City of Selah
Council Minutes
March 9, 2021

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

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

B. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Mayor Sherry Raymond

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

C. Councilmember Absence – Motion to Excuse **None**

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tempore Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Invocation

Pastor Jason Williams gave the prayer.

R. Executive Session ****RELOCATED****

1. 15 Minute Session – Litigation RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Council went into Executive Session at 5:37pm. At 5:52pm, Council went back on the record. Mayor Pro Tempore Bell stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

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 they were accepting applications for the beautification grant, which are due April 2, but have had no applicants thus far. She remarked that the Easter eggs are out for the business discovery Easter egg hunt, with clues posted on social media and entry forms available either at Grocery Outlet or on

social media, with a due date of April 2. She noted that the SDA spring cleanup day would be moved to May 15 and extended invitations to everyone to come on out and join them.

Council Member Peterson inquired as to the times and where to meet for the cleanup day.

Ms. Henkle replied that she was working on getting those details together and would provide exact details to Council when finalized.

H. Getting To Know Our Businesses **None**

I. Communications

1. Oral

Mayor Pro Tempore Bell opened the Public Meeting.

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

Executive Assistant Lake said that there were three comments submitted.

From Mindy Clark, Selah:

I would like to thank City Councilwoman, Suzanne Vargas, for her honesty, integrity, and her push for accountability from City staff, the Mayor, and other Council Members. During her short term of being a City Council Member, she has represented Selah residents well. I would also like to thank City Councilman, Russ Carlson, for his vigilance, integrity, and, also, his push for accountability from City staff, the Mayor, and other Council Members. They both exhibit a willingness to listen to Selah residents and work to make Selah a better place. Thank you.

From Daniel Callahan, Selah:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Vargas for her service to our community. She has frequently shown a dedication to transparent local government. Her scrutiny toward the practices of our city council and her careful attention to each vote are greatly appreciated by the people of Selah. She has also been extremely responsive to concerned citizens, and represents our town well. Thank you, councilwoman.

From Jason Brink, Selah:

We have reached the point of no return in this quest for administrative incompetence.

You have all behaved so poorly that our tiny town has made National News multiple times in recent months.

It is time for across the board resignations and a return to true representation of the constituents of this city.

Pray for forgiveness and show the citizens some humility.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bell closed the Meeting.

2. Written **None**

City Attorney Case clarified that there were no written comments submitted.

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: February 23, 2021 Council Meeting

* 2. Approval of Claims and Payroll:

Payroll Checks Nos. 84098 – 84114 for a total of $287,257.29
Claim Checks Nos. 76195 – 76256 for a total of $186,351.15

* 3. Resolution N – 1: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tempore to Sign an Interlocal Agency Agreement between the City of Selah and Yakima County for On-Call Services on Federal Funded Projects

* 4. Resolution N – 2: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tempore to Sign a Contract with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments for Technical Assistance Services to be Provided During the Calendar Year of 2021

* 5. Ordinance O – 1: Ordinance Amending the 2021 Budget For Litigation Settlement

Council Member Peterson moved, and Council Member Carlson 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 Interlocal Agency Agreement between the City of Selah and Yakima County for On-Call Services on Federal Funded Projects

* 2. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Contract with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments for Technical Assistance Services to be Provided During the Calendar Year of 2021

O. Ordinances

* 1. Ordinance Amending the 2021 Budget For Litigation Settlement

P. Public Appearances **None**

Q. Reports/Announcements

1. Departments

Community Development Supervisor Peters said that they were working on a number of different applications with the building industry picking up, and had just hired a replacement for the Planning and Building Permit Technician named Makenzie Hoff. He commented that the Planning Commission would be considering a short plat application by David Van Alstine next Tuesday at 5:30pm, and that the information and Zoom link would be on the Planning Commission webpage.

City Administrator Wayman asked that he touch on their plan of action regarding the sign ordinance.

Community Development Supervisor Peters replied that City Attorney Case was working on a revision to the sign ordinance to address all those constitutional issues that have come up over the years with regard to how cities regulate commercial signage, free speech signage, and signs in the public rights of way. He went on toe say that once he's received the draft there will be a Planning Commissions study session at the end of the month, followed by an environmental review on the proposal, a public hearing with the Planning Commission to review and provide a recommendation to Council, and finally a public hearing before Council at the end of April or beginning of May.

