

COUNCILMEMBERS

Position No.

1. Tod Gunther
2. John Kelly
3. Tony Belot
4. John Williams
5. Gregg Bradshaw
6. Greg Hogan
7. Scott Drennen



ORTING CITY COUNCIL
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Virtual – Zoom meeting
November 23rd, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Joshua Penner, Chair

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL.

Mayor Penner called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Deputy Mayor Hogan led the pledge of allegiance, and then roll call was taken.

Councilmembers present: Councilmembers John Williams, John Kelly, Scott Drennen, Gregg Bradshaw, Tod Gunther, and Deputy Mayor Hogan.

Absent and not excused: Councilmember Belot

Staff present: City Administrator Scott Larson, Finance Director Gretchen Russo, City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski, City Clerk Kim Agfalvi, City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Parametrix Consulting Engineer JC Hungerford.

Mayor Penner read the following announcements:

The City Council, Staff, and the public are attending this meeting virtually, pursuant to Governor Inslee's Order 20-28 dated March 24, 2020. The public may attend via the platform Zoom by clicking the link for zoom on the City of Orting website, by telephone by dialing 1.253.215.8782, Meeting ID 989 3102 2168 passcode 309298. If you log in at zoom.com you will need to enter the meeting ID 989 3102 2168, the passcode 309298, and your name.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA.

DM made a motion to change executive session to closed session for bargaining. Seconded by Councilmember Kelly. Motion passed (6-0).

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Comments may be sent to the City Clerk at clerk@cityoforting.org by 3pm on November 23rd, 2021, and will be read in to the record at the meeting. In person attendees may provide public comment at the meeting. In the case of a question, the chair will refer the matter to the appropriate administrative staff member or committee. Written comments that come in after the 3pm deadline will be read in to the record at the next Council meeting.

3. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Penner laid out the rules and procedural steps for the hearing.

A. AB21-90 – 2022 Final Budget - Ordinance 2021-1089.

Mayor Penner opened the public hearing at 7:10pm.

Americans with Disabilities Act – reasonable accommodations provided upon request (360) 893-2219
Next Regular Meeting: December 8th, 2021 7:00pm

Finance Director Gretchen Russo briefed on the 2022 final budget. She stated that she is asking for Council to adopt the 2022 budget.

Mayor Penner stated the Council has been reviewing the budget since September, and it had to be passed by the end of December. Mayor Penner asked City Clerk Kim Agfalvi if there were any comments from the public and she stated no comments were received.

Councilmember Kelly asked about whether the budget reflects two or four new workers for the Public Works department, and also about a new position for Police Commander, and asked for Council opinion on the items.

Councilmember Williams stated he agreed with Councilmember Kelly that only two new Public Works workers are needed, and that included in the budget are several new pieces of time saving equipment.

Councilmember Bradshaw stated he agreed with Councilmember Williams, and that he would also like to see two new workers added, instead of four.

Councilmember Drennan stated that he agreed with what is said in regards to two workers, and that it had not been demonstrated that the need for four new workers had been presented.

Deputy Mayor Hogan stated he did like the idea of two new workers for this year, and possibly the Council could look at adding two new workers next year.

Finance Director Gretchen Russo stated the police commander position is already in the presented budget.

Councilmember Gunther asked if these positions are critical, and whether any workers are extremely over worked or this is just an addition of new workers.

City Administrator Larson stated that these requests are based on the body of work that is needed to be completed, and that the biggest need is in the storm department, where there is only one full time worker at this time. The second area of biggest need would be to hire someone with certification to work in the water department, and part of this request had to do with succession planning for prospective retiring employees.

Councilmember Bradshaw asked about Council communication devices, and why there is not money set aside in the presented budget for these kinds of items. Finance Director Gretchen Russo stated that the budget currently reflects that there is \$2000.00 in the budget for communication devices. City Administrator Larson stated that there are extended warranties for the iPads purchased in 2020, and replacement items would be at no cost to the City.

Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-1089, and ordinance of the City of Orting, Washington, relating to the annual budget for fiscal year 2022; adopting the City of Orting 2022 budget; adopting the job classification and pay range for employees; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date, with budgeting for two public works workers for this year. Seconded by Councilmember Kelly. Motion passed (6-0).

Mayor Penner closed the public hearing at 7:30pm.

**B. AB21-96 – 2022 – 2027 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan, Resolution 2021-15.
Maryanne Zukowski**

Mayor Penner opened the public hearing at 7:31pm.

City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski briefed on the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and asked that the Council vote to adopt the TIP. She briefed on the Whitehawk Boulevard Extension Design, the Kansas Street Reconstruction Design, and the State Route 162 Emergency Evacuation Bridge. She also briefed on the pavement improvement and ADA compliance plans.

