



CITY OF HOQUIAM

City Council Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Winkelman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Hinchon led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Winkelman and Councilmembers Dick, George, Hinchon, McMillan, Nelson, Pellegrini, Puvogel, Reid and Ushman. Councilmembers Carlstrom and Reid were in attendance via zoom. Absent were Councilmembers Anderson and Grun.

Staff in attendance were Police Chief Myers, Deputy Police Chief Joe Strong, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Miller, Fire Chief Tom Hubbard, City Attorney Steve Johnson, City Administrator Brian Shay, City Finance Director Corri Schmid and Council Secretary Tracy Wood.

COMMUNICATIONS

Washington State Laws – Changes and Challenges for Law Enforcement

Chief Myers provided an update to the city recapping the 2021 Washington Legislative Session – Changes and Challenges for Law Enforcement. Please see the attached presentation.

Social Media Post

Ms. Tedda DiFranco, Montesano, WA, spoke regarding the recent Facebook post and the struggles of those with Mental Illness. Although she lives outside of Hoquiam she has a child who lives here and she is asking the city to do better. Those in must call for assistance for someone who is in a vulnerable position and suffers from mental illness aren't expecting someone to show up and post and mock them on social media. Don't blame the community or the job. After people commented the post was edited with a backhanded apology and seemed passive aggressive. She is not asking for reprimanding employees or for defunding the department, she is asking that going forward we do better. Put some policies in place, posts like this are no different than cyber bullying. Please do better in the future. She knows it is a coping skill and dark humor but it is not appropriate. She believes an apology needs to be made to the public, not just to herself. Mayor Winkelman stated that checks and balances have been discussed regarding social media. He too has family members who have struggled with mental illness, it is not something he takes lightly, and the Chief agrees. The Mayor knows the Chief takes your criticism and comments seriously.



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CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember McMillan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented and his motion was seconded. The consent agenda consisted of the Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021. The motion to approve the consent agenda passed by voice vote.

OFFICER REPORTS

Camera Storage

The Camera Storage is at its end of life service. In order to meet record retention requirements the City needs to purchase a new camera software system and hard drives. Staff recommends that the council approve the purchase of new camera software and hard drives at a cost of approximately \$78,757.06, which includes a 3-year maintenance and support package. Councilmember McMillan moved to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded. This is not a budgeted item and will come out of the General Fund. It will be broken out to the departments where the cameras are located. The motion passed by voice vote.

Municipal Court

Mayor Winkelman stated that in the near future, the council will be receiving a report from the Court with a request for additional funds for added requirements.

MAYOR REPORTS

911 Board

Mayor Winkelman appointed Mr. Shay as the alternate representative to the 911 Board.

Article in Salmon, Trout, Steelhead Fishing Magazine

Mayor Winkelman shared an article that was recently in the Salmon, Trout, Steelhead Fishing Magazine regarding Grays Harbor (and his skills as an angler proven by the picture). This was done through the county LTAC. Also included was information on several other areas around the county and several advertisements for local businesses.

Youth Football Camp

This past weekend the GH Youth Athletics Football camp was held at the stadium. They estimated they had 400 registered to participate. NFL staff and players came in and worked with the kids. This is done each year and headed up by Jeromy McMillan. It was a well attended and managed event. A group from Juneau Alaska actually chartered a bus and brought a bunch of kids to participate from Alaska and they were in awe at being in the



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	<p>stadium. Mark Bruner was also in attendance as well as Coach Ladue who has volunteered for many years. Councilmember Ushman asked if there were websites where people could obtain info on the Youth Organizations.</p>
In Person Meetings	<p>This is the first in person meeting for some time. Mayor Winkelman and staff hope to put together a request for proposal for improvements to the air handling and safety for city hall buildings to bring to the council soon.</p>
Moose Hall	<p>He and Mr. Shay had an informal tour of the old Moose Hall across from Farmers Market today. The new owners have done some amazing things to the building and are now looking for tenants to move in.</p>
LaVogue Building – Request for Alley Vacation	<p>Included on the agenda later in the meeting is a request to set a public hearing for an alley vacation behind the LaVogues building. He also was able to tour that building and they are doing many improvements.</p>
COUNCIL REPORTS	
Roll-over Accident	<p>Assistant Chief Miller spoke briefly about the recent rollover accident that trapped several people inside the vehicle. The Department was able to free them with use of the extrication equipment that Council authorized them to purchase.</p>
Beautification Team and Yard of the Month	<p>Councilmember McMillan stated that the flowers look fantastic all over town. He also reminded Council to get their yard of the month selections made and send pictures to either Tracy or Corri.</p>
GH Sports Association	<p>Councilmember Hinchin stated that the group working on Mr. T's has applied for their non-profit status and are currently working on their Website. Mr. T's is in the works, and they are awaiting their 501 C3 so they can look for funding to get it completed. Mr. Shay stated that the lease will be with this group.</p>
Memorial for Motorcycle Crash	<p>Councilmember Carlstrom stated that she has been contacted by some constituents regarding the drive by motorcycle crash memorial site in her ward. They are concerned with some of the activity by people visiting the site.</p>



