

CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2019

The November 12, 2019 Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Derr.

Present by Roll Call: Council Members Rich McGuire, Birdie Hensley, Carol Nordine and Lonna Bussert.

Staff members present: Russ Powers City Administrator – Clerk/Treasurer, Jared Armstrong Public Works Director, Police Sergeant Gary Moore Grand Coulee Police, Jacob Wagner The Star Newspaper

Motion to Excuse: None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with a revision adding Theresa Adkinson from the Grant County Health District after the Police Reports.

m/s(Bussert/Hensley) CU

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda.

- October 8, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes
- October 8, 2019 Comp Plan & Zoning Public Hearing
- October 8, 2019 Ad Valorem Public Hearing
- October 22, 2019 Special Council Meeting (Engineering Committee Selection)
- Expenditures:
 - EFT's and Checks #13719 - #13735 dated 10/9/2019 – 10/31/2019 for a total of \$96,846.67
 - EFT's and Checks #13736 - #13765 dated 11/1/2019 – 11/12/2019 for a total of \$346,936.84

m/s(McGuire/Nordine) CU

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Derr adjourned the meeting for an executive session at 6:02 PM for Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110 (i) (iii). Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Derr resumed the meeting at 6:12 PM.

POLICE REPORTS:

- Police Sergeant Moore reported on incidents within the city.

GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT:

- Theresa Adkinson from the Grant County Health District awarded Carol Nordine for her “stellar job” and service on the board. Theresa reported that the district is short on its budget and had to make its first layoff. She is encouraging cities to increase their per person fees to \$3 or \$4 per person. She stated that the contract for next year had been sent out and she recommended for everyone to “like” The District’s Facebook page to spread the word.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT REPORT:

- Public Works Director Jared Armstrong reported on public works projects since April. He reviewed the status of some water lines that were removed during construction and the need for ongoing improvements to the city’s infrastructure. He stated that he would like Gray & Osborne considered for the engineering contract with the city as they have been our engineer for a long time and have a lot invested in the city that will require a new agency to re-create.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Brian Buche – 219 Washington Pl.** Asked where in the 2019 budget were the parking lot improvements? He asked if there was a change order. Administrator Powers explained that there was a budget amendment for the improvements done a few months back. Brian stated that he would be in to get the amendment tomorrow.
- **Mark Payne – 1 Washington Pl.** Stated that he was still in good contact with the fire department members and wanted to recommend Justin Miller for Fire Chief. He stated that he thought he'd do a good job but does not recommend that the Fire Chief receive any money for the position. He disagreed with Jared on the selection of a new engineering firm.

COUNCIL AGENDA:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Fireworks Ordinance**
Councilmember McGuire made a motion to adopt the ordinance as is at the next council meeting. Councilmember Hensley stated that she had petitioned several agencies to try and get them to re-open North Dam for future 4th of July's. The motion was seconded.

m/s(McGuire/Bussert) CU

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Fire Chief Appointment**
A motion was made and seconded to appoint Justin Miller as Fire Chief of the Electric City Volunteer Fire Department.

m/s(Bussert/McGuire) CU

- **2020-2021 General Engineering Contract**
Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Derr (Council Contact for the Engineering Selection Committee) stated that the meetings with the agencies went well, but the committee unanimously voted to recommend Century West to the council for approval of a contract. Administrator Powers explained that although the meetings with the perspective agencies went well, the initial selection process was possibly not done as to select the "most qualified" engineering firm. He stated that Gray & Osborne has been the city's engineer for more than 35 years and has done more than a dozen large projects in the city. He felt that Gray & Osborne should have been one of the 3 agencies selected for an interview process based on those qualifications. Diane Kohout stated that she called references and gave Gray & Osborne "every opportunity to shine" but did not receive positive feedback from her calls. Brad Parrish stated that he had done intense calling of the agencies as well and that is how he selected his top 3. A motion was made and seconded to accept the committee's recommendation to choose Century West for the 2020-2021 General Engineering Contract.

