

**City of Selah
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024**

Call to Order:

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilmembers Present: David Monaghan, Clifford Peterson, Elizabeth Marquis, Michael Costello, Kevin Wickenhagen, William Longmire, Jared Iverson

Staff Present: Rich Huebner, City Administrator; Rob Case, City Attorney; James Lange, Fire Chief; Rocky Wallace, Public Works Director; Kimberly Grimm, City Clerk/Treasurer; Jeff Peters, Community Development Supervisor; Zack Schab, Recreation Director, and Treesa Morales, Executive Assistant.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

Invocation:

Pastor Don Cline from Selah Bible Baptist Church provided prayer

Agenda Changes:

Mayor Bell announced that item 12.A.I, Appeal of Ruling, has been postponed and will be heard on the 12th of March. Mayor Bell also asked the Council to retain the information provided for the hearing as it will not be printed again for the next meeting.

Comments from the Public:

Katrina Henkel from the Selah Downtown Association (SDA) provided an update on the items the SDA is working on.

Consent Agenda (all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered part of the consent agenda and are enacted in one motion).

Mayor Bell presented the stipulations of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Marquis requested to remove item 10-C from the consent agenda. Mayor Bell notified the Council that item 10-C will be removed and will now become item 13-B in the regular agenda. Councilmember Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilmember Wickenhagen seconded. Mayor Bell restated the motion and asked council for discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Bell requested a voice vote to approve the motion. By voice vote motion carries.

Approved Consent Agenda:

- A. Treesa Morales * Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2024 Council Meeting

- B. Kimberly Grimm * Approval of Claims & Payroll
Payroll Checks No.: 86087 – 86109 for a total of \$271,074.13
Claim Checks No.: 181089 - 181199 for a total of \$820,784.21
- C. Rocky Wallace * Resolution Authorizing the Mayor or Public Works Director to sign and submit a TIB Complete Streets Early Opportunity 2024 Funding Application to WSDOT, for a sidewalk gap project on the north side of East Home Avenue which will add sidewalk to connect N 1st Street and Wenas Road
- D. Kimberly Grimm * Ordinance Amending the 2024 Budget for Well No. 5 Repairs

Resolutions

13-A. Resolution Authorizing Additional Funding, Once Again, for the City’s Emergency Water Well #5 Project

Introduced by Mayor Bell. Presented by Public Works Director, Rocky Wallace. After discussion,

Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Costello seconded. Mayor Bell restated the motion and asked Council for discussion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Bell requested roll call from Mrs. Morales. Executive Assistant Morales called roll. Councilmember Monaghan – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes; Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Longmire – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes. Motion carries.

13-B. Resolution Authorizing City Attorney to Sign and Enter Into, on behalf of City, a Renewed Three-Year Contract with Thompson Reuters.

Introduced and presented by Mayor Bell and City Administrator Huebner. After discussion,

Councilmember Longmire asked how this is different from the legal services at MRSC? Mr. Huebner provided information of the difference between the two and how the City Attorney uses this as a tool to do research when needed. Mr. Longmire then asked if MRSC has attorneys on staff that would do the same research. Mr. Huebner explained that yes, they do, but not for every question. Mr. Huebner also said that MRSC is not a primary resource to Cities, they are more of a second opinion. Mr. Longmire asked what our process is now when we have a legal question, and if we go to MRSC first? Mr. Huebner explained that no, the City does not go to MRSC first, they are just a resource. Mr. Huebner explained that we go to the City Attorney first, who does the research and provides an opinion, then he will either say, yes, I am confident or not and then we can decide if we need to check with MRSC. Mayor Bell added that MRSC will not provide a legal opinion, they will only give their opinion regarding the law, but will tell you upfront that it

is not legal advice. Mr. Huebner also added that the City does not have attorney-client privilege with MRSC. Mr. Longmire asked if the City relies on what MRSC gives us as Law, because he has asked before and got a response that we do. Mr. Huebner explained that the City does rely on MRSC in the same vain that the City would for our Attorney, but Mr. Case can provide true legal advice, whereas MRSC can only give general legal analysis.

Councilmember Marquis asked about the cost and if there has always been a 5% increase? Mr. Huebner stated he believes so, yes. Councilmember Monaghan asked if there was a cap? Mr. Huebner said there is a fixed rate during this contract, but then it will be up for discussion. Councilmember Wickenhagen reiterated that all software usually has a built-in 4-5% increase.

Councilmember Marquis asked if this was the only resource of this kind? Mr. Huebner said there is another, called LexisNexis, but that in his experience, he prefers the one in this contract.

