City Council Workshop - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, April 2, 2024)
Generated by Sherri St Clair on Tuesday, April 2, 2024

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the workshop to order at 5:30 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:	
Mayor -	Norma L. Hernández
Council Members –	Paul Jessup; Michael Cleveland; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams; Heather Schermann; Monica Boyle;
Staff-	Finance Director. Brian Carleton; City Attorney, Rea Culwell; Police Chief, Troy Tomaras; Police Sergeant Dylan Schmick; Deputy Finance Director, DaShari Schmick, Deputy City Clerk, Athen Reid; City Clerk, Sherri St. Clair.
Also Present -	
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Tito Espinoza Jr.
MEMBERS ABSENT:	

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None

2. Workshop Topics.

Discussion: 2.01 Regulating Public Camping -
Ms. Culwell had requested that the Mayor start with the Regulating Public Camping Workshop topic first. Ms. Culwell reminded the Council that the regulation of public camping had been previously discussed in early 2023 due to the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in September of 2022 regarding the criminal punishment of sleeping in public when a person has nowhere to go. Ms. Culwell noted that College Place does not have an anti-camping ordinance and that law enforcement has utilized the City's park rules regarding trespassing. Police Sergeant Schmick reported that with the increasingly nice weather, the Police Department has seen an increase in public camping and the evidence of unlawful activity at these "camps".

Discussion Ensued.

Discussion: 2.02 Mandatory minimum sentences for repeat criminal offenders -
Ms. Culwell explained the current mandatory minimum sentences for repeat misdemeanor offenders. Currently 0 jail time and $0 in fines across the board. Thefts and attempted thefts from Walmart have increased for College Place, and the tactics used have become more sophisticated in order to successfully steal. In the City Attorney's experience, the current criminal sentencing structure for these crimes committed by repeat offenders in insufficient to deter recidivism. Ms. Culwell refers to the code implementing increased mandatory minimums in Marysville, WA as an example of potential next steps.

Discussion Ensued.

Discussion: 2.03 Removing Building Inspection for Water Service Unit Change -
Ms. Culwell gave a brief description of the current inspection process for water customers having a multi-family or single-family dwelling unit. Per the building department, the need for physical inspection and classification verification serves little benefit to the City, and is proving unnecessary as inspection standard. Staff is seeking direction on removing this physical inspection requirment, with the stipulation that if a user falsly claims a multi-family dwelling as a single-family dwelling, then a fine and back-charges will be issued.

Discussion Ensued.

Discussion: 2.04 Downtown Public Parking -
Ms. Culwell shared that staff efforts to fulfill downtown parking needs have not yet resulted in any viable options. The lack of downtown public parking has been cited as a barrier for economic development. In May of 2023, the City passed an ordinance designating the Stone Creek/Downtown Tax Increment Area, intended to finance the purchase and development for 3-4 public parking areas. Subsequently, a lease agreement is to be drafted between the City and Walla Walla University.

Discussion Ensued.

3. Closing Items.
Discussion, Information: 3.01 Good of the Order - None

Procedural: 3.02 Conclusion

Mayor Hernández concluded the workshop to order at 7:00 PM.

Approved:

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Norma L. Hernández
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Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Sherri St.Clair
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Sherri St. Clair – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council Workshop that occurred April 2, 2024. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.