m/s(McGuire/Hensley) CU

- **Ordinance 564-2019 Fire Chief Stipend**
Councilmember Hensley stated that she had a couple of people from other departments tell her that it may not be a good deal to offer a stipend. Councilmember Bussert stated that she was on the fence because she thinks that volunteers should not get paid. A motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance 564-2019 Fire Chief Stipend.

m/s (McGuire/Nordine)

Councilmember Hensley and Bussert voted Nay. With Mayor Pro Tem Derr voting Yea the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2019-24 Fire Chief Job Description**

Councilmember Hensley asked where the job description came from. Administrator Powers explained that it was partially taken from Coulee Dam and the rest was created to meet the needs of Electric City. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-24 Fire Chief Job Description.

m/s (McGuire/Nordine) CU

- **Resolution 2019-25 Fire Chief Stipend**

Councilmember Nordine asked why there were two items for the same thing. Administrator Powers explained that the Ordinance sets the ability to give a stipend, but the resolution sets the amount that will be given for the stipend. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-25 Fire Chief Stipend.

m/s (McGuire/Bussert) CU

- **Resolution 2019-26 RBOM Budget**

In the absence of the Mayor, Administrator Powers reported that the RBOM had reviewed the annual budget and approved. He stated that the RBOM recommended an increase in the fees at the Transfer Station of ½ of a cent. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-25 Fire Chief Stipend.

m/s (Hensley/Bussert) CU

- **Resolution 2019-27 Grand Coulee Dam Seniors**

Councilmember Bussert asked if last years contribution was \$3,000. Councilmember Hensley answered yes. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-27 Grand Coulee Dam Seniors.

m/s (Hensley/Bussert) CU

- **Resolution 2019-28 Property Tax Increase**

Councilmember Hensley stated that nobody likes raises, but they are necessary because the cost of everything else goes up. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-28 Property Tax Increase.

m/s (Hensley/Bussert)

Councilmember McGuire voted nay. Motion carried.

- **Resolution 2019-29 Street Vacation Hearing**

Councilmember Hensley stated that there's been talk about putting a road over the hill to Sunbanks, so she isn't sure it's a good idea. She recommended revising the time to 5:15 to allow for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-29 Street Vacation Hearing with the time amended to 5:15.

m/s (McGuire/Bussert) CU

- **Ordinance 565-2019 Wages**

Administrator Powers explained that the Ordinance now provided for a "wage range" to allow for regular step raises due to time in service or raises based on merit. He explained that the employees starting wages for 2020 were found in the memo to the council. He stated that the starting wages included the 1.4% CPI increase plus \$.50 per hour for each employee except himself. A motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance 565-2019 Wages, but not with the \$.50 per hour added to the CPI.

m/s (Hensley/Bussert) CU

- Suspension of Late Fees**
 Administrator Powers explained that Deputy Clerk Parrish had recommended allowing for a suspension of late fees for utility customers in the month of December because of the recent billing date change. A motion was made and seconded to allow the suspension of late fees for the month of December 2019.

m/s (McGuire/Nordine) CU
- Policy 2019-03 Travel and Credit Card**
 A motion was made and seconded to approve Policy 2019-03 Travel and Credit Card

m/s (McGuire/Hensley) CU
- Ice Age Park 95% Construction Design Approval**
 A motion was made and seconded to approve the Ice Age Park 95% Construction Approval.

m/s (Bussert/McGuire) CU
- Ice Age Park Interpretive Sign Base Selection**
 A motion was made and seconded to choose the “Sculptural” style sign base for the interpretive signs.

m/s (Bussert/Nordine) CU
- Abatement of Property (103 Grand Ave W.)**
 A motion was made and seconded to “abate” the property and correct any code compliance issues.

m/s (McGuire/Bussert) CU

REPORTS/MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Mayor John Nordine II:** Not present
- **Council Member Derr:** None
- **Council member McGuire:** None
- **Council member Hensley:** None
- **Council member Nordine:** None
- **Council member Bussert:** None
- **City Administrator - Clerk /Treasurer:** Reported on the status of the construction projects. He reviewed the timeline for the Ice Age Park bids and reported that the city’s audit was finished with no findings.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM

m/s (Nordine/McGuire)

Russell Powers,
 City Administrator - City Clerk / Treasurer

John T. Nordine II, Mayor