



STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday April 13, 2021

1. Call to Order Time: 6:02pm

2. New Business

A. Swearing in of New Police Officer

The new police officer Victor Fierro was sworn in and introduced to the community/ council.

B. Discussion of Allowing Tires at Community Dump Day

The mosquito district has an event that take old tires; this year it is the same day as our dump day. The mayor looked into the fee and the dump takes them for \$5/tire; she thought that to make it accessible for the citizens we could take them for \$2/tire to cover the cost of the guys taking them to Richland. There was some discussion on this, but it was decided that this was a reasonable idea and a fair price. There was emphasis that, tire or no tire, this was for regular residents only, with a current utility bill. There was also some discussion about who is able to volunteer and for how long.

C. Discussion of Fireworks for the 4th of July

Currently we are allowing fireworks permits; pending the Governor leaving us in a phase that allows for this to happen. The fees were gone over again for clarification; they are \$15 January 1-June 30, \$25 July 1-July 3, and \$30 July 4 online only. The fee then stays at \$25 for anyone purchasing after July 4th for New Year.

D. Discussion of Council/ Mayor's Wages for 2022

City staff thought that it may be a good idea to have this discussion, because this has been a discussed at length previous, and because we are in an election year again where these changes would take place. Information for some comparable cities was provided so that council could make an informed decision. The mayor stated that council should look at increases because as a council we were one of the lowest paid in the area. Jamison explained that she had gathered

statistics all of the cities were between \$30 and \$60 but that some of the cities define the Study Session and Council Meeting as two separate meetings; this could be because their Study Session and Council Meeting are on different night whereas ours are on one night.

The mayor said that we really should look into the amount that the mayor is getting paid. She stated that the mayor's position is a much bigger job than most people realize and that the position itself needs more money and the that the description needs to be clear what a person is getting themselves in to. Vera added that she felt whoever was in the Pro Tem position needs to be on the same level as the mayor; so that if for some reason the mayor was unable to do what needed done, that person should be able to step in and already know what is going on. Jamison interjected and explained that brought up the point that some cities do pay the Mayor Pro Tem a different amount than the regular council member. These are things that council should definitely consider. Jamison asked Sylvia to clarify when it was that council would have to run/re-run. Sylvia explained that they would have to have their names entered by May 31st. City Attorney James Carmody explained that you cannot change the amount of a salary that is going to affect you. This means that the three seats that will change this year would receive an increase after the election, but the other two seats would not be increased until the term expires and is re-elected in two years. As far as the mayor is concerned council could change it provided that the mayor did not have the tiebreaker; if this were to occur then it would have to be at the end of her term. Mr. Carmody stated that it was probably best to plan on making changes at the beginning of new terms and to write your ordinance as such.

Jamison explained that she pulled her information from a salary comparison done by The Association of Washington Cities. She narrowed it down to the cities that most closely match ours. She found cities that: provide utilities and police department, are 5,000 or less, East side of the Cascades, less than 15 FTE (full time employees), and do not have a city administrator. There were 10 total cities in the comparison when she was done. They have discussed it the mayor's stipend at \$700 and it was informally voted on. 4 out of 5 agreed on this amount so city staff will prepare the ordinance to reflect thus. City staff are also going to draft an ordinance changing the council to \$60 per meeting or leave it as is and changes to have an additional \$20 for the mayor pro tem.

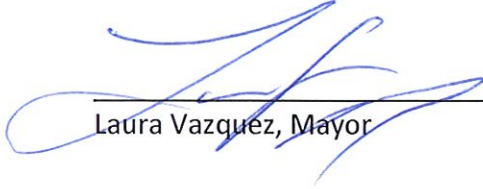
The mayor, on a side note, stressed that she wished that she had figured out that mayor pro tem changed every year much sooner because she would have had each council member rotate through and had this role be much more active. This way there was more experience and knowledge on what is going on. Vera concurred that from past personal experience that would be a very good idea.

E. Discussion of Resolution 2021-06 Ballot Drop Box

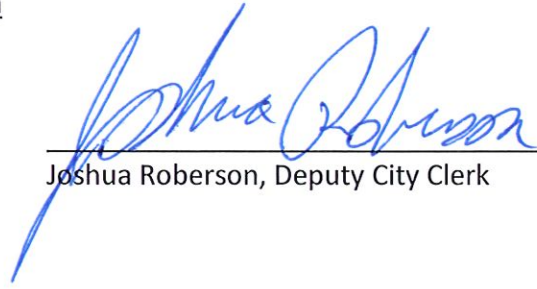
There will now be a Ballot Drop Box outside of city hall, on the edge of the sidewalk. It is working this way in most other cities now. The process for voting and cutoff is the same; it is just more accessible this way.

3. Adjournment:

Time: 6:52pm



Laura Vazquez, Mayor



Joshua Roberson, Deputy City Clerk