



## STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday July 9, 2019

1. Call to Order Time:6:09pm
2. Old Business
3. New Business

### A. Discussion of Rates Yard Sale Permits and Fireworks Permits

The mayor stated that there are not very many places that still allow fireworks. The most comparable was Granger. In Granger permits are \$50 each; there are also strict guidelines for homeowner's insurance before they can even purchase a permit. Council didn't like that they just wanted the permit to be cheaper. Mark wanted to our permit to go from \$25 to \$15 dollars and wanted office staff to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in case someone forgot to purchase their permit before that. Diana said that we should just let the police officers take permit money and issue permits the day after.

They ultimately decided that the fireworks permit should be \$15 from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January until the end of June. The fee would then go up to \$25 from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Finally any permits purchased on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July would be \$30 payment can be submitted in the overnight box by check or money order only.

Next we talked about yard sale permits. The mayor stated that she called four other cities in the area with varying results; Sunnyside does not charge for a yard sale permit, Grandview and Granger is \$5 and Prosser charges \$2 for their permit. The mayor stated that in talking to Sylvania, if we were to lower the permit too much then we should do away with it altogether. Council stated that they do not want to just get rid of the permit but they want to see if lower rates will increase participation and in turn increase revenue.

They have decided that they want the fee for a yard sale permit to be \$10 for a 1-3 day permit, and to be limited to one per month. Further it was decided to leave the \$50 permit in place for the entire month with no limit on how many months this could be done. There will be a \$5 fine

instituted for every sign left more than 24 hours after the yard sale to be paid the next time they buy a yard sale permit.

B. Creating a Lieutenant Position For the Police Department

Our new police chief explained, to the mayor, that with him being part time there is need to have a Lieutenant rather than simply a Sergeant's position. A Lieutenant has more authority to run things when the chief is absent. The creating of this position will help things run more smoothly. A Lieutenant would be another salaried employee curbing the cost in overtime etc. The main concern of council was rather or not this could be undone if they were to get a full time police chief. The mayor explained that if we were to get a full time police chief then we would just remove the Lieutenant position and replace it with a Sergeant just as we have this time.

4. Visitor Comments

We heard from Christina Gourneau 221 Maple St. who had several concerns. Her main concern was about what would be done about painting the GMA building. It was explained that even that the city would provide the paint but it would be up to the GMA to do their own painting. She also questioned what was going on with the sprinklers at the park because she stated that they looked bad and more importantly looked that they looked like they were flooding all the time.

5. Adjournment:

Time:6:58pm

X

Joshua Roberson  
Deputy City Clerk

X

Laura Vazquez  
Mayor