, \$54K for a Wastewater Treatment Pump, and \$14K for Skagit Street Signal Design.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of October 26, 2023, in the amount of \$331,442.52; October Business License Refunds in the amount of \$50.00; October Utility Billing Refunds in the amount of \$574.00; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending October 26, 2023 in the amount of \$809,922.22. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

City Attorney Leif Johnson welcomed members of the public to speak and stated topics that were allowed or not for discussion at a City Council meeting. Any general City business issues could be discussed whereas any direct support or opposition to ballot measures or candidates cannot be held during City Council meetings. There were two comments made by the public. Burlington City resident, James Sands, shared about a feral cat nuisance and observed that there were no Ordinances against cats in the Burlington City Code. Burlington City resident, Janice Burwash, had a few questions for Council about taxes and interlocal agreements and what positions in the governing body were responsible for approval of those topics.

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 Steve Sexton updated Council on the receipt of 3 Committee sign-up forms and reminded Council of a North Star Group event scheduled for November 29, 2023 in which any Councilmembers could RSVP to the Mayor if attending.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Chaplin stated that there had been a joint train and vehicle accident on Hwy 20 and then gave a call to action for the City of Burlington to come together as a united city focusing on collaboration, positive initiatives, productive change and solutions.

Councilor Stavig asked for there to be a committee created for review of City Staff salaries and requested a discussion be held at the current meeting.

Councilor Chotzen noted the importance of democracy at a local government level and the importance of maintaining trust in those local communities through authentic and honest communication.

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Councilor Aslett supported comments made by **Councilors Chaplin** and **Chotzen** and would like to see a level of integrity upheld in the future.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Stavig reported on the Public Works Committee meeting wherein the E-W connector road, Bike Shop rebuild, Burlington Blvd construction and new apartment construction were discussed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

No Officer's Reports.

Mayor Sexton opened a discussion to talk about a the Salary Survey. **Councilor Aslett** noted the challenges of finding salary comparisons and suggested an educational presentation by the consulting agency to describe the methodology for determining salary comparisons. **Councilor Stavig** questioned the Salary Survey comparable data and how the survey aligns with median household income and proposed Council member involvement in union negotiations. **Councilor Weiss** asked for transparency of the tools and data to be shared with Council for the Salary Survey. **City Attorney Greg Young** shared information about the Union negotiation process with Council.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PRESENTATION:

No Presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA:**Veterans Day Parade**

Councilors DeGloria/Aslett made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. All in favor; motion carried.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION:**Public Hearing on Revised Council Ward Map**

City Attorney Leif Johnson presented a periodic update map of a City Ward map that was developed based on 2020 Census data and a readjustment requirement of State Law. Community Development Director Brad Johnson stated that the Ward's must be roughly equal in population and that Skagit GIS had been contracted to develop mathematically balanced maps. Council can provide or advise on alternative suggestions. Discussion followed wherein the idea of Wards were developed upon, it was noted that City Code could be changed, and the mechanics of the map lines and Ward measurements were explained, and some history of Wards in the City of Burlington was shared. Burlington resident, Keira Wright, asked Council how the new developments in the City would affect the Ward map. **Brad Johnson** noted that the most recent census data is used to determine mapping updates.

ACTION ITEMS:**Revised Easement – Haggen Drive**

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Community Development Director Brad Johnson introduced documentation of the Haggan Drive easement to Council. There was continued dialogue in which the impacts of the changes, purpose of some empty lots, and easement access were discussed.

Councilors Aslett/DeGloria made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached easement documentation. All in favor; motion carried.

Skagit River Park Baseball Fields Irrigation Project

Parks Supervisor Jim Rabenstein updated Council on the bids received for the Skagit River Park Baseball Fields Irrigation Project and the process for determining the winning award and asked Council for permission to grant the awarded bid. There was a bit of clarification on why the lowest bid was not selected. Cities must accept the lowest responsible bid based on the factors of experience, knowledge and cost thus not ranking bids solely on price.

Councilors Green/Chaplin made a motion to authorize the Mayor to approve the contract in the amount of \$155,298.00 to Chupa Inc. for installation of a pop-up irrigation system at Skagit River Park baseball fields. All in favor; motion carried.

MOU between North Sound Regional Participating Governments and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization

City Attorney Leif Johnson shared an MOU regarding an opioid litigation investigation that had been underway for many years explaining that for money to be received there must be a funding mechanism in place to ensure that money is spent responsibly. L. Johnson stated that if the City decides not to adopt the MOU agreement, then the funds will be given to the County. Conversation followed wherein the accounts for the funding, what the money could be spent on, how much funding annually, and how the City is receiving this funding were discussed.

Councilors Chaplin/Aslett made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between North Sound Region Participating Governments and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. 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 there would be an action expected at the conclusion of the session. There was a 10-minute break and the closed session began at 8:50 p.m. **City Attorney Johnson** called for an additional 5 minutes and another 10 minutes. Session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Councilors Chaplin/Green made a motion to adopt the Union Agreement IAFF as per negotiated. **Councilors Chotzen, Aslett, Stavig, and DeGloria** in favor; **Councilor Weiss** opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

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Joseph Stewart
Finance Director



Steve Sexton
Mayor