

City of Electric City  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2020

The January 14, 2020 Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Diane Kohout.

**Present by Roll Call:** Council Members Bob Rupe, Brian Buche, Cate Slater, and Cheryl Hoffman.

**Staff members / Others present:** Russ Powers City Administrator - Clerk/Treasurer, Police Chief John Tufts, Steve Nelson Century West Engineering, Ken Van Voorhis SPVV Landscape Architects, Jacob Wagner The Star Newspaper.

**Motion to Excuse:** A motion was made and seconded to excuse Councilmember Derr.

m/s (Buche/Hoffman) CU

**Approval of Agenda:** Councilmember Buche stated he wanted to add the Fire Chief appointment to the agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with the Fire Chief appointment added to the agenda.

m/s (Rupe/Slater) CU

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda.

- December 17, 2019 Special Council Meeting Minutes
- Expenditures:  
EFT's and Checks #13808 - 13844 dated 12/10/2019 - 12/31/2019  
EFT's and Checks #13845 - 13863 dated 1/1/2020 - 1/14/2020

m/s (Hoffman/Buche) CU

**POLICE REPORTS:**

- Police Chief Tufts reported on incidents within the city. He stated that traffic control was going well, and that things were a little slow.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Alan Berry - 48 Sunset Dr.** Stated that his topic was a "New Direction". He asked about the Fireworks Ordinance. He stated that his opinion has not changed since October. The city has a lot of flooding problems and he thinks the city should deliver true city services. The city should consider proceeding forward with the Shoreline Waterfront Trail as women, children, skateboarders and bicyclists travel the route and it is a safety concern. He suggested completing the project.
- **Brad Parrish - 235 Washington Place** - Stated that he had been on the PARC Committee for 5 years, way back when we worked with the Department of Health and created a citywide survey of which trails and parks were the top 2 items. The church sold the city a parcel specific purpose of the park. They discussed and decided to fund the park with Hotel/Motel Tax dollars after asking the attorney. Then they went out and secured grants and were awarded an RCO Grant. Although the first bids came in high, there is a lot of people in this community that want the park. It's not mainly for adults, but for the kids. It was a well

thought out park and the decision is in your hands.

- **Mark Payne - 1 Washington Place.** Congratulated and welcomed the new council. Asked if he was going to be placed on the agenda, but noticed the council already did. He requested that 2 other firefighters be re-appointed back on the department.
- **Josh Reeder - 531 Wetzel.** Stated he was here to support Mark Payne and wanted to continue to serve the community.
- **Ken Van Voorhis (SPVV Landscape Architects)** - Stated he was willing to answer any questions and to offer any assistance regarding the RCO Grant or the park design.
- **Lonna Bussert - 216 Jackson Ave.** Stated that she had been on the PARC committee for a long time and that they didn't go after the park until they had the money. The city did a lot of fundraisers and a lot of people donated to the cause. She wanted everyone to know that after 5 years, she'd like to see it done!
- **Cindy Greely - 20 Western Ave.** Stated that they have lived here for 5 years now and she had spent 3 years on the PARC Committee. She said she spoke to a lot of people and they want a safe place for their kids to go. There are a lot of little children running around town without a place to go. The new park will be able to provide for family and tourism events. The fishermen's families have nowhere to play except out in the street. The park will have covered areas, and a water pad. The park will also be used by seniors. We need to look to the future. She thanked the council for letting her share and be a voice for the park.
- **Sam Stanczak - 221 Lincoln Ave.** Congratulated the council and stated that he had a concern about the trailer park that he had bought from his brother who bought it from Naomi Thorne. He said he'd like to see about getting a business license to run the park.
- **Rick Wolfe - 220 Washington Place.** Congratulated everyone that he voted in. He stated he supports the new council.
- **Mike Gause - 70 Central.** Stated he was on the Fire Department and he'd like the Fire Chief on the agenda.
- **Cara Turner - 124 Silver Drive.** I am here for myself and Ian. We really want to vocalize our support for the park. We know there are things that need to be included in the park that are specific to the grant, but we are supportive of the park and we are really excited to see it done.
- **Lyssandra Disjardins - 32 Stevens Ave.** My husband was here but went home. We moved away from here for 6 years and came back, and we would really like to see the investment in the city. We are thankful for the park at Coulee Playland, but it's out in the sun. We are supporters of the new park. We want a place for people to go, even if the stuff that goes in the park is reduced.

