

City Council Workshop (Tuesday, March 3, 2020)

Generated by Carolyn Holm on Thursday, March 5, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Norma L. Hernández
Council Members Michael Cleveland, Loren Peterson, Melodie Selby

Staff Administrator, Mike Rizzitiello;
Finance Director, Brian Carleton;
Deputy City Clerk, Carolyn Holm;

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marge Nyhagen, Heather Schermann, Byron Trop
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Bobbitt
City Attorney Absent: Rea Culwell

1. Opening Items.**Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM******Note: A quorum of Council Members was not in attendance. No action was taken that would require a quorum of Council.**

Procedural: 1.01 Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 1.02 Moment of Silence for Reflection / Invocation - Any City Employee or Elected Official; delivering the invocation, does so in his/her capacity as a private citizen, and not in his/her official position as a city employee/elected city official.

Information: 1.03 Excuse absence of Council Members Nyhagen, Schermann, Trop, and Bobbitt

2. Workshop Topics.**Discussion: 2.01 Fiscal Year 2018 Audit Results - Mr. Carleton**

Mr. Carleton reviewed the SAO Exit Recommendations provided by the auditors. He informed there were seven items for review with recommendations: financial statements, procurement, credit cards/travel, payroll cost allocation, ER&R cost allocation, EFT controls, and the Police evidence room. The recommendations were reviewed and have already been addressed and in some cases, new procedures implemented. Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Procedural: 2.02 Council Training Part II - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed the second half of the presentation provided by Washington City/County Management Association on council rules. The Land Use Planning and Economic Development portion of the presentation touching on when and how the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) could affect the City. Mr. Rizzitiello provided an overview of Lobbying 101 and how Council Members can use their power as a city leader to influence decision makers thereby effectively advocating for the City. Discussion ensued.

Discussion: 2.03 Update on FY 2020 State Legislative Session - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello went over a few of the high and medium priority bills. He informed you can click on the Bill # to review in depth of each bill. Council Member Selby noted the most effective items to review are the Bill Reports contained within the link. Any substitute bills in this section will be the most updated. Discussion ensued regarding the status of Highway 12 Phase 7 and Mr. Rizziteillo informed it made it to both the House and Senate budgets, which is a good sign. It is unknown at this time how the Governor will proceed.

Discussion: 2.04 College Place Flex/Makerspace Concept - Mr. Rizzitiello/Mayor Hernández

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the State of Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) has two grants available; both he and Mayor Hernández have been discussing the lack of any

available flex industrial/makerspace in the City. He noted if we apply and are awarded the grant, we could use the grant funding to help investigate the feasibility of a city-owned flex space/makerspace and what site would best fit this project. Discussion ensued.

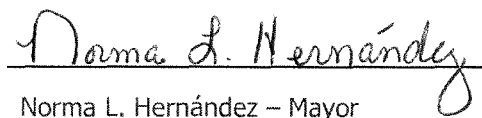
Council Member Selby informed the Walla Walla University (WWU) Engineering Department is interested in such a project and has some information from when WWU and the Port of Walla Walla wanted to do this and started the process approximately 8 years ago but it went nowhere. She encouraged whomever the selected feasibility study investigator is to speak with the Engineering Department. Mr. Rizzitiello informed there are two locations that could be a perfect fit for this project.

All Council Members in attendance were in agreement this project would be perfect fit for the City and should be done.

Council Member Peterson suggested adding a public comment in the agenda before each voting of action items to allow for the public to comment during the discussion of the topic. This would alleviate the awkwardness that occurs as we ask the public to wait until the action item is presented. It was noted that the City of Walla Walla does this and it seems to work seamlessly. Mr. Rizzitiello informed he would speak with Mrs. Neissl regarding this change.

Mayor Hernández adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Approved:



Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:



Lisa R. Neissl – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council meeting that occurred March 3, 2020. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.