

Waitsburg City Council Meeting – July 21, 2021*

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

City Clerk Randy Hinchliffe called the roll. The following were present:

Mayor: Marty Dunn

Council Members: Jim Romine, Karen Gregutt, Kevin House and Karl Newell

Others: On file at City Hall.

Agenda Approval

City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe asked for a change to the agenda to add item (g) to new business regarding construction administration of the Millrace Grade improvement project as well as change item d to only a discussion item. With no other changes, agenda was approved and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

With no corrections, minutes were approved and passed unanimously

Public Comment

Randy Charles voiced his concerns regarding the purchase of a new building for City Hall.

Terry Jacoy asked questions regarding the purchase of the new building, flood control funding use and the Millrace Grade improvement project.

Jim Leid representing the Library Advisory Committee reiterated their position on the potential sale of the Library as well as his personal concerns regarding the new location of City Hall.

Mike Hubbard representing the Library Board of Trustees voiced their opposition with the sale library building and movement of the Library to another location. He also presented his opposition to the relocation of City Hall.

Kate Hockersmith agreed with Mr. Hubbard on the movement of City Hall

Lane Hill asked about potential renovations to the new building

Cindy Daves displayed a map regarding the amount of land owned by the City as well her concerns regarding flood zones and insurance requirements.

New Business

a. Public Hearing – Horse Stall Surplus

Public Hearing regarding the surplus of a building owned by the City that no longer has any value to the City and would cost more to renovate it than it's currently worth. Terry Jacoy commented on historic use of the stalls by DRS and other horse trainers/boarders. Denise Winnett expressed her concerns about the building that it was not an asset to the City and clearly represents a liability to the City. Bart Baxter asked if the City had it inspected by a licensed contractor to gauge its structural integrity. With more comments, Mayor Dunn closed the hearing at 7:20pm

b. Resolution 2021-728

Resolution surplus the Horse Stall at the Waitsburg Fairgrounds. With no more discussion on the item, Council Member House moved to approve with the method of eventual demolition to be determined later. Council Member Romine seconded the motion and the motion to surplus was approved and passed unanimously.

c. Real Estate Purchase Agreement

City Staff gave an update on the history of City Hall as well as the list of deficiencies present at the current City Hall location and why the City was choosing to move sites. City Council members discussed the location change and need for a more cost effective and usable building to house City Hall. With no more discussion, Council member Gregutt moved to approve the purchase agreement and authorize the City Administrator to sign the purchase agreements. Council Member Newell seconded the motion and the motion to approve was approved and passed unanimously.

d. SEEK Grant Agreement.

City Staff provided some background on the grant agreement and for it originally planned to cover the cost of the Splash Pad. Due to a variety of issues with the Funding Agency (OSPI) it was determined after the award that the project was not eligible for funding. City Staff reported that they working with AWC and OSPI to try and get it funded. Discussion only, no action taken.

e. Library Advisory Committee/Board of Trustees

Discussion regarding the confusion surrounding the Library Advisory Committee and the Library Board of Trustees. Legal counsel briefed the Council on the conflicts between the two code references as well as the Board of Trustees being established by State Law. Council discussed the item before instructing the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance repealing the WMC section coving the Library Advisory Committee.

f. Potential ban of the use of fireworks

Discussion regarding the potential banning of the use of fireworks in the City of Waitsburg. Due to the State Law governing it, City Council was limited in its ability to restrict use, but could do so as long as it was done with sufficient lead time. Item also included the possibility of providing a safe location for citizens to set off fireworks or the City providing some kind of fireworks display. Discussion only, no action taken.

g. Resolution 2021-729

Resolution awarding construction administration to Anderson Perry for the Millrace Grade improvement project, subject to no other proposals submitted by the July 22nd deadline. With no further discussion, Council Member Newell moved to award with Council Member Romine seconding. Motion to award the oversight to Anderson Perry was approved and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

a. Vacant Council Position

City Council interviewed three applicants (Jillian Henze, Rebecca Wilson and Donna Morris) for the vacant City Council position. After the conclusion of the interview process and general Q&A, City Council convened into executive session for 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (h).

After reconvening into the regular session of the City Council meeting, Council member Gregutt moved to nominate Jillian Henze to fill the vacancy. Council Member Romine seconded and the motion to appoint Jillian Henze was approved and passed unanimously. Mayor Dunn thanked all three applicants for their interest.

Mayor's Report

No report.

Council Reports

