

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Worthington called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by the City Clerk as follows:

Councilmember Keel	Present
Councilmember Wood	Present
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Present
Councilmember Belleci	Excused
Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa	Excused
Mayor Worthington	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Police Chief Burke, Administrative Services Director Petorak, Public Works Director Ecklund, and City Clerk Genetia.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Keel led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Keel, seconded by Councilmember McCluskey, to approve the agenda.

**The motion carried.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT** – The following individuals provided comment: Brian Levenseller, 6512 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; Victoria Stevens, 6509 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; Chris Rakunas, 6508 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; Ian Scott, Heritage Christian School, 5412 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; and Bill Dickens, 6408 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue West.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** By Councilmember Keel, seconded by Councilmember McCluskey, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for periods ending 08/15/23 and 08/31/23; Claims dated 07/31/23, 08/15/23 and 08/31/23.
- C.** Adopt a Resolution updating Sections 2 and 5 of the Addendum A-15, the City of University Place's portion of the Region 5 All Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020-2025 edition.
- D.** Authorize the City Manager to award the Cirque Skate Park Wall project to NPM Construction Company in the amount of \$79,160.66 and execute all necessary contract documents.
- E.** Authorize the City Manager to award the Kobayashi Park Overlay project to Asphalt Patch Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$55,777.00 and execute all necessary contract documents.
- F.** Authorize the purchase and installation of Cirque Playground Equipment in the amount of \$303,392.12 and execution of all necessary contract documents.

**The motion carried.**

## **7. CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

City Manager Sugg reported that the City concluded a successful summer concert series at Market Square and Curran Apple Orchard. The next City event will be Oktoberfest on October 13 at Market Square. He thanked the Council for supporting all these community events.

Councilmember Wood commented on the citizens' concerns about the trailhead expansion of the Chambers Creek Canyon trail system. He welcomed Boy Scouts Troop 248 and thanked them for participating in the Council meeting.

Councilmember McCluskey also welcomed Boy Scouts Troop 248 and wished them luck on their journey to Eagle Scout. She commented on the Chambers Creek Canyon Trail expansion project, reported on the success of the Adopters/Community Harvest Day at Curran Apple Orchard, and notified staff of graffiti showing up in the City.

Councilmember Flemming commended the Boy Scouts Troop 248 for their service to the community. He also commented on the Chambers Creek Canyon trailhead concerns, and echoed Councilmember McCluskey's concerns about the graffiti.

Mayor Worthington reported that the Adopters/Community Harvest Day event held at Curran Apple Orchard was a success. He solicited feedback from his colleagues about the Council meeting break in August.

The Council took a recess. The meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

## **STUDY SESSION**

## **8. SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT FEE UPDATE**

Public Works Director Ecklund reported that the Surface Water Management (SWM) Fee is an annual utility charge assessed to all properties which pays for the cost associated with managing the City's stormwater. It is a cost-based fee model that includes all the operational, administrative, and capital costs needed to manage the City's stormwater and to meet the City's state and federal obligation under its NPDES permit. The City's SWM Fee is currently \$191.15/single family residence per year. Commercial users are charged based on actual impervious areas on their lots. The fee was last adjusted for inflation in 2005. In 2008 an adjustment for additional operational costs was made to account for the new NPDES permit implementation requirements. Director Ecklund indicated that the City's financial projection shows the SWM fund will go negative in 2025 if fee adjustments are not made. This includes a zero balance for capital improvements. The City has also performed a rate comparison of the various Pierce County jurisdictions within a 12-mile radius of University Place and found SWM fees ranging from \$128.15/residence to \$351.12/residence.

Director Ecklund informed the Council that the City is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan and has contracted with Gray & Osborne to perform its update. He indicated that a major part of this update is looking at the needed capital improvements and to build a financial model to include operational costs and capital costs to manage the City's SWM and to meet its state and federal NPDES permit requirements. Based on this model, the City has identified funding options of a revised fee between \$275.74 to \$288.36, the calculations of which were explained and discussed with Council. An option to implement a system development charge, to be assessed for new developments at the time of building permits, was also evaluated and considered. If the City were to implement a System development charge of \$280/new residential unit, this would result in a recommended City revised annual SWM fee of \$284.22/equivalent residential unit.

Additional study will be scheduled at a future Council meeting.

## **9. ARPA SEWER PROJECT**

Public Works Director Ecklund provided information on the sewer feasibility study. He explained the sewer system project scope and alternatives for each of the identified areas, including the preliminary project cost estimates to the City and connection cost for each property owner. He indicated that the next steps are for the City to send out mailers to the area neighborhood and conduct an online survey in October, followed

by a public meeting in November. Staff will subsequently return to the Council with its findings and further study.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:39 p.m., the City Council recessed to Executive Session for approximately one hour, to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Council is not expected to take further action following the Executive Session.

At 9:30 p.m., Mayor Worthington announced that the Executive Session has been extended to 9:45 p.m.

At 9:44 p.m., the City Council reconvened.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia  
City Clerk

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