City of Selah
Council Minutes
March 23, 2021

Regular Meeting
Electronically Via Zoom
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order — Mayor Raymond called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Jacquie Matson; Clifford Peterson; Roger Bell; Russell Carlson; Suzanne Vargas; Michael Costello

Members Absent: Kevin Wickenhagen

Staff Present: Donald Wayman, City Administrator; Rob Case, City Attorney; Dan Christman, Police Chief; Treesa Morales, Public Records Specialist; Monica Lake, Executive Assistant

C. Councilmember Absence – Motion to Excuse

Council Member Carlson moved, and Council Member Matson seconded, to excuse Council Member Wickenhagen. By a show of hands, approval was unanimous.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Raymond led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Invocation

Pastor Tom Morris gave the prayer.

F. Agenda Changes — **None**

G. Public Appearances/Introductions/Presentations

1. Katrina Henkle, Selah Downtown Association – Update

Katrina Henkle, Selah Downtown Association (SDA) Executive Director, addressed the Council. She said that she had a few items to mention, including the Sip and Stroll on June 10, the same day as Hot Rods on First, a reminder that the Beautification grant applications were due April 2, and their annual cleanup day on May 15 at 9am, which they have invited Council and City staff to participate in.

Mayor Raymond requested that she stated the dates again.

Ms. Henkle replied that the Sip and Stroll is June 19, grant applications are due April 2, and the cleanup day is May 15. She noted that they would also be changing out planter boxes on May 15.

Council Member Carlson asked if the Sip and Stroll would be after the Hot Rods event.

Ms. Henkle answered that they would start the event at 2pm, and the Hot Rods event would end at 3pm. She added that they haven't nailed down yet whether the event would run for four hours or five.

Council Member Costello asked if cleanup day started at 9am at the Civic Center.

Ms. Henkle answered in the affirmative, saying that it would run until about 1pm and that folks could drop off collected garbage at the Civic Center.

H. Getting To Know Our Businesses

1. Best Practices Healthcare, Greg & Janice Swart

Janice Swart, Best Practices Healthcare, addressed the Council. She said that she was born and raised in Selah and has a passion for the community, and that she and her husband have just joined some friends in opening up their business to provide behavioral health and urgent care from 7:30am to 7:30pm Monday through Friday, and 9:30am to 5:30pm Saturday and Sunday. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share this with Council tonight.

Mayor Raymond inquired if things were picking up for them.

Ms. Swart replied in the affirmative, saying that they were printing off more flyers to pass around, and she would be happy to answer questions or give people tours of the facility.

Greg Swart noted that they are located in the old Astria building next to Tractor Supply.

City Administrator Wayman wondered which insurances they accepted, such as Medicare or Tri-care.

Mr. Swart answered that they take all commercial insurances and all Medicaid, and are in the process of credentialing everyone to be open to all insurance as also an urgent care facility. He noted that they also take cash at a twenty percent discount. He said that they have have x-ray and ultrasound, splinting and casting, and an urgent care plus, and feel really feel blessed to provide these services to Selah and the greater area so they don't have to head out of Selah for a sniffle or a stitch. He remarked that they've been doing advertising on TV as well as articles in both the Selah Journal and Yakima Herald to get the word out and let everyone know they're here.

Mayor Raymond commented that they would be getting busy with sports picking up.

The Swarts thanked Council for their time.

I. Communications

1. Oral

Mayor Raymond opened the Public Meeting.

City Attorney Case read aloud the rules of conduct as stated in the Agenda.

Executive Assistant Lake stated that there were no public comments submitted.

Mayor Raymond closed the Meeting.

2. Written

a. Recycling Data Report for the 4th Quarter of 2020

J. Proclamations/Announcements **None**

K. Consent Agenda

Executive Assistant Lake read the Consent Agenda.

