

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 26, 2021

A. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Grover called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call – Excused Absences Councilmembers present included Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Barthels, Councilmember Weiszmann, Councilmember Gaard, Councilmember Hilton, and Councilmember Taves. Staff members present included Mr. Schuller, Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Hensley, Mr. Ableman, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Marx, and Ms. Snider.

Mayor Grover stated the Cheney Public Schools Superintendent Rob Roettger will be late and he would like to fit him in whenever he shows up.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of January 12, 2021 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 155874 and 156110 through 156156 in the amount of \$699,661.87 for 2020 and 156157 through 156205 in the amount of \$458,222.13 for 2021 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts None

G. Information Items The information item was delayed until later in the meeting.

H. Appointments None

I. Citizen Comments None

J. Action Items

1. 21-002 – Resolution E-877 – 2021-2022 City of Cheney – Cheney Police Guild Labor Contract Mr. Schuller stated that he provided the red line copy of the contract. Councilmember Schmidt stated that he would like to have all union contracts before council twice for transparency before they are approved. Councilmember Schmidt moved to approve Resolution E-877. Councilmember Taves seconded. Carried unanimously.

2. 21-006 – Resolution E-880 – BNSF Fiber Optic License Agreement Mr. Ableman stated that this is a 25 year agreement that is part of the Purple Pipe Project. Councilmember Schmidt moved for approval of Resolution E-880. Councilmember Hilton seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. 21-007 – Resolution E-881 – BNSF Water Main License Agreement Mr. Ableman stated that this is for installation of a water main under the rail line. Councilmember Schmidt moved for approval of Resolution E-881. Councilmember Barthels seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. 21-010 – Resolution E-884 – ACCESS Contract of EWU Mr. Hensley stated that we have had this contract for five years. Councilmember Taves moved for passage of Resolution E-884. Councilmember Hilton seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. 21-011 – Resolution E-885 – 2021 Switch Replacement Project Ms. Niemeier stated that the switches affect the internet speed and stability in City Hall. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approval of Resolution E-885. Councilmember Taves seconded. Carried unanimously.

6. 21-012 – Resolution E-886 – Finance Department Remodel – Employee Separation Ms. Niemeier stated that this is for the desks at the front windows and the separation panels. Councilmember Overhauser moved for approval of Resolution E-886. Councilmember Schmidt seconded. Carried unanimously.

Cheney School District Levy Presentation Rob Roettger, Cheney Public Schools Superintendent, provided information on the school district levy that is on the ballot.

7. 21-013 – Resolution E-887 – Appointing Public Records Officer Mr. Schuller stated that this appoints the Records Manager as the public records officer. Councilmember Taves moved for passage of Resolution E-887. Councilmember Hilton seconded. Carried unanimously.

8. 21-015 – Resolution E-888 – Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts Grant Application Mr. Schuller stated that we are going to investigate the possibility of applying for grant funds. Councilmember Taves moved for approval of Resolution E-888. Councilmember Hilton seconded. Carried unanimously.

9. 21-016 – Resolution E-889 – City Hall Teller Project Change Order 3 Mr. Marx stated that the additional amount is for Ms. Niemeier's office and the conference room. Councilmember Barthels moved for approval of Resolution E-889. Councilmember Weiszmann seconded. Carried unanimously.

10. 21-017 – Resolution E-890 – BPA Network Operating Agreement Mr. Marx stated that this agreement defines how we work with BPA. There is no money associated with this. Councilmember Taves moved for approval of Resolution E-890. Councilmember Hilton seconded. Carried unanimously.

11. 21-003 – Ordinance X-96 – 2021 Salary Ordinance Mr. Schuller stated that this updates salaries to include the increase in the Police Guild labor contract. Councilmember Overhauser moved for the second reading of Ordinance X-96 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the third, and that it be placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Schmidt seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Barthels, Councilmember Weiszmann, Councilmember Gaard, Councilmember Hilton, Councilmember Taves. Ordinance X-96 passed.

12. 21-014 – Ordinance X-97 – NIES Credit Reserve Ms. Niemeier stated that this allows her to place the funds in a restricted reserve account in the Light Fund. Councilmember Overhauser moved for the first reading of Ordinance X-97 in title and summary form only, that reading considered the second and third, and that it be placed before Council for final passage. Councilmember Schmidt seconded. Carried unanimously. Yes votes: Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Barthels, Councilmember Weiszmann, Councilmember Gaard, Councilmember Hilton, Councilmember Taves. Ordinance X-97 passed.

K. Staff Reports Mr. Schuller provided a COVID-19 update. Mr. Jenkins provided information on vaccinations. Mr. Schuller provided information on storm clean up and damage. He thanked all staff to helping during the storm. He provided a legislative update.

L. Mayor's Report None

M. Council Reports Councilmember Schmidt thanked the Light Department. Councilmember Barthels thanked staff for their work during the power outage. Councilmember Gaard stated that he has learned a lot on the Council. He appreciates everyone and what they do, share, and have taught him. Councilmember Taves appreciates the quick response to the wind storm.

N. Executive Session Mayor Grover recessed the meeting at 7:07 p.m. for executive session as per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase. He stated that it would last 15 minutes. The executive session was extended for 10 minutes at 7:24 p.m. Mayor Grover reconvened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

O. Adjournment Councilmember Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Taves seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor