



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday May 28, 2019**

Present: Council Members Mark Gourneau, Sophia Sotelo, Arturo De La Fuente, Diana Castaneda, Vera Zavala, Mayor Laura Vazquez, City Attorney James Carmody City Clerk Sylvia Sanchez, City Treasurer Benancio Garcia

Absent: Fire Chief Luke Cussins

1. Call to Order Time: 7:06pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence and Roll Call
3. Vote on the Meeting Agenda

There were two additions to the Meeting Agenda; New Business Item "C" Changing the Mayor's Stipend and New Business Item "D" the approval of the Police Chief's Contract. There was a motion by Mark and a second by Arturo to approve the Meeting Agenda with the additions. Approved 5-0

4. **Visitor Comments** (At the discretion of the presiding Chair, Visitor Comments may be accepted on individual business items only and will be limited to 2 to 5 minutes.)

We heard from Gerin the general manager of Skagit Horticulture he came in the talk about a contract with Golden Gate Hop Ranches who would like them to grow hemp for them. He was explaining that they are currently specializing on large scale production. The push for the hemp is the fact that they hop growers can quickly grow a crop of hemp once their hops are finished and use the same facilities to process them without having to have another facility. City Attorney Mr. Carmody explained that this is something that there is a pilot program through the Department of Agriculture that is allowing the growth of hemp. Gerin went on to explain that hops, marijuana, and hemp are all in the same family so although they may be look similar it is a completely different plant. He also explained that this is a 1 season lease for only a 20acre space on a trial basis to see the feasibility of this crop. If it goes well they have up to 300 acres available and may use approximately 100 acres if the test crop is successful.

5. **Consent Agenda** (The following will be enacted by one motion. There will be no discussion separate of these items unless a Council Member requests separate discussion. The item will be removed from the Consent agenda and added to New Business.)

- A. Approve Study Session Minutes for Tuesday May 14, 2019
- B. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for Tuesday May 14, 2019
- C. Approve Payroll Warrant Register Number #10478 To #10486 in the amount of \$12,953.32
- D. Approve Claim Voucher/Payment in the amount of \$

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Vera to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved 5-0

## 6. Old Business

- A. Approve the Rental Service Agreement Between Cintas and the City of Mabton and Allow the Mayor to Sign

There was no motion so the agreement did not pass

## 7. New Business

- A. Approval of Resolution 2019-05 Authorizing Benancio Garcia to Make Changes to the Local Government Investment Pool Account

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Arturo to approve Resolution 2019-05. Approved 5-0

- B. Approval of Contract for Training in the Annual Report, Budget, and Audit Between the City of Mabton and Jamison Horner

There was a motion by Mark and a second by Diana to approve the contract. Approved 5-0

- C. Approval of Changing the Mayor's Stipend to \$1700/ Month

There was some discussion about how long that this would last. It was decided that they would allow the increase until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and revisit the stipend at the end of 2019. There was a motion by Diana and a second by Arturo to approve the stipend increase. Approved 3-2

#### D. Approval of the Police Chief's Contract

There was a motion by Mark and a second Vera to approve the contract for the police chief with an initial amount of \$70,000 and a \$5,000 increase after a successful 6 month probationary period and allow the mayor to sign. Approved 5-0

### 8. Staff Reports

Mark wanted to know if it was possible for them to receive their council packets on Friday instead of Monday. City Clerk Sylvia said that this is how it should be happening and she will make sure that it happens in the future. Mark also asked if we will start being open at lunch for people to make payments. It was explained that this would begin June 1<sup>st</sup> but may be closed if there is not someone available to cover. Mark also asked if it was true that the employees are not supposed to talk to council. The mayor explained that the city workers were advised to not speak to council regarding city business. The city attorney also spoke on the matter; he stated that it was a good idea for council to keep in mind the presentation from WCIA to avoid any liability and problems. Mark also inquired about when his road was going to be graded. The mayor explained that the grader was fixed but L&I came in and stated that the grader was no longer safe to drive and it could not be operated without a CDL which no one in our Public Works currently possess. There was other discussion about the thought that there should be credit with the GNC training institute for someone to be trained in their CDL.

Rachel Ruelas 309 Maple St. asked why it was that none of these guys already have these certifications already. Most of these guys have been here for quite some time it doesn't make any sense that they don't have some of these important licenses already.

The mayor explained that there just isn't enough staffing for these guys to get what they need. They are too busy doing too many other things. She also explained that we are trying to find another Public Works person. There was a question from Mark about where it was that the advertising was happening; Sylvia explained that it was posted with Yakima Herald, Tri-City Herald, AWC, and Indeed.com.

Vera had a couple suggestions about the cemetery. She wanted signs for the water spigot that were permanent because she puts paper out for every event. She also stated that she had talked with Arturo about a possibility of putting one more spigot out there that would make things easier and be fairly simple to install. There was also discussion about where and how they would like the flagpole moved when they get the Veteran's Wall.


There was a quick discussion about the restroom at the park and the fact that it should be open during business hours at the very least. They talked about some of the problems that they have

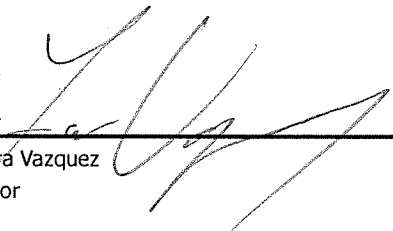
had with vandalism in years previous but that they would try and come up with a feasible solution to have it open more often.

9. Executive Session:    Start Time:8:10pm                      End Time:8:27pm

**For Personnel Reasons, Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g)**

10. Adjournment:                      Time:8:28pm

X   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Roberson  
Deputy City Clerk

X   
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Laura Vazquez  
Mayor