

City of Mabton, Washington
City Council
Study Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Call to Order

Mayor Mario Martinez called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

The following were

Present: Mayor Mario Martinez and Council persons Oping Hutson, (arrived @ 6:25) Sophia Sotelo, Arturo Delafuente, Mark Gourneau and Vera Zavala

Also Present: Police Chief Cas Cedillo, City Administrator Walt Bratton, Deputy Clerk Yolanda Peña and City Attorney Jamie Carmody

Absent: Fire Chief Luke Cussins


Discussion:

The Mayor opens up the study session by giving the floor to Mr. Bratton. Mr. Bratton informs council that he did analysis of the lower valley cemeteries user fees and charges. He would like for council to consider raising the fees due to the cemetery fund is in the over budget. Mayor explains to council that the city has lost money in the past and with the rate increases in 2015 city might break even in 2016. Councilmember Gourneau suggested a \$25.00 increase across the board. Mayor stated since council is uncertain for councilmembers to digest staff recommendations & bring this item back to the next City Council Study Session for further discussion.

Next item for discussion is the Mabton Police Department. Police Chief Cedillo informed the city council that he needs officers to help with patrolling. Police Chief Cedillo would like council to consider a provisional increase in hours for up to 4-months for Police Reserve Officers. He stated that half of his reserves have FT jobs and they only come in when their time allows them. Police Chief Cedillo it will take at least 2-months to fill his two vacant positions and then he still has to train the new officers. Councilmember Zavala asked why not contract out with our cities. No decision was made at this point.

The next two items for discussion were business license fees and cemetery headstones (i.e.: cemetery headstones discussion was tabled until the next study session. The next item for discussion was the playground installation project at Feezell Park. Mr. Bratton informed the city council he has a vendor that can complete a certified installation of the playground equipment. He stated the vendor is licensed to do the job. Mr. Bratton informed council the cost would be \$16,000 and it would be coming out of the general fund. Mr. Bratton stated, if given approval to proceed, the project can be completed by Nov. 1. The general consensus of the council is approval of this project. Citizen, Rusty Brack asked the Mayor if the city is doing anything with the feed lot. The Mayor informed Mr. Brack that the city has already done its due diligences and submitted comments and we are waiting a response. Mayor informed the city council on 2014 financial annual report changes and one concern is the court remittance. He informed council the SAO Auditors are working on the City's audit and this is their last week; then an exit interview for the audit. He also informed the city council about the work at Well 6 Drilling project is going as scheduled.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.


Yolanda Peña, Deputy Clerk


Mayor Mario Martinez