

City of Mabton, Washington
City Council
Study Session Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Call to Order

The Mayor (Mario Martinez) called the study session meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Present:

Council members, Mark Gourneau, Arturo DelaFuente, Oping Hutson, Vera Zavala and Sophia Sotelo (arrived late at 6:10 pm). Mayor Mario Martinez; City Administrator Walt Bratton, Finance Director Carrie Tribble, City Attorney, James Carmody; Police Chief Cas Cedillo. Citizens: Mark Gourneau's wife & daughter. Mayor Martinez son (Isaac and daughter); Laura Vasquez (citizen).

Absent:

Fire Chief Luke Cussins

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Repealing Ordinance 575, passed on January 12, 1982.

The Mayor (Mario Martinez) discussed repealing and abolishing this Ordinance with the city council. It contradicts the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the Urban Growth Area (UGA) which was recently amended by Yakima County government in January 2016. The ordinance contradicts current practices. The City Attorney (James Carmody) elaborated on the history and practices of the GMA and Mabton's revised UGA for the city council. The Mayor directed staff to bring back this Ordinance No. 575 to the Tuesday, March 22, 2016 city council meeting to abolish it and remove it from the list of city Ordinances.

B. State of Washington, Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant proposal for a new Spray Pad for the City of Mabton.

City Administrator Walt Bratton elaborated on the RCO grant process, timeline, length and level of difficulty. He stated that he has been working on this grant proposal (two of them – 1 for the WWRP-LP category and a 2nd for the LWCF category) in order to request 300K for a Spray Pad project that will be built, if the grant is approved, in the summer 2018. 250K is for construction phase and 50K is for design, engineering, and architectural costs. Walt Bratton, City Administrator requested monetary and political support and direction on this lengthy grant proposals, application, process and submittal. The need for YVCOG to increase their 2016 FY TA professional services agreement contract from 3K to 5K was addressed and the city council approved. The need for professional services/technical services from other firms, engineering services for a Site Plan/Development Plan as one of the numerous 10+ attachments to both grants was discussed and the City Council approved of this monetary cost and directed staff to proceed with the submittal of both grant proposal applications and submitting them to the State of Washington – Recreation Conservation Office (RCO).

Visitor's Comments:

Laura Vasquez, citizen, asked about the cost to abate, mitigate, clean-up and beautify some private residences in town. Why is the city paying for this? Are these houses being placed on a Lien so the city can collect these costs in the future? City Attorney James Carmody elaborated on the long term process of placing a residence/property on a Lien and gave examples of such processes. The Mayor said that staff is collecting data and keeping track of costs and expenditures allocated on cleaning up these health hazards, safety hazards and sites that squatters have been seen living in. Both the City Attorney (James Carmody) and the Mayor (Mario Martinez) reiterated the reasoning and why it is important to stay