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

* 1. Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021 Council Meeting

* 2. Approval of Claims and Payroll:

Payroll Checks Nos. 84115 – 84127 for a total of $212,859.77
Claim Checks Nos. 176257 – 176327 for a total of $128,083.39

**Council Member Peterson moved, and Council Member Matson seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda as read. By a show of hands, approval was unanimous.**

L. Public Hearings **None**

M. General Business

1. New Business **None**

2. Old Business **None**

N. Resolutions

1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Amendment to the Selah Park and Recreation Interlocal Agreement between the City of Selah and Yakima County

City Administrator Wayman addressed N – 1. He said that this is a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Amendment to the Selah Park and Recreation Interlocal Agreement between the City of Selah and Yakima County, as it was brought to the City's attention by the Selah Park & Recreation Service

Area (SPRSA) board that they were having problems filling the seats on their board and the process to do so was part of the interlocal agreement that was subject to the creation of SPRSA. He went on to say that they took a look at it, consulted with County Commissioner Amanda McKinney and the Selah School District, and came up with this solution in order to more efficiently and adequately fill the seats on the board. He requested that Council Member Bell speak before having questions from Council.

Council Member Bell remarked that the process has gone on for over a year for various reasons, primarily COVID, starting with prior Commissioner Vicki Baker but they weren't able to get it resolved. He went on to say that they are now at point with the SPRSA board where they need to fill the open positions for several reasons including making tax decisions regarding a potential levy and the extreme concern expressed by their insurance underwriter that that don't have a full board. He would like Council to approve the Resolution to proceed and provide a path to fill all seven positions on the board.

City Administrator Wayman commented that in the previous agreement the City had two Council Members as part of the board, which had presented problems in the past and could in the future with those Council Members needing to recuse themselves from one vote or another if it affected City business, so they need to go away from having Council Members serving on that taxing district board. He went on to say that the other change was to have the Mayor be the appointing authority instead of the Council, to be consistent with other boards in the City and a strong Mayor form of government.

**Council Member Bell moved, and Council Member Peterson seconded, to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Amendment to the Selah Park and Recreation Interlocal Agreement between the City of Selah and Yakima County.**

Council Member Carlson questioned the four positions being filled by Yakima County, as it states positions four through seven would be filled by Yakima County or Selah residents, so technically someone in Zillah or Granger could serve on the board.

City Administrator Wayman responded that it was modified at the County's request, as they want the most flexibility they can have to get interested people who would serve more effectively to help the board get things done that they need to do, adding that he doesn't presume to tell the County Commissioners what to do, but they are interested in getting the board filled with active members.

Council Member Bell added that the original agreement called for a County Commissioner or designee to sit on the board, and as far as he could recall most Commissioners haven't been residents of this area.

Council Member Carlson replied that was his concern, and his recommendation would be to keep the verbiage to within the service area, as he has concerns about someone outside the taxing district voting for a tax increase for the City of Selah.

City Administrator Wayman commented that in negotiations the Commissioners weren't interested in sitting on the board; they were seeking more flexibility.

Council Member Bell pointed out that the SPRSA Board positions don't actually vote on a tax anyway, just whether to present a tax to the citizens within the taxing district to vote on.

Council Member Vargas stated that her question had been answered.

Council Member Peterson wondered why the revision had taken out the language regarding two-year terms and a rotation of terms, as it looked to be indefinite appointments rather than set two-year terms.

City Administrator Wayman answered that the set two-year term does remain.

Council Member Carlson went back to his initial point that anyone making recommendations for a tax increase for their area should have skin in the game, opining that it isn't logical to allow anyone outside the voting district to be part of the board although they could be brought in as advisors or consultants. He wasn't comfortable providing a voice on this board to someone not in the voting district.

Council Member Matson asked Council Member Bell if there would be any circumstances at all where decisions would be made for tax dollars to be spent by anyone outside their voting area.

Council Member Bell responded that once that tax was approved the board directs how it's spent, but they have pretty tight control on what they can do as a limited tax authority, with either bond issues for construction within the taxing area or levies for operation and maintenance only, adding that they couldn't spend money anywhere else and it must be spent within the taxing authority's purview. He went on to say that the State constitution that granted the limited authority for the SPRSA board falls under the Parks RCW, which is very specific on what they can and can't do and what their authority is.

Council Member Matson had the same concern as Council Member Carlson, saying she was unsure why they four positions were appointed by the County, especially if they weren't from their taxing district.

City Administrator Wayman felt they might be misunderstanding the situation, as the City doesn't have a veto on the County's four votes. He went on to say that they belong to the County Commissioners, even though the City has the wherewithal to renegotiate the agreement, and the Commissioners were looking for flexibility with the intent to provide the best people available for those four positions, citing a few examples that would be of benefit to the board. He opined that it puts the City in a strange position by telling the Commissioners who they can put in those positions.