Councilmember Wickenhagen moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Costello seconded. Mayor Bell requested roll call from Mrs. Morales. Executive Assistant Morales called roll. Councilmember Monaghan – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes; Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Longmire – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes. Motion carries.

Ordinances

14-A. Ordinance Amending the 2024 Base Salary and Wage Schedule for Unrepresented (a/k/a Non-Union) Positions

Introduced by Mayor Bell and Presented by City Administrator, Rich Huebner. After presentation,

Councilmember Costello moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Longmire seconded. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Bell requested roll call from Mrs. Morales. Executive Assistant Morales called roll. Councilmember Monaghan – yes; Councilmember Peterson – yes; Councilmember Marquis – yes; Councilmember Costello – yes; Councilmember Wickenhagen – yes; Councilmember Longmire – yes; Councilmember Iverson – yes. Motion carries.

Staff Updates:

The following staff members provided a department update.

- Community Services Supervisor, Zack Schab
- Community Development Supervisor, Jeff Peters
- Police Chief, Dan Christman
- Fire Chief, James Lange
- Public Works Director, Rocky Wallace
- Clerk/Treasurer, Kimberly Grimm

Councilmember Updates:

The following Councilmembers provided an update.

- Councilmember Peterson updated Council on his attendance from the Selah Parks and Recreation Service Area (SPRSA) meeting, and notified the Council that SPRSA plans to come to one of the March meetings to provide an update.
- Councilmember Costello informed Council on his attendance at the executive board meeting for EMS, and that they are looking at expanding the facility.
- Councilmember Wickenhagen provided an update on his attendance at the YVCOG meeting and the Crime Lab, and the Housing Plan.
- Councilmember Iverson provided his summary of the recent school board meeting.

Police Chief Christman returned to the podium to give Council an update on a recent shooting incident at Wixson Park. No one was hurt, and the incident is still under investigation.

City Administrator, Rich Huebner, reminded council of the upcoming council workshop meetings facilitated by YVCOG. Mr. Huebner also gave an update on his recent meetings and activities throughout the week.

Mayor Bell gave a summary on the recent trip to Olympia for the AWC Mayor's Exchange event, and stated it was very productive.

Executive Session

Mayor Bell announced that the Council will take a 5-minute break and then go into an executive session for 30 minutes according to RCW 42.30.110(g), to review the performance of a public employee.

6:50 p.m. – Council went into executive session

7:20 p.m. – Council came out of executive session and returned the record. Mayor Bell stated no votes were taken and no decisions were made. Council requested to go back into the executive session. Mayor Bell announced the Council would go back into executive session for 15 minutes for RCW 42.30.110(g), to review the performance of a public employee.

7:20 p.m. – Council went into executive session

7:35 p.m. – Council came out of executive session and returned the record. Mayor Bell stated no votes were taken and no decisions were made. Council requested to go back into the executive session. Mayor Bell announced the Council would go back into executive session for 15 minutes for RCW 42.30.110(g), to review the performance of a public employee.

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7:50 p.m. – Council went into executive session

8:05 p.m. – Council came out of executive session and returned the record. Mayor Bell stated no votes were taken and no decisions were made. Council requested to go back into the executive session. Mayor Bell announced the Council would go back into executive session for 15 minutes for RCW 42.30.110(g), to review the performance of a public employee.

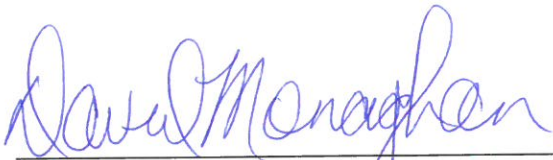
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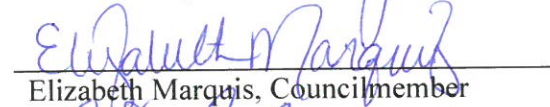
Adjournment

Councilmember Iverson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Marquis seconded. By voice vote, motion carries.

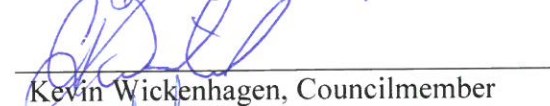
Meeting ended at 8:21 p.m.



David Monaghan, Councilmember



Elizabeth Marquis, Councilmember



Kevin Wickenhagen, Councilmember

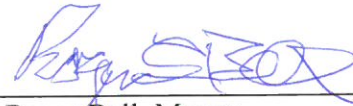


Jared Iverson, Councilmember

ATTEST:



Kimberly Grimm, Clerk/Treasurer



Roger Bell, Mayor



Clifford Peterson, Councilmember



Michael Costello, Councilmember



William Longmire, Councilmember