## COUNCIL AGENDA:

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Ice Age Park Bid Selection**

- Councilmember Hoffman said she'd like to refer this back to the PARC Committee to report back to council with the bid price we need. The bids were approximately \$80,000 over, but it's getting closer. The city made an effort to adjust the plan, but it's still short. We currently have 3 members of the PARC Committee that would like to stay on.
- Councilmember Rupe asked why the bids for the park came in higher than the estimate.
- Ken Van Voorhis of SPVV Landscape Architects answered that the park was conceived 3 years ago, and costs have nearly tripled from just a year ago. The original plans were reduced down to try and get the price in range. He stated it was not the best time for bidding because there is a lot of work out there and contractors are not in a crunch to bid low. He said some of the elements like the CTX restroom were given to the city to purchase and be installed by the contractor. The CTX Came in at only \$38,000. We tried to spread things out and deliver it the best way we could without losing something entirely.
- Councilmember Buche asked if he was the one who took items off.
- Ken stated yes, but some bidders had bid the items differently.
- Councilmember Rupe stated that the bidders probably weren't hungry enough.
- Ken stated that the contractors were busy, and the prices have gone up.
- Councilmember Hoffman read a letter from the lowest bidder (Terrabella) that stated they are willing to work on the price through change orders. She stated that since we have letters from PARC Committee members, we should let the PARC Committee work with them to see if they can get the price down.
- Ken said the change order process is a good way to go and they had worked with Terrabella in the past.
- Mayor Kohout asked if the council had a motion to bring it back to the PARC Committee and then back to the council.

Councilmember Hoffman made a motion to table the bids for now and bring the matter back to the PARC Committee, and then revisit the bids in February. The motion was seconded.

m/s (Hoffman/Rupe) CU

- **Ordinance 567-2020 Fireworks**

Councilmember Hoffman stated that a liability clause in the ordinance was confusing. Councilmember Buche asked if the Fire Dept. had an opportunity to weigh in on it. Mark Payne stated that he didn't feel the city needed an ordinance. He stated that Rick Paris took a permit back to the new Bureau Fire Chief in hopes of getting North Dam to allow fireworks again. Councilmember Buche stated it would be difficult for the police to differentiate the different fireworks at night, and it would be hard to chase people down in the dark. He stated he'd like to see it tabled and go back to just the state code. Councilmember Buche made a motion to table the ordinance and un-muddy the waters. The motion was seconded.

m/s (Buche/Rupe) CU

- **Resolution 2020-01 Century West Engineering Contract for 2020-2021**

A motion was made and seconded to approve resolution 2020-01 Century West Engineering Contract for 2020-2021

m/s (Buche/Slater) CU

- **Resolution 2020-02 Century West work order for Sewer Lift Station**

Steve Nelson of Century West Engineering stated that Jared would have the site plan and plan set by Thursday if the work order was passed. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-02 Century West work order for Sewer Lift Station.

m/s (Hoffman/Buche) CU

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Mayor Pro Tempore Selection**

Mayor Kohout made a recommendation for Bob Rupe to be the Mayor Pro Tempore. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Councilmember Rupe as Mayor Pro Tempore.

m/s (Hoffman/Buche) CU

- **PARC Committee re-appointment**

Administrator Powers explained that Ben Palma had a desire to continue on the committee, and Clark Perman stated he did not want to be on the committee anymore. Mayor Kohout stated she would like Lonna Bussert, Cindy Greely, Ben Palma and Brad Parrish as community members. She asked the audience if anyone else wanted to be on the committee and Mark Payne said that he would like to be on it. She stated that she'd like to add Mark to the committee. She said she would like Cate Slater as the council contact, Brad Parrish as the Chairperson and Diana Parrish as the staff liaison. A motion was made and seconded to approve the PARC Committee as selected by the mayor.

m/s (Hoffman/Buche) CU

- **Wastewater Joint Board Committee Appointment**

Mayor Kohout asked if there were any councilmembers that wanted to be on the committee. Councilmembers Buche and Hoffman stated that they would like to be on the committee. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Councilmembers Buche and Hoffman to the Wastewater Joint Board Committee.

m/s (Slater/Rupe) CU

- **1 Ton Truck Bid Selection**

Mayor Kohout stated that the truck was needed for maintaining things and it would have a utility box. A snowplow could also be added in the future. Councilmember Buche asked why we needed a diesel. Administrator Powers answered that the bid for the truck came in with all the requirements that Jared had asked for. He stated he wanted a 1 ton with diesel engine, no duals, and a utility box. Jared Armstrong stated that gas engines were gutless and said the one bid came in with both a flat bed and a utility box, and we could change that out whenever we needed it. Councilmember Rupe stated that it was quite a cost difference in between the two bids and the mileage on the trucks were different too. Councilmember Buche made a motion to cancel all bids on the trucks and go out for re-bid with more specifics listed on the vehicle.

m/s (Buche/Rupe) CU

- **Resolution 2020-03 LGIP Authorization**

Councilmember Rupe asked if this meant that only one person has the authority to make transfers? Administrator Powers stated, yes that's correct, but only with council or RBOM approval first. A motion was made and seconded to approve resolution 2020-03 LGIP Authorization.

m/s (Hoffman/Slater) CU

- **Resolution 2020-04 NCNB Account Authorization**

Councilmember Rupe asked if this would be a 1 or a 2-person signature account. Administrator Powers stated that it is a 2-signature account.

m/s (Rupe/Buche) CU

- **City Administrator – Clerk/Treasurer position**

Mayor Kohout explained that she had decided to post for a City Clerk/Treasurer position. Councilmember Buche stated that they had discussed it a little bit at the council retreat. Administrator Powers stated that it had been posted in the Star, Wenatchee World, Spokesman review online and Indeed online. Councilmember Slater asked when the job was posted and if we got any responses. Administrator Powers stated that the job was posted online the week prior and we had received one response so far.

- **Code Compliance – Court Clerk position**

Administrator Powers commented that he recommended the council should definitely look into replacing this person as it is vital to the court system and maintaining code compliance in the city. Mayor Kohout stated she felt the position was necessary.

- **Ordinance 568-567-2020 Chapter 2.20.030 Order of Business**

Mayor Kohout made a recommendation to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the order of business. A motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance 567-2020 Chapter 2.20.030 Order of Business.

m/s Slater/Buche) CU

- **Ordinance regarding Ayers Street Vacation**

A motion was made and seconded that the Ordinance should be tabled until the council can gather more information. The motion was seconded.

m/s (Hoffman/Slater) CU

- **Fire Chief Appointment**

Councilmember Buche stated that we have Justin Millers resignation letter here. He thinks we need to fill the position and get the Fire Department back in order. He said there's been a lot of issues and he feels that Mark Payne pours his heart and soul into the job. He said the city was completely out of line in his termination and he made a recommendation to appoint Mark Payne as the Fire Chief. Administrator Powers stated that the council had not received an application from Mr. Payne for the position, nor reviewed the circumstantial evidence concerning Mark's removal from the Fire Chief position. He stated that he would absolutely not recommend that the council re-appoint Mark as Fire Chief based on that evidence. Councilmember Hoffman asked if the council had the ability to review those documents. Administrator Powers explained that, yes, the council could review the documents and discuss them in an executive session. Mayor Kohout made a recommendation to appoint Mark Payne as Fire Chief.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Mark Payne as Fire Chief. Councilmembers Buche, Rupe, and Slater voted Yea, and Councilmember Hoffman voted Nay. Motion Carried.

#### REPORTS/MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Mayor Diane Kohout:** Thanked everyone, and stated she looked forward to serving the residents of Electric City.
- **Council Member Rupe:** None
- **Council member Buche:** None
- **Council member Slater:** None
- **Council member Hoffman:** None
- **City Administrator - Clerk /Treasurer:** No time given for report

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

  
Diana Parrish, Deputy Clerk

  
Diane Kohout, Mayor