Council Member Costello inquired if the reason behind it was due to a of lack of interest within the district.

City Administrator Wayman responded that it wasn't a major point of discussion for them, that he didn't think their intent was to go outside the area but he believed they wanted the capacity to fill the position with a capable person. He pointed out that he was trying to channel what the County wanted and found it strange that Council was questioning what the County wants to do with their four votes. He went on to say that they could certainly go back and ask if Council desires to make the change to inside the service area, and although it would delay the vote for another month or so, it wouldn't affect the operations of SPRSA in any way shape or form, noting that he was presuming something he didn't know for sure.

Council Member Bell remarked that there's only one open County position at the moment, as the three currently appointed by the School District wish to continue to serve, and the City would be adding two people. He said that he had talked with Commissioners Vicki Baker and Amanda McKinney and they

expressed concern about being able to fill the position, although it wasn't the same kind of issue as the School District being required to appoint two School Board members for it when they had no direct connection aside from use of the facility. He added that the School District has requested to have that removed, and the intent was to have four people on the County side as they represent a slightly larger portion than the population within city limits.

City Administrator Wayman agreed that there was a significant population difference.

Council Member Peterson commented that his understanding was that the SPRSA board is an administrative board that doesn't go out and tax people, although it may recommend and put issues on the ballot, but the people on the board are an administrative board whose only facility at this point in time is the swimming pool. He felt there was potential that in future for there to be other facilities or activities that SPRSA oversees, but even then, it would still be an administrative board. He went on to say that the County deals with more tax districts and sub-districts than they do, and the Commissioners were well aware that whenever possible that it is the members within the service district that would be appointed to the board. He understood the concerns of his fellow Council Members but thought that had to have some trust and confidence in their fellow elected officials to do the best they can.

Council Member Bell pointed out that the name is Selah Park, singular, so they wouldn't take on any other parks, adding that the RCW that grants taxing authority grants control to the County anyway, they hold all of the funds, and while by board vote they authorize the County to pay bills they are monitored and are also subject to audits. He commented that there was adequate control to ensure they're spending money the way it was intended and required by law.

City Administrator Wayman remarked that, in a way, it's a quasi-municipal organization and a taxing district, as they can raise taxes with the approval of a vote, but their job is to administer spending and set policy for the swimming pool within the scope of what was voted on by the voters. He added that the County wants more control and he doesn't see that being an unreasonable request, although he will go back and tell them to change that at the Council's request.

Council Member Carlson responded that the conversation was getting away from them a bit, as he doesn't have any lack of trust and sees the struggles both the City and School District have placing people. He didn't see the County Commissioners having an issue with it, adding that they were welcome to bring anyone on they want to be a consultant or assistant, but in his opinion Council's veto power for who they put on there happens now, as he doesn't think it fair to the citizens for someone who isn't within the boundary to serve. He reiterated adding back in to select members within the taxing district.

Council Member Bell stated that they were at a critical time for the board right now, and this would delay them longer. He explained that their insurance carrier wasn't comfortable with the board lacking some members and there was also no guarantee that another insurance carrier would pick them up if they were dropped. He opined that it was extremely important on the City side to move forward.

Council Member Peterson wondered if it was an oversimplification to say that with SPRSA being a sub district of the County, this is essentially a County board that allows the City to have three people.

City Administrator Wayman responded that he was right about the board, as was his original point with idea that they may one day take over more duties and become a bigger organization.

**Roll was called: Council Member Matson – yes; Council Member Vargas – yes; Council Member Peterson – yes; Council Member Bell – yes; Council Member Costello – yes; Council Member Carlson – no. Motion passed with five yes votes and one no vote.**

O. Ordinances **None**

P. Public Appearances **None**

Q. Reports/Announcements

1. Departments

Police Chief Christman said that he has been working heavily on personnel, and was happy to report that they have two new officers coming on board soon, with a tentative start date of May 1. He went on to say that they will go to the academy for four months then start the field training process, adding that one is a reserve officer transitioning into full-time and the other is currently working at the Yakima Police Department jail, and both have given them a solid commitment. He noted that they would be finishing up testing this week on a lateral officer and work with Executive Assistant Lake to get a Civil Service meeting scheduled to get the list certified. He finished by saying that he would continue working with the facilities committee on moving forward.

