



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Winters City Council Held via Teleconference
(Zoom) on May 18, 2021

Mayor Cowan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members Harold Anderson, Jesse Loren, Pierre Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Biasi, Mayor Wade Cowan

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Kathleen Trepa, Assistant City Attorney Joanna Gin, Director of Financial Management Shelly Gunby, City Clerk Ashley Bussart, Fire Chief Brad Miller

Tina Lowden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

City Manager Trepa had no changes to the agenda. Motion by Council Member Loren, second by Council Member Neu to approve the agenda. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS:

Verbal updates were provided by Council Members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular May 4, 2021 Council Meeting

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2. Resolution 2021- 23 Approving the Engineer's Report for the Annual Levy of Assessments for FY 2021-22 for the City of Winters City-Wide Maintenance Assessment District
3. Resolution 2021-26 Declaring Its Intention to Levy and Collect Annual Assessments for Maintenance in the Existing City of Winters City -Wide Maintenance Assessment District for FY 2021-22, and Setting the Time and Place for A Public Hearing Thereon

City Manager Trepa provided an overview of the consent calendar items. Motion by Council Member Neu, second by Council member Loren to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

PRESENTATIONS:

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Public Hearing Regarding Abatement of Weeds, Rubbish, Refuse and Dirt for Specified Parcels for 2021

Opened at 6:45 p.m. Closed at 6:47 p.m.

Tina Lowden, a resident, wanted clarification on who owns the property at 502 Nieman Street.

Chief Lopez replied that it is the Shirley Rominger School District at a property adjacent that has an open field.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, second by Councilmember Neu to approve an order of abatement of weeds, rubbish and dirt at the specified parcels listed on Exhibit A. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Resolution 2021-27 Amending the Salary Schedule for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Councilmember Loren asked when the current City Council stipend went into effect. Councilmember Loren stated that we may want to look into increasing the stipend for the

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next election possibly helping to encourage people to apply for a position at the next election.

Councilmember Anderson stated that there are likely legal requirements for salary increase.

Shelly Gunby answered that the stipend has been into effect around 2004 or 2005. Shelly will check the Municipal Code and give an update on the process.

Joanna Gin, Assistant City Attorney, replied that salary increase, including the stipend, would have to be revised by ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Loren B, second by Councilmember Neu to adopt Resolution 2021-27 Amending the Salary Schedule for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Anderson, Loren, Neu, Mayor Pro Tem Biasi, Mayor Cowan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. 2021-2022 Budget Workshop

Mayor Pro Tem Biasi stated that he attended the Senior Town Hall and one of the priorities is sidewalk improvement. There is \$15,000 in the Public Works budget for sidewalks, and he would like to see that increased in the future. He would like to see Senior Programs budgeted for also. He reminded everyone that we have to maintain a 50% reserve, with the spending over the last couple of years we have dropped to a 28% reserve. He stated that money will come in with the planned projects, but we need a more stable revenue fund. Mayor Pro Tem Biasi asked with the water and sewer funds being balanced will we avoid rate increases in areas. He also asked how the American Rescue Plan Funds will affect our budget.

Councilmember Neu hopes that the building and planning revenue will be enough to help with the City's funds.

Councilmember Loren asked for an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money. She also mentioned that it would be good to look at the City's fleet and possibly reduce it to offset the City's needs. Councilmember Loren stated that right before Covid 19 the State was moving swiftly to set a new standard, we may be looking at in the long term is ground water enriching our water.

Councilmember Anderson asked about water contamination, Chrom6.

Mayor Cowan would like to see sidewalk fund bumped from \$15,000 to \$20,000 due to the increased cost of materials over the last year. He also stated that staffing the new Senior Center will be a big concern in the next budget. While CDBG funds will help, it is one time money, and we need to plan long term.

Shelly Gunby replied that there was a water and sewer rate study started in January of 2020 that was put on hold. One thing we would like to include in the study is the ability to

do some of the larger Capitol Replacement items. We do not have a funding source for that right now, the fee study contract is still open. We will look to them for direction. Budget adjustments will have to be made when the American Rescue Plan Funds come through.

Kathleen Tropa, City Manager, stated that it typically takes the State approximately three months for the state to process Grant requests, once we have been notified whether the grant has been approved it will take another several months to receive and execute the agreement and receive the funds.

Tina Lowden, a resident, stated that the City-wide assessment fund is over 25 years old, she recommends it increases because of inflation.

Richard Casavechia, a resident, asked what percentage of our revenues end up being receivables at the end of the year. Richard also asked if the fleet is regulated by the State.

Ashley Bussart, City Clerk, read a question from the chat from resident Jack Vickrey. "If possible, I'd like to have a public question, but I have to log off. Q: is there an escalator in place to account for inflation and adjust the fees that the city can control? If not is that something that we can look into putting in place? Maybe not to adjust every year, but at least on a 3–5-year basis."

Joanna Gin, assistant City Attorney, explained that any increase to the levy would be subject to an assessment tabulation of all the property owners in the district. It would also have to comply with Prop 218, meaning that the property owners must be notified 45 days in advance, a public hearing would be held for them to make comments. Council stipends are currently set in the City's Municipal code at \$150, State law allows up to \$300 a month depending on population. Council could adopt an increase, but it would have to be adopted at the next election.

Shelly Gunby stated that the reserve funds are used for cash flow. Receivables generally run 8-9% of total revenues. The State does not regulate the fleet.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Chief Lopez provided an update on the recent vegetation fire, personal from various cities and Cal Fire responded. The property is in Cal Fire's responsibility area, which helped provide additional resources. The investigation is still underway, reporting parties stated that there was some sort of explosion in the area and firework devices were found at the scene. There was no significant property damage and no residences lost.

Councilmember Loren asked Chief Lopez to reiterate that there is still fire danger even if the fireworks are designated as safe and sane.

Chief Lopez stated that thinking that safe and sane means no fire danger couldn't be further from the truth. Safe and Sane means that they are compliant with the California State Fire Marshall's Office to use in jurisdictions that allow them.

City Manager Tropa provided updates on Housing Project. Blue Mountain Terrace is still moving along, they hope to complete the work by the end of June. The Housing Element survey has closed, upwards of 130 responses were received. The consultant and staff are going through finalizing the draft of the Housing Element, with the hopes of having it

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released to the public by June 1, 2021. This will be open to the public and the State for 60 days, from here it will be brought back to the City for any final edits and comments. It will go to the Planning Commission and the City Council for adoption in September 2021. The Neighborworks Self Help Housing Project is also being brought back to Council. A letter was sent to Supervisor Saylor regarding the County's Consideration of rezoning for cannabis land use ordinance, we will have more information as it develops. Pool staff is being interviewed this week.


INFORMATION ONLY:

None


ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Cowan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST:



Ashley Bussart, City Clerk



Wade Cowan, MAYOR