

## **CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL WORKSHOP – February 2, 2023**

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid with attendees both in person at City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom Internet Conference Service. Mayor Wiita announced that zoom video was malfunctioning so zoom attendees would have audio only. Mayor Wiita called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers: Morgan, Aldrich, Dearborn, Hund, Sivewright, and Beeler.

Councilmember Absent: Neigel

Staff: City Administrator Ibershof, Public Works Director Morgan, Community Development Director Hart, Finance Director Erdman, and City Clerk Pevey.

### CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None noted.

### ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

City Administrator Ibershof reminded council the Community Awards banquet was set for February 3<sup>rd</sup> and that the Community Alliance Board would be presented as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. In addition, he advised council that the February 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda and that staff would make the final determination by tomorrow.

### DISCUSSION

#### **AB22-26-ARPA Funds**

*Presentation on file with the city clerk's office*

Mayor Wiita explained the goal of the workshop was to provide staff with feedback to determine how best to spend ARPA funds. City staff presented a series of projects broken up into blocks as follows:

Economic Development: Downtown façade and lighting improvements, Store Front Studio downtown enhancements, extend the Economic Development and Tourism Manager contract, and mobile digital reader boards.

Councilmember Hund suggested adding greenery to one side of the street (i.e. north side) and maintain parking without interrupting the current amount of parking while changing to one way as suggested during the visioning project. Discussion on one-way streets and that it requires a deeper broader discussion on the impact. Also, discussion on concern of losing parking spaces for green spaces suggested.

Parks: Improvements suggested to include topsoil and grass seed updates, additional tools for the public works vehicles, new ball field in field drag and mix, shipping container for storage, updated trash cans and signage, additional safety cameras, money towards development of the new park on Sultan Basin Road, and addressing the property purchased at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Alder by demolishing the current building and installing public parking and bathroom facilities.

Discussion on timeline regarding potential funding request submitted to the state legislature for park improvements and how soon ARPA funds need to be allocated versus spent.

Streets: Torch down and street paint striping improvements, updated trash cans in the downtown area, updated speed signs, new bucket truck, paint striper buggy, and pay off street sweeper loan.

Discussion regarding cost of bucket truck presented and in agreement may not be current market cost. Discussion also around blending of funds between ARPA and future funds in the 2024 budget. Confirmation that the paint striping buggy can be used all over town. Also, brief discussion on the increased cost of street paint. Council inquiry if could

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add additional projects not being presented such as flower pots. Staff in agreement they would need to research the cost but are open to additional suggestions.

Bucket truck suggestion spurred a replacement timeframe for vehicles and discussion on when it was scheduled to be upgraded in the normal budget process. Staff confirmed this item was on the equipment replacement schedule, but suggested it was a 2008 purchase with a 15 year lifespan and conversation held around the fact that funds weren't always going into the vehicle replacement fund in the past. Council expressed interest to split ARPA money with the equipment fund and the impacts that might have to other equipment slated to be replaced sooner.

Storm: Tools for the trucks, and shipping container purchase for storage.

IT Fund: Purchase of an electronic content management system, and repairs/upgrades to the emergency siren system.

Discussion on a deeper explanation of what a content management system does. Discussion also centered around the siren equipment and how long ago they were installed. Staff confirmed their research showed the project was completed in phases during 2010 and 2011.

Water/Sewer: Purchase a new sewer/water camera truck, and payoff the inner fund loan on the Vactor truck.

Building: Outside lighting updates at City Hall, Post Office, Visitor Center, Police Station; Security cameras at Post Office and Visitor Center; and covered parking at Public Works.

### IT Fund

Electronic content management, emergency siren repairs

Discussion of siren equipment and how long ago they were installed; staff research showed 2010, 2011 as project was done in phases.

Discussion continued on various topics with Councilmember Beeler expressing concern on the many suggested initial investments in parks that require maintenance after and worried about the impact to the continued budget. He expressed his preference to implement a parks levy to accurately maintain the parks long term. Administrator Ibershof suggested the council focus be on one-time things that will add value without adding additional maintenance burden. Mayor confirmed a future council workshop will be focused on a potential parks levy discussion. The mayor also stated many various city funds can handle maintenance but can't handle the one-time larger investments associated with them. Discussion moved to one time revenue stream from developers that must be developed into infrastructure improvements. They questioned without extra money to put towards items such as the vactor truck, how long would it take the city normally to pay off. The Finance Director confirmed in the case of the Vactor Truck the loan payments are anticipated to run for 10 years. Staff confirmed this suggestion would provide a onetime infusion of money back into the general fund and that stormwater revenue was calculated into the current rate update for that fund to pay its fair share of the loan. Discussion on stormwater fund and what could be done sooner versus later due to the infusion of money if the vactor truck purchase were paid off. Discussion continued on how to determine the best ways to spend the funds and the best investments as each councilmember views it.

Administrator Ibershof confirmed the list presented equated to more than the funds allowed, and council was then provided a worksheet of all the projects suggested and given time to select their individual preferences. Once completed, they submitted them to the Finance Director to compile results for presentation. At approximately 8:05 p.m. council was given 10 minutes to work on the spreadsheet; zoom recording left on while the councilmembers worked through the sheet and open discussion allowed during this time. At approximately 8:15 p.m. Mayor Wiita extended the break another 5 minutes. At approximately 8:20 p.m. he called the meeting back to order.

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**IT Security Upgrades**

While the finance director worked to compile the results, City Clerk Pevey explained that IT security updates were being made to include implementation of multi factor authentication for remote access to emails. Discussion around this change and the affects certain members of council had already experienced due to this change rolling out sooner than staff had anticipated.

**ARPA discussion (continued)**

Finance Director Erdman shared the initial ARPA voting results. After a brief discussion it was determined there were discrepancies in the initial results being presented. Discussion amongst councilmembers confirmed that staff should focus on the projects that would utilize the first \$500,000 of ARPA funds and hold off on discussion of the remaining \$500,000 of ARPA funds until the city received word regarding their pending grant application for park funds. It was determined that due to the late hour, with this suggestion, staff would continue to confirm the results and bring them back to a future meeting for continued discussion. Staff encouraged to do a deeper look at the top projects revealed and bring additional information about those at that meeting. Council thanked staff for their hard work to assist council in making an informed decision.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public noted in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich the meeting was ended at approximately 8:54 pm. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

DocuSigned by:



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Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk

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Russell Wiita, Mayor