Fire Chief Hanna said that he was out on a house fire but as this was his last official meeting as the Fire Chief he wanted to thank everyone with entrusting him with running the department for the past seven years, saying that it has been a pleasure.

Mayor Raymond responded that they all appreciate him and the good hands he's left them in, having brought Fire Chief Lange up under his wings to leave them in a good place.

Fire Chief Hanna expressed his confidence in Fire Chief Lange.

City Attorney Case had no report.

2. Council Members

Council Member Bell said that, having sat in on the Fire Commissioners' Board as the City representative for several years now, he knows the Commissioners have also taken a strong position in supporting Fire Chief Hanna training Fire Chief Lange to take over to ensure an orderly transfer of leadership at the Fire Department, and they done a good job transitioning. He thanked his fellow Council Members for passing the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement so that they can move forward with the SPRSA board and have good strong representation.

Council Member Vargas had no report.

Council Member Costello thanked Fire Chief Hanna for his service.

Council Member Matson expressed her congratulations and thanks to Fire Chief Hanna for his years of service. She also thanked Council Member Bell for his explanations tonight. She gave a brief report on the YVCOG meeting she attended, saying that the speaker had a good presentation. She went on to say that she also attended the SDA meeting, echoing Ms. Henkle's information regarding the Sip and Stroll and that Wine, Dine and Beyond were slated for later in the year, with the committee recently holding their first meeting. She provided an update from Assistant School Superintendent Scacco that the District would be going out for a levy again, and that kindergarten through third grade would be going back full-time after Spring Break.

Council Member Bell noted that Wine, Dine and Beyond is scheduled for October 15.

Council Member Carlson echoed his fellow Council Members' comments regarding Fire Chief Hanna, adding that he appreciates his time and service. He said that they had an LTAC meeting yesterday, with applications from Selah Little League presented, and they made the recommendation to support material purchase for pads for the batting cages in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars as there will be an All-star tournament held there this year. He noted that all labor would be done by them and they're also taking on a large amount of expenses themselves.

Council Member Peterson thanked Chief Hanna for his service, and thanked Council Member Bell for all his time on the SPRSA board. He commented that the Selah School District Board would be meeting this Thursday at 4:30pm in person at the Lince Gym and would also stream it live on YouTube.

3. City Administrator

City Administrator Wayman said that he believes they've finished discussion regarding the West Goodlander cell tower contract and should be bringing something to Council at the first meeting in April. He remarked that he was researching medical insurance alternatives, as they do annually, and that he had a couple inquiries out on that. He commented that the sidewalk and street crack seal project would be coming to Council soon, and they were hoping to move approximately two hundred fifty thousand dollars improve and repair sidewalks. He noted that the new sign ordinance was being worked on, adding that the City Attorney and Community Development Supervisor worked had on it and it was currently before the Planning Commission with presentation to Council in June.

City Attorney Case commented that it would hopefully be a little earlier than that, likely sometime in the next month or two.

City Administrator Wayman remarked that they were also having people come in and do survey of the phone system to get an estimate of what it would cost to update the system and get new phones. He said that he's worked with Recreation Manager Schab to get an estimate together to get the repeater installed and that he hopes to have that to Council within the next month. He commented that they are also working on a review of the GYGSA contract, one of a number of things that need to be updated, and would be bringing that to Council within the next month as well. He finished by saying that they expect to have the City Attorney on board April 1.

4. Boards

a. Planning Commission Minutes for January 19, 2021

5. Mayor

Mayor Raymond reminded Council that the Jurassic Parliament books for their training session with Ann McFarlane were in their mailboxes at City Hall. She commented that it can be hard to get people to step forward to serve on the SPRSA board and other boards, and requested that if they know anyone who would be interested to send them her way. She thanked Council Member Bell for covering for her at the last Council Meeting.

R. Executive Session **None**

S. Adjournment

**Council Member Matson moved, and Council Member Costello seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. By a show of hands, approval was unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Sherry Raymond, Mayor

Roger Bell, Council Member

Russell Carlson, Council Member

Jacquie Matson, Council Member

EXCUSED
Kevin Wickenhagen, Council Member

Clifford Peterson, Council Member

Suzanne Vargas, Council Member

ATTEST:

Michael Costello, Council Member

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer