

City Council Workshop - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, June 6, 2023)

Generated by Sherri St Clair on Tuesday, June 6, 2023

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the workshop to order at 7:31 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mayor - Norma L. Hernández

Council Members – Paul Jessup, Michael Cleveland, Tito Espinoza Jr., Loren Peterson, Melodie Williams, Heather Schermann, Monica Boyle

Staff- City Administrator, Michael Rizzitiello; City Attorney, Rea Culwell; City Clerk, Sherri St. Clair

Also Present:

Rachel Elfenein - Common Roots Housing

Nancy Riggle - Common Roots Housing

Miles Nowlin - Executive Director at Common Roots Housing

Joy Smith - Board Member at Common Roots Housing

Patricia Wilder - Common Roots Housing

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None

2. Workshop Topics.

Discussion, Information: 2.01 Common Roots Land Trust -

Ms. Riggle introduced the Common Roots Housing Trust (Common Roots) board members and staff that were present at the meeting. Ms. Riggle and Mr. Nowlin gave a presentation on Common Roots outlining what Common Roots is, how it works, the affordability of homes in the area.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.02 Regulating Bee Hives -

Ms. Culwell informed the Council that the City received a complaint from a property owner in Walla Walla County that their neighbor, who is a College Place resident, has bee hives and the bees are coming onto the complainants property to get water from a pond. Currently, the College Place resident with the bee hives does not meet the City's municipal code. Ms. Culwell requested input from the Council regarding the situation.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.03 Blake Fix -

Ms. Culwell informed the Council that in 2021 the Washington Supreme Court ruled that the felony drug possession law was unconstitutional, therefore the City enacted it's own code prohibiting drug possession of federally classified controlled substances and making it a gross misdemeanor. Then Washington State passed the "Blake Fix" which made drug possession a gross misdemeanor and required three treatment referrals before the suspect could be arrested and or charged for possession. However, there was no way to track the referrals. This "Blake Fix" expires in July 1, 2023, however, the State has passed a second "Blake Fix" that makes drug use a gross misdemeanor, it will be illegal to use drugs in public, and prosecutors are encouraged to agree to diversion. The second "Blake Fix" goes into effect August 14, 2023, therefore, the City will be following the City code between July 1st and August 13th 2023 that allows the College Place Police to arrest and charge a suspect for drug possession.

Discussion ensued.

3. Closing Items.Discussion, Information: 3.01 Good of the Order

Council Member Peterson inquired as to the progress of the motor repair on Well #3. Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council that they were testing it on 6-6-2023 and it should be up and running on 6-7-2023.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Hernández made an announcement that the College Place Farmers Market is open on Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the municipal campus parking lot and that the Korean War Memorial is on June 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Veterans Park.

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council that College Place Creative District meeting is Wednesday June 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Lions Club building in College Place.

Procedural: 3.02 Conclusion

Mayor Hernández concluded the workshop at 7:10 PM.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Norma L. Hernández

Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sherri St. Clair

Sherri St. Clair – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council workshop that occurred June 6, 2023. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.