

November 26, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Steve Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Bill Aslett, Joe DeGloria, Rick DeGloria, Edie Edmundson, and James Stavig. Staff present: Jennifer Berner, Janice Burwash, Brian Dempsey, Mike Ganz, Leif Johnson, Kristen Morrison, Marv Pulst, Jim Rabenstein, Joe Stewart, Travis Schwetz, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward, and Greg Young.

A motion was made to excuse **Councilor Green** by **Councilors R. DeGloria/Aslett**. All in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 Council meeting by **Councilors Aslett/R. DeGloria**. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by **Councilors J. DeGloria/Loving** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as reviewed on November 26, 2019 in the amount of \$263,778.57 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period Ending November 25, 2019 in the amount of \$820,407.45 and November 10, 2019 in the amount of \$820,407.45. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Stanley -16624 Peterson Rd., District 304 Hospital Commissioner, discussed the hospital district, the services offered, and Peace Health.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

No Council Comments.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton discussed the 2020 Council Committee assignments, stating that the forms for the Committees have been given to Council in order for them to indicate their preferences, and that the recommendations will be brought to Council on the December 12, 2019 meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

No Special Presentation.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

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COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

No Committee and Board Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Parks Supervisor Jim Rabenstein discussed the City's new Disc Golf Course, the positive reception it's received in the community, and the Skagit Ruck Club, a group of volunteers who has been volunteering to clean veterans headstones at the cemetery. **Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Berner** discussed the urban forestry report, which was performed on the evergreen stand at Maiben Park; Berner discussed the trees' health, and projected longevity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Budget – 2nd Public Hearing

Mayor Sexton stated that this would be the second public hearing of the 2020 Budget.

Mayor Sexton opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/J. DeGloria** to close the public hearing. All in favor; motion carried.

Ordinance Adopting the 2020 Budget

Interim City Administrator Greg Young discussed the ending fund balance, and that the presented budget is balanced and will sustain the City for the next 12 Months. **Councilor Stavig** stated that he had hoped this item would not be on the agenda, as he believes Council has not gone through the budget together in the manner in which it was gone through last year, wherein more questions were asked of City departments. **Councilor Stavig** discussed his desire to have an additional workshop in order to further review the budget. **Councilor Loving** discussed his understanding of the budget and asked Mayor Sexton what his plans are in order to keep the budget balanced in the future. **Mayor Sexton** discussed the budget cuts, and the efforts on the part of staff to trim the budget additionally. Further discussion was held on keeping the budget balance, the City's

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financial state positive in the future, and ways for the City to save money. **Councilor Loving** spoke in opposition to some capital projects including the George Hopper Rd. intersection, and the pay raises given to the non-represented City staff. **Mayor Sexton** discussed the decisions faced by Council in order to produce a level of service as costs increase annually, and the dramatic nature of the budget cuts, which if were increased, would dramatically change the level of service offered by the City. Further discussion was held on what was cut in the budget, including four employee positions. **Councilor Aslett** discussed the need to focus on the General Fund, that other funds could not be transferred for General Fund expenses, and that he would like to have at least one more budget workshop with a focus on the General Fund. **Interim City Administrator Greg Young** discussed dates and times for two additional Council Workshops; discussion was held, and two additional meetings are to be held on Tuesday, December 3, and potentially Wednesday, December 4, from 6-8 pm. The idea of a Council retreat was discussed in order to further discuss what Council's vision is for the future of the City.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Stavig** to continue the budget meetings to the 3rd and possibly the 4th and the Council meeting on the 12th. All in favor; motion carried.

Resolution Supporting State Financing for a Carpenter Apprentice Training Facility

Interim City Administrator Greg Young discussed the changes in State law which requires industries that serve refineries and other large entities to set up apprenticeship programs. **Young** stated that because a Carpenter Training Facility interested in being located in Burlington, a resolution, which would be non-binding, would show the City's approval, and would help the facility obtain low interest State financing. Councilor Aslett spoke in favor of the training facility.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/R. DeGloria** to adopt the resolution in support of State financing for the construction and operation of a carpenter apprentice training facility in the City of Burlington and authorize the mayor to sign the resolution. All in favor; motion carried.

Contract for Prosecution Services by Kailin James

City Attorney Leif Johnson discussed the contract for prosecution with Kailin James, which remains unchanged from the previous year.

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A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Stavig** to approve the agreement for legal services between the City of Burlington and Kailin James and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. All in favor; motion carried.

Proposed Cancellation of Second Council Meeting in December

Interim City Administrator Greg Young proposed Council consider cancelling the second Council meeting in December due to its proximity to the Christmas holiday. **Councilor J. DeGloria** discussed how it would put a tremendous amount of pressure on Council to cancel the second meeting in December due to the decision of having to pass the budget by the end of the year.

A motion was made by **Councilors J. DeGloria/Aslett** to continue the item to the next regular Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Leif Johnson stated that an Executive Session will be held Per RCW 42.30.110 to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The executive session should take approximately ten minutes to discuss labor negotiations and no action is expected as a result of the executive session. Council and City staff adjourned for Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Joe Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor