



🏠 **Location:** Telephonically
📅 **Date:** September 8, 2020
🕒 **Time:** 6:00pm

City of Electric City Council Meeting Minutes September 8, 2020

The Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Diane Kohout on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Present by Roll Call: Council Members Willie Bott, Brian Buche, Bob Rupe, Cate Slater, Cheryl Hoffman

Staff members/Others present: Steve Nelson, CenturyWest Engineering, Peggy Nevsimal, City Clerk/Treasurer, Mark Payne, Fire Chief, Jacob Wagner, Star Newspaper

Motion to Excuse: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda

- August 11, 2020 Council Minutes
- Expenditure approval August 8 – September 8, 2020
- Police Report
- Fire Report

M/S (Bott/Buche) CU

Public Comments

- No public comments were submitted to the Mayor or City Clerk before the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Planning Commission
 - A motion was made and seconded to appoint the following 5 new Planning Commissioners: Doug Lockard (Secretary), Steve McDaniels, Alric Miller, Don Redfield (Chairman) and Ian Turner.

M/S (Buche/Rupe) CU

- A motion was made and seconded to adopted Ordinance 571-2020, which made term limits, and number of commissioners, changes to the Ordinance repealing, renaming and replacing Electric City Municipal Code Chapter 2.30 Titled "Planning Agency" with Chapter 2.30 Titled "Planning Commission"

M/S (Slater/Hoffman) CU

- Steve Nelson from CenturyWest Engineering went through his project list for the City.
 - The new Lift Station pump has arrived; the project is waiting on the control panel to arrive. Expected delivery and start of the project is approximately 2 weeks out.
 - The Complete Streets/Sidewalk project is requesting a more detailed survey of the property at the northeast corner of Hwy 155 and Stevens Avenue to determine accurate property lines. Work is also in progress to clean up the rights-of-way.
 - The FHWA Bike/Pedestrian Pathway Project is communicating with WSDOT regarding speed limits through town. The City has proposed to WSDOT to reduce the speed limit to 30mph from the southern city limit line through the northern Coulee Playland property line. The Cities of Grand Coulee and Electric City have proposed to WSDOT to reduce the speed limit to 35mph from the northern Coulee Playland property line to the intersection of Hwy 155 and Hwy 174.
 - The Sewer Line Investigations Project has done a preliminary investigation of the main sewer line located on Hwy 155. It needs replacing soon. If the City would like to submit a grant proposal for this work to the Department of Ecology a Master Sewer Plan will need to be developed and Department of Ecology funding would be 50% grant and 50% loan. If the City includes sewer repair as a maintenance item in the City's budget, no Master Sewer Plan would need to be developed. The cost of sewer line should be budgeted at \$60-\$70 per linear feet.
 - CenturyWest will schedule a meeting between themselves and Fire Chief Payne to go over specifications need for a proposed Fire Rescue Boat.
 - A request has been submitted to the Department of Ecology for funding to conduct an income survey. If funded, the survey would be completed in the spring of 2021 and would help determine whether the City is eligible for CDBG grants.
- Mayan Garcia has been hired as a new City employee. He will split his time between the Transfer Station (70%) and as a Code Compliance Officer (30%). His start date is Monday, September 14.
- COVID-19/CARES funding.
 - The City has awarded the following businesses and organizations a total of \$24,000 from their COVID-19/CARES money: American Legion Post, Care & Share Food Bank, Changes Salon, Fusion Café & Espresso, GCDA Chamber of Commerce, GCDA Senior Center, H&H Grocery, JP Construction, KD Painting, Ridge Riders, Sharon's Pet Boutique, Skydeck Motel. Awardees will need to sign a contract between their organization and the City, and that contract will be submitted to the Department of Commerce. Monies should be available for disbursement in approximately 10 days after contracts are signed.
 - A motion was made and seconded to use a portion of our COVID-19/CARES money to purchase new laptops for the councilmembers to facilitate tele-distancing for council and committee meetings.

M/S (Buche/Slater) CU

- The Mayor asked for volunteers from the council members to create a communication plan for educating the public on the specifics of the Park Levy that City residents will vote on in the November election. The communication plan may include a public meeting, an informational flyer and both a pro and con statement for the voter pamphlet. Councilmember Buche and Councilmember Hoffman agreed to lead the Levy Communication Plan.
- A bid was received for \$13,000 for the City-owned Jeep Renegade. The new owner will need to pay the full amount and remove the Jeep from City property no later than Friday, September 11, 2020.

Executive Session

- Mayor Kohout stated that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session for 20 minutes for discussion of employee performances.
- The council adjourned at 6:33pm
- The council resumed at 6:50pm with no actionable items to discuss.

New Business

- Councilmember Buche and Councilmember Hoffman met with Grand Coulee Councilmember Cain and Wastewater Treatment Operator Travis Irwin. They have agreed to have monthly meetings and better communication between Grand Coulee councilmembers on the committee and Electric City councilmembers on the committee, including discussions about needed repairs going forward and any dramatic changes in flow rates.
- As Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-23.6 expires granting utility customers relief from late fees or shut off of their utilities, municipalities have been asked to adopt a COVID-19 Emergency Flexible Payment Plan for their utilities customers that are in arears. A motion was made and seconded to approve Electric City's "Application for COVID-19 Emergency Flexible Payment Plan."

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU

- The tourism committee met at the end of August
 - Requests have been submitted from the Ridge Riders and the GCDA Chamber of Commerce regarding their 2020 awarded Lodging Tax money grants. The Ridge Riders requested that they be able to roll over their 2020 award to 2021. The Chamber of Commerce requested that they be able to use their award money, previous earmarked for festival support and advertising, as operational expense money. A motion was made and seconded to grant the Ridge Riders' and Chamber of Commerce's requests for variances of their 2020 awards.

M/S (Slater/Hoffman) CU

- City Clerk Nevsiml presented Lodging Tax financial statements. Through the first four months of the year the money the City had received was 90% down from 2019 money. The money received in July matched the same amount of money from July 2019 and the August money received was 63% above August 2019 money received. The City is now 4% down year/year.

- The councilmembers discussed the need for an ordinance that would outline the criteria that the City would need to be used to accept requests for variances on bulk, height, and setback standards. It was agreed the City's Attorney should be contacted to draft such an ordinance.
- The newly formed Planning Commission is now required to hire a Hearing Examiner to rule on variance requests. A motion was made and seconded to approve a Hearing Examiner Agreement between the City of Electric City and Andrew Kottkamp, J.D., from Kottkamp, Yedinak and Esworthy Law Offices.

M/S (Slater/Hoffman) CU

Reports

- Mayor Kohout stated that she had received a call from Patty Taylor who wanted her to pass along compliments to the City's Fire Department for their fire suppression of an abandon residence on 5th Street in Electric City.
- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

M/S (Bott/Slater) CU


 Peggy Nevsumal, City Clerk/Treasurer


 Diane Kohout, Mayor