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HBA

Councilmember Carlstrom stated that HBA has not held any meetings lately and are in the process of revamping the organization.

Yard of the Month

Councilmember Puvogel stated he is working with Councilmember George to select their yard of the month.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Ordinances

Relating to the Use of
Consumer Fireworks

An Ordinance relating to the use of consumer fireworks; amending Section 5.20.015 of the Hoquiam Municipal Code; and adding a new section 5.30.018 to the Hoquiam municipal Code; and providing an effective date. Mayor Winkelman spoke briefly regarding his Emergency Declaration Banning Fireworks that he issued before the 4th and ended up rescinding as he became aware he was not authorized. He requested the City Attorney draft an ordinance that gave him that authority so there would be some method of doing this in the future if necessary. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the ban of fireworks and that the Council has looked at this issue several times in the past. If approved, this Ordinance would not take effect until one year after its adoption. It gives the authority to the mayor to determine if conditions are too dangerous for the use of fireworks and issue an emergency declaration. It also gives the Mayor authority to delegate his authority to a city official if necessary in his absence. Mayor Winkelman encouraged adopt the Ordinance or make amendments and pass it at the next meeting. More discussion was held regarding safe and sane fireworks vs. illegal fireworks, and the enforcement issues. If an Ordinance makes it unlawful and someone causes a fire, then there is some legal grounds for the person at fault. On the other hand, many non-profit organizations use firework sales as one of their main fundraisers. Following further discussion, Councilmember McMillan moved to table the Ordinance and send this to the Public Safety Committee for review and recommendation to the council. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Broadway

A brief discussion was held regarding Broadway. There have been new lines painted but nothing is being done to fix the



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NEW BUSINESS

Setting Public Hearing
Application for Vacation of
Alley 623 Simpson

roadway. Council asked if Mr. Shay could provide an update on the project at the next meeting.

Staff requested that Council set a Public Hearing date for the application for an Alley Vacation at 623 Simpson. Councilmember McMillan moved to set the hearing for August 9th at 7:00 p.m. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Excuse Absent Members

Councilmember McMillan moved to excuse the absent members who notified staff. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote

Public Safety Meeting

Councilmember Reid announced that Public Safety will meet at 5:00 p.m. on July 26th at the Fire Station.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fireworks

Bill Wieland, 600 Washington Court, spoke regarding fireworks and the trauma it causes for some animals as well as individuals with PTSD.

Fireworks

Melonie Sturgeon, Hoquiam, watched embers land in her flowerbeds, bought over \$300 in hoses to protect her house and had to have her animals sedated. It was very stressful as we were under a fire ban, yet people were still using them. For the safety of the watershed, our town and area, she would encourage a ban on fireworks in city limits.

Social Media Post

Ms. Schmid read a written comment submitted by Jonathon Garrett opposing the social media post by the police department. Mayor Winkelman stated that many people have asked why the post was not taken down. It is considered a public record and cannot be removed. It is unlawful for it to be deleted. Hopefully the public can look at the good that has come through our departments. No one is making excuses, once something is said it becomes public record and must be kept. Regarding whether the city is going to come up with some kind of guidelines on what can and can't be posted, it is nearly impossible in social media to



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ADJOURN

always get it right, but we are going to continue to have that conversation and we will be better.

Councilmember McMillan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m., and that Council take a 10 minutes recess after which they will convene in their Council retreat. His motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

BEN WINKELMAN – Mayor

TRACY WOOD – City Council Secretary