

CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING – March 24, 2022

Mayor Wiita called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 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 called roll and the following were in attendance:

Councilmembers: Morgan, Aldrich, Dearborn, Hund, Neigel, and Sivewright;

Councilmembers Absent: Beeler;

Staff: City Administrator Ibershof, City Attorney Evans, and City Clerk Pevey.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by COUNCILMEMBER Morgan, council added excused absence of Councilmember Beeler to the consent agenda; Motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATION

Community Transit Update

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's office

Roland Behee, Community Transit (CT) Director of Planning and Development, provided an update on CT including the agency focus on ridership and safety, regional integration with light rail, service innovation, zero emissions fleet feasibility study, long range planning, and 2024 network planning. Ridership remains below half of pre-pandemic levels but is increasing. Acknowledged the area is experiencing very substantial growth projections and CT is in the process of long range planning and is reviewing potential service growth thru 2050.

Thomas Tumola, CT Manager of Planning, provided a deeper look into CT planning with the arrival of light rail integration. Entering the public outreach phase of planning, he reiterated CT's goal of travel made easy for all to include connecting bus to light rail, expanding access to frequent service, adjusting to a changing market, focusing on equitable access, and providing updates on transit projects in line with these goals.

Mayor inquired on proposed changes in the Sultan area; Thomas Tumola stated CT is working on corridor service to Gold Bar and noted that the Snohomish/Monroe area is being reviewed to include 522 which showed high travel demand in 2019. CT is working to bring forth a proposal with connections to I-5 and the I-405 corridor.

Councilmember Neigel asked about mitigating the environmental impact of CT bus battery disposal; Roland Behee confirmed it is being reviewed as part of the feasibility study, along with reviewing types of fuel cells. Behee stated CT is reviewing their "wells to wheels" process from manufacture thru life of bus and disposal of bus. CT is still reviewing the best technology in their feasibility study.

Councilmembers expressed concern about what CT is doing to make ridership easy for area residents. Behee stated the volume of service will increase and CT is expanding the length of service beginning earlier in the day and extending later into the evening. CT is tracking travel patterns to see where increased bus services are needed. . and reviewing extending new innovative modes such as on demand transit being offered by CT vans and smaller buses. The goal of future growth planning is to work to provide service from point A to point B without customers having to connect with the system via a carpooling site and working to provide more flexibility for passengers.

Councilmember Sivewright questioned if the Orca Card system would continue and if there were expansion plans for that system. Roland stated CT has had success with that program and agreed there is further opportunity to expand Orca Card access.

Mayor Wiita talked about the increased demand heading south out of Monroe towards the Bellevue/Kirkland area. He asked if CT is considering smaller vehicles or do they see Monroe as a larger future hub heading west/south with smaller vehicles running east. Roland explained it is a potential future option; when including smaller vehicles it opens

up more opportunity. Public input is the second phase during the entire month of May 2022 and encouraged council members to provide input thru that process.

Snohomish Health District (SHD) Update

Presentation on file with the City Clerk's office.

Regina Gray, Environmental Health Director, SHD provided an update on the work being performed at SHD in relationship to their strategic goals. In 2021 with the goal to build a more sustainable organization SHD work included covid response testing, immunizations, case investigation work, working with schools, and contact tracing work to protect local communities in addition to the normal SHD routine functions. Last year Washington State made significant investments in public health services and increased the capacity to deliver services to residents of the communities in Washington State. Gray reiterated SHD values to include commitment of the community; advancing clear, open and honest communication; responsible use of resources; driven by diversity, equity and inclusion; operating as a team. Senate House Bill 1074 moving thru to passing by the governor and scope focuses on defining cases on fatality or near fatality, causes and manner of death to review data and develop recommendations for prevention programs or policies. New resources coming online in reference to environmental health including digitizing paper records and food safety code revisions. With schools returning to in person sessions school safety inspections are resuming, and they are responding to solid waste complaints regarding nuisance properties. Gray stated the SHD front counter is fully open to in person customers. In progress to update the community health assessment and once completed with a move forward to a Community Health Improvement Plan. Provided ways to get involved to include participation in the new ABC's for Healthy Kids Campaign.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None noted

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Morgan: Reminded council that the Fire Department facility tour is tentatively set for May 7th; next Wednesday is an education jamboree at 5 p.m. at the middle school which includes a tour of facilities; the next school levy election is on April 26th and he encouraged citizens to vote; thoughts and prayers with the citizens of Ukraine.

