



STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday April 9, 2019

1. Call to Order Time:6:10pm
2. New Business
 - A. Parks Landscaping

There were two bids for the new sprinkler system. This project was below the \$40,000 threshold so the city was under no requirement to take bids but did so anyway. There were two contractors Van Wingerden Landscaping and All Five Landscaping. The two bids were close and comparable so the city went with All Five Landscaping. It was the cheaper of the two bids.

B. Contracting the Cemetery

The mayor explained that one of the landscapers also contracts for services to do services for other cemeteries in both Sunnyside and Prosser. She requested that he also give us a bid to see what it would cost to have them take care of our cemetery as well. She did a rough estimate and figured that just in wages from our other PW guys it costs the city \$435 just in wages this is not counting the equipment, gas, etc. that it takes to get the job done. The estimate came in at \$550/week or \$2200/ month. At this point the city employs a seasonal employee to take care of the cemetery. The discussion was to contract this service to someone else and avoid hiring this seasonal person.

Mark had several questions; firstly he stated that this may not be something that the union would be happy about, secondly he stated that an outside person is not going to take care of other things with the cemetery or notify us of other problems that will come up out there. He felt that there would be more care given by someone who is actually working for the city.

Vera is concerned about the care that is being done in the cemetery. She says that hiring someone to focus solely on the cemetery would be a good idea to ensure that it looks better than it has in the past.

Mark also wanted to know what it was that it took in the past and was it being done efficiently with our current employees. He asked Arturo what it took them to do previous.

Arturo explained that it was 2 people for 1 day and then 1 person for another day to get things done as they needed to in the past. He stated that they do things a little differently than they used to and this may be the difference.

Mayor Vazquez explained that this was a different job at that time; there are now more graves which take longer for them to get around. It was decided that a more in depth look at this may be needed to make this decision.

C. Water Bill Discussion

Arturo was concerned about the overage that was on his water bill for this month. It was explained that there was all extra from the last two months because it was unable to be read for the month of February due to the large amount of snow. There were several questions about the billing cycle etc. Mark said that it is unfair for the meters to be read when it hasn't been 30 days. He thinks that it should be evaluated so that it is always 30 days that the meter has been read. The mayor explained that this is not really feasible because some months are longer than others and the billing cycle has to remain the same.

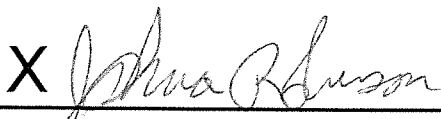
3. Visitor Comments

We heard from Christina Gourneau of 221 Maple St. She wanted to know when there would be some more cops because lots of underage kids are driving on our roads. Mayor explained that the applications are with Sunnyside Police Department and she has several applications for police officers but wants to wait for a chief to have a direction on what a police department should look like. There was also some discussion with Facebook comments about the police department and rather or not they can operate without a police chief. It was explained that police officers are commissioned without a police chief and the mayor is authorized to sign anything he needs authorization for.

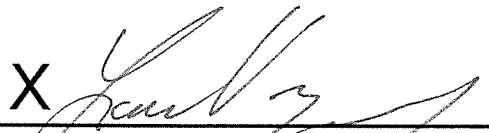
4. Executive Session: Start Time:6:53pm End Time:7:25pm

RCW 42.30.110(g)

5. Adjournment: Time:7:25pm

X 

Joshua Roberson
Deputy City Clerk

X 

Laura Vazquez
Mayor