City Attorney Case thanked Community Development Supervisor Peters for his continued good work, saying that he took the lead and he was simply putting his own touches on it. He remarked that the changes would be substantial and rather comprehensive, and he wanted to let the current business owners know that their signage would be grandfathered in, as they aren't trying to further restrict or take down existing lawful signs, but would in part be dealing with pre-existing Constitutional issues in the City's current code.

2. Council Members

Council Member Wickenhagen had no report.

Council Member Matson had no report.

Council Member Vargas had no report.

Council Member Peterson spoke briefly about the Selah School Board meeting he attended via Zoom, saying that they would be putting the M&O levy on the ballot in April, and that according to the report about opening schools, of the thirteen percent attending in person classrooms, thirty-five percent were in the Yakima Valley, which he found interesting.

Council Member Costello said that the police building committee met several times last week, taking tours of the Ellensburg, Union Gap, and Pasco police department facilities, and they were still working on reviewing what Selah's needs are. He added that Police Chief Christman joined them in all three locations, and the tours were very informative. He finished by saying that some documentation went out for architects, and they were still working on it and continuing to meet.

Council Member Carlson said that the SDA board met yesterday to discuss the façade grant, and while a decision was made, they wouldn't release any information until they have contacted the applicants directly and receive letters of acceptance in return. He noted that they were currently accepting applications for the beautification grant.

3. City Administrator

City Administrator Wayman informed Council that he had been working with the Public Works Director and City Attorney on getting a better lease for their cell towers, saying that he has been discussing the West Goodlander tower with an outfit out of Pittsburgh and what the City might receive to guarantee them that lease in 2027, and that he should have something for Council to review and consider to help generate more income for the water department, as sits on water department property. He remarked that the Well No. 6 well house pump refurbishment would require more work than initially thought, approximately ten thousand above the original estimate for repairs. He said that they were contemplating an extensive amount of sidewalk work and had sent a task order to HLA to look at sidewalks within a quarter mile of City bus stops to utilize money from the Transit Fund to repair sidewalks and crack seal roads within that quarter mile radius, as they are allowed to do. He went on to say that they were opening up the restrooms at the parks, Public Works is doing a lot of sweeping and sidewalk cleaning, and that they have closed the north tennis courts and are waiting for three night in a row of sixty degrees ambient temperature for the contractor to come in and do repairs on the work he had done before.

4. Boards **None**

5. Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Pro Tempore Bell reiterated that the police department law and justice center combination had gone out for proposals for design work, and the committee was putting together a report they could utilize to assist the architect they might choose or those who are bidding to assist them in developing something they think would be pleasing for the whole community.

City Administrator Wayman commented that they have a big personnel change at the police department, as Deputy Police Chief Steen is retiring and moving to the wastewater treatment plant starting next Monday. He added that the Police Chief was looking at how he'll replace him, possibly with a lieutenant instead of a deputy chief, and that as far as hires for open positions they have viable candidates for that and are in the final stages of getting them examined and approved.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bell remarked that of the three police departments they toured, all of their command structures were without a deputy chief but had lieutenants, which seemed to be a pretty standard structure. He reminded everyone that he had personally been concerned about the formatting of some of their meetings and how they conduct themselves as a Council, as they purport to be run by

Robert's Rules and yet are lacking in quite a few areas of Robert's Rules, and to that end are contracting for some training on April 20th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. He went on to say that the Mayor, Executive Assistant, and himself were in the same training over a year ago and found it to be extremely useful in explaining Robert's Rules of order and how they conduct business, noting that the training would be open to the public for observation but the Council would have interactive work and receive a handbook to go through as well. He added that the training would be conducted by Ann McFarlane, a highly decorated parliamentarian specializing in civic groups and councils who has been with the Association of Washington Cities for a long time now.

R. Executive Session ****RELOCATED****

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 6:22pm.

EXCUSED
Sherry Raymond, Mayor

Roger Bell, Council Member

Russell Carlson, Council Member

Jacquie Matson, Council Member

Kevin Wickenhagen, Council Member

Clifford Peterson, Council Member

Suzanne Vargas, Council Member

Michael Costello, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer