



🏠 Location: City Hall
📅 Date: May 11, 2021
🕒 Time: 6:00pm

City of Electric City Council Meeting Minutes May 11, 2021

The Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Diane Kohout on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Present by Roll Call: Council Members: Brian Buche, Cheryl Hoffman, Bob Rupe, Cate Slater

A motion was made and seconded to excuse Council member Willie Bott from the May meeting.

M/S (Hoffman/Rupe) CU

Staff members/Others present: Jared Armstrong/Public Works Director, Steve Nelson/CenturyWest Engineering, Peggy Nevsimal/City Clerk/Treasurer, Diana Parrish/Deputy Clerk, Mark Payne/Electric City Fire Chief, Jacob Wagner/Star Newspaper

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

M/S (Buche/Slater) CU

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda.

M/S (Slater/Buche) CU

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business:

- Steve Nelson from CenturyWest Engineering went through the project list for the City.
 - The City continues to wait for a CAGE number issued by the Security Account Management (SAM) government agency. Once the City has secured that number, they are cleared to proceed to apply for a USDA grant.
 - CenturyWest submitted on May 11 new Complete Streets Sidewalk designs. The City Clerk will forward the concepts onto the council members. AJ Gerard owns a piece of property that would need to have some WSDOT stripping done on it across Hwy 155 from the Electric City Bar & Grill.
 - The pedestrian pathway project design is close to completion. CenturyWest will submit it to WSDOT for approval within the next two weeks.

- The City is 33 responses short of having a statistically valid sample size to analyze. The City Clerk & Mayor will meet with RCAC the week of May 17-21 to determine next steps.
 - The sewer line project plan is ready for submission to USDA as soon as the Income Survey results come in.
 - The Small Water System Management Program has been submitted to the Department of Health and it has been sent back to CenturyWest with comments. They will review the comments and answer any questions.
- Code Compliance and foreclosure houses
 - Two houses on Kelso Avenue have been hand-delivered an “out of compliance” letter regarding the yard debris, broken down cars, and abandoned trailers/RVs/campers on their properties. They have 14 days to make significant progress on removing the debris or the City can legally begin fining them up to \$250/day. They were also presented with a draft contract, that if they agree to it, would give them an additional 60 days to clean up their properties.
 - There are 2-4 houses in Electric City that are in the foreclosure process. The council discussed what would be the best approach regarding the sewer utility charges that continue to accumulate on those houses. After consulting the City’s attorney, the City could eventually place a lien on the house for back utility charges.

At 6:20pm the council went into an executive session regarding a personnel issue. They returned from executive session at 6:35pm with no action item taken during the executive session.

Council member Hoffman made a motion to amend the current meeting agenda to add item number 7.5 under new business regarding the resignation of council member Willie Bott.

New Business

- Veterans Memorial Park
 - Electric City Council has been approached by a group from the American Legion Post regarding a piece of property owned by the City along the east side of Hwy 155 (and North of Fusion Café). They would like the council to consider letting them use the property for a veterans’ memorial.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the veterans’ request to use Electric City property for a memorial contingent on approval of the design of the memorial.

MS (Buche/Rupe) CU

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Feasibility Study
 - The City of Grand Coulee has secured funding from a CDBG Grant and a Loan/Grant package from the Department of Ecology for a feasibility study on a new or retrofitted Wastewater Treatment Facility. They would like the council to consider paying 50% of the as their share of the \$55,000 incurred by a loan.
 - The interlocal agreement currently on record for the City’s capital expenses responsibility for the Wastewater Treatment facility is 37%.

A motion was made and seconded to table the Feasibility Study expenses until the June council meeting while the Mayor and the City Clerk research available funding options.

- Delinquent utility account next steps
 - The City has 8-10 residents with severely past-due utility bills. During the COVID pandemic all utilities have remained on for customers but as the governor begins to open the ability to begin charging late fees and turning off unpaid utility accounts, Deputy Clerk Parrish presented to the council the amount of money outstanding and requested guidance on what the City's recourse will be regarding these unpaid accounts.
 - The City Clerk will talk to a title company and the City's attorney about whether a lien is the best approach to use, particularly on a handful of houses that are vacant and currently in foreclosure.

A motion was made and seconded to send a letter and the City's current payment plan to all delinquent accounts.

M/S (Buche/Hoffman) CU

- Land use and building variances.
 - The City currently has an ordinance that prohibits individuals from moving residential mobile homes greater than 10 years old onto their property.
 - A recent new landowner was granted permission for a 29-year-old mobile home to be moved onto their city lot.
 - The Mayor consulted the City's Planner, the City' Attorney and the City's Building Inspector. All professionals stated that the City could not discriminate against an older mobile home if it met all the Washington State code compliances. The permit was granted.
 - Council member Buche stated that he would like these types of variances be brought before the City's Planning Commission.

- Resignation of Council Member Bott

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the resignation of Willie Bott from Electric City's Council Position #1.

M/S (Rupe/Buche) CU

- A motion was made and seconded to appoint Don Redfield as the interim council member as the position is advertised in the local paper.

M/S (Rupe/Buche) CU

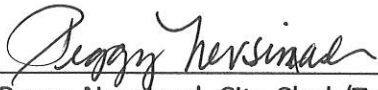
- Don Redfield resigned as the Chairman of the Planning Commission board effective immediately.

Reports

- Council Member Rupe reported that he had attended the GTA annual meeting. The county is in the process of buying 4 new buses that price out at almost \$300,000 each.
- Mayor Kohout reported that she would resume hours in the office beginning Monday, May 24.
- The City Clerk/Treasurer reported that she is working on the annual report that must be submitted to the State Auditor's office by May 28, 2021.
- Fire Chief Payne stated that the fire department is back to their normal training schedule.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

M/S (Buche/Hoffman) CU



Peggy Nevsimal, City Clerk/Treasurer



Diane Kohout, Mayor