Neigel: Attended the Sultan prevention coalition meeting this week, as well as a regional opiod consortium planning meeting led by the Snohomish Health District thru National Office of Drug Control Policy.

Sivewright: The Virtual Resource Center Community Court starting in Monroe. The first virtual resource center will be open April 1st and open to citizens every Friday 11 a.m. to noon.

MAYOR COMMENTS

The Transportation Impact Fee ordinance initially planned for tonight hit a publication snafu and is postponed until the next meeting. The Chamber of Commerce auction is set for April 23rd and is their biggest fundraiser of the year. Wiita encouraged citizens to support the event. The Easter Egg Hunt in Goldbar and Sultan is coming soon and encouraged citizens to help stuff easter eggs prior to the event. Will have a council presentation scheduled at a future meeting to discuss nuisance properties. City and Sheriff's office have been coordinating efforts on nuisance properties and are working on providing more public training regarding this process. Encouraged citizens to call 911 or city hall to report issues they notice so it can be tracked and handled. This Saturday's Chamber of Commerce welcome walk begins at 9 a.m. at Good Brewing. The walk will visit local businesses to get to know Main Street owners and establishments. Snohomish County created the Housing Affordability Regional Task Force (HART) a few years ago. HART is now reconvening specifically to talk about the 1/10th of 1% sales tax implemented by the county to fund affordable housing and behavioral health projects. Each city gets a say in how they do that so Wiita encouraged city representation and asked that anyone interested reach out to him for more details.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

A mental health counselor proposal is coming to council for consideration and includes council working thru the final components. The April 7th council workshop will be on ARPA funds. Sultan was awarded \$1 million to invest and will be seeking council input on projects for staff to focus on funding. Public Works is continuing to work with WSDOT regarding US2 improvement efforts; \$70,000 budgeted for improvements to irrigation at Osprey Park and a quick discussion ensued on issues found in the project and suggestions staff will be bringing forward in a series of phases to council. Ibershof anticipated that due to system reconfigurations the project will cost \$12,000 with the plan to move the remaining funds to dog park improvements. Ibershof also shared updated structure improvements completed at Osprey Park to include a covered dugout and covered viewing areas.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works written staff reports were submitted and are on file.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, the following consent agenda items were approved with motion passing 6-0.

- 1) Voucher Approval thru March 10, 2022 accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$594,238.23, January Excise Taxes in the amount of \$14,259.70, payroll #4, February council payroll, payroll #4 and #3 benefits and payroll taxes in the amount of \$137,276.22, all to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 2) Voucher Approval thru March 24, 2022 voids and accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$382,850.46, February excise taxes in the amount of \$15,955.31 and bond payment in the amount of \$3,589.53 all to be drawn and paid on the proper accounts.
- 3) Minutes of the 2/19/2022 Council Retreat.
- 4) Minutes of the 2/24/2022 Council Meeting.
- 5) Excused absence of Councilmember Beeler.

ACTION ITEMS

AB22-25 Public Works Pressure Washer Replacement

On a motion by Councilmember Sivewright, seconded by Councilmember Aldrich, council authorized staff to purchase a new pressure washer trailer for an amount not to exceed \$10,899.00 without prior council authorization; Motion passed 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – Current or Potential Litigation

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, council entered executive Session for an initial period of ten minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 to discuss current or potential litigation; Motion passed 6-0. Council started executive session at approximately 8:10 p.m. with City Attorney Evans and City Attorney Bob Zeinemann in attendance. No public noted in attendance in Zoom or in person. Extended 10 minutes at approximately 8:20 p.m.; no public noted in attendance, but clerk announced the extension to the lobby. Extended 5 minutes at approximately 8:30; no public noted in attendance, but clerk again announced the extension to the lobby. Council ended executive session at approximately 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilmember Aldrich, seconded by Councilmember Hund the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m. The Zoom meeting connection was disconnected shortly thereafter.

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Tami J. Pevey, City Clerk

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Russell Wiita, Mayor