Councilmember Kelly stated that his only concern was that the price for the pedestrian bridge has increased significantly. He asked how much money have we spent on the bridge so far, and City Engineer Zukowski stated that approximately one million dollars in grant money has been spent by the City of Orting on the bridge design. Councilmember Kelly asked if there are any alternatives to the design, as it is an extremely expensive design. City Engineer Maryanne Zukowski stated that it is a process we are planning on going through next year to evaluate some cost savings alternatives.

Councilmember Williams stated he agreed with Councilmember Kelly, and why the City is going through the trouble to design the bridge to the extent we have if the City has plans to take a value engineering course and throw out the current design. He stated he was concerned why the City doesn't take that course now, if that is the eventual process. He also stated he was under the impression the bridge was going to go across the river, not the highway, and that he had concerns with the money escalation.

Councilmember Drennan stated that there had been twenty years of work on this bridge with the State Department of Transportation, and that tunnels were once evaluated but not allowable with the water tables. He briefed on the bridge design as it stands and the process the current design went through. He recommended to the Council that we do not change the direction the design is going now.

Mayor Penner stated the bridge over the river was brought up four years ago, and that the City Council had made a positive effort to say the bridge over 162 was a priority for the Council, so it was included in the TIP plan. The bridge over the river has not gone through that, and sits outside the scope of the discussion. For the last 4 years the entire activity of the City has been around getting grant funding to move this bridge forward.

Councilmember Gunther stated he agreed with everything Councilmember Drennan said, and that he was a part of the meetings in the past years, and highly recommended we go through with this bridge to save lives in this City for generations to come.

Councilmember Bradshaw echoed what Councilmember Drennan said, and stated we have to be careful to not call it an evacuation bridge, but a pedestrian bridge, as it had attracted more funding that way and that the City had specific parameters that have to be met from the state. He stated the intent is still to get a bridge across the river.

Councilmember Kelly stated that he agrees with the philosophy of the bridge, but he was concerned the City would price itself out of the bridge.

Mayor Penner closed the hearing at 7:52pm.

Councilmember Drennan made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-15; a resolution of the City of Orting, Washington, adopting the 2022-2027 6-year Transportation Improvement Program. Seconded by Councilmember Bradshaw.

Motion passed (6-0).

4. CONSENT AGENDA- (Any request for items to be pulled for discussion?).

Payroll Claims and Warrants.

A. Regular Meeting minutes of November 10th, 2021.

B. AB21-92 – Columbarium Purchase.

C. AB21-05 – South Correctional Entity-Inmate Housing (SCORE) Contract Amendment.

D. AB21-53 – Storage of the Daffodil Float Lease Agreement.

Councilmember Kelly made a motion to approve consent agenda as prepared. Seconded by Councilmember Williams. Motion passed (6-0).

5. AGENDA ITEMS.

A. AB 21-8-94 – General Facility Charges 2022.

City Administrator Scott Larson briefed on what general facility charges are, and stated staff and Council have not addressed these items since 2018. He stated staff is recommending an eight percent increase in these funds.

Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-16, a resolution of the City of Orting, Washington; relating to General Facility Charges and setting charges for 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Kelly.

Council discussion followed in regard to how rates are dictated by the rating of the City and whether the proposed rate is enough, or if we need to increase the percentage. City Administrator Larson stated that they are calculated internally, and that there is no consideration of assessed value of the City for these fees. He did state that impact fees for transportation and parks are subject to more constraints. City Administrator Larson stated that the fees proposed make sense for our capital plan, and they are a fair amount.

Councilmember Williams asked again if staff feels eight percent is enough, or if the City should be looking for nine percent. City Administrator Larson stated this amount makes a lot of sense, and that an increase to nine percent is not needed at this time.

Mayor Penner asked for a vote.

Motion passed (6-0).

B. AB21-97 – Purchasing Policy.

Finance Director briefed on the proposed purchasing policy, and stated that there is one amendment to the proposed policy. In part one, purpose, we added a line that states non-budgeted items or items that exceed budget capacity must be pre-approved by the City Council. She asked to delete this line because the budget authority is covered much clearer in section ten under purchasing authority.

Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-17, a resolution of the City of Orting, Washington, adopting an amended purchasing policy, striking the last sentence of section one; and establishing an effective date. Seconded by Councilmember Drennan.

Motion passed (6-0).

Council adjourned to closed session to discuss bargaining strategy, pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for ten minutes, with action to follow.

8:12pm closed session started.

8:22pm extended for five minutes.

8:27pm extended for five minutes.

8:32pm closed session ended and the meeting resumed to regular session.

C. AB21-99 – Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Orting and the Orting Police Guild. City Administrator Larson briefed on the collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Police Guild. Changes stated are wages with a 6.5% for 2022 and 3.5% increase for following two years. The Guild also negotiated for a bonus outlined in appendix B, structured based on tenure for individuals' officers for the City. These bonuses will likely be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funds from the federal government.

Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Orting Police Guild starting January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Bradshaw.

Motion passed (6-0).

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

No executive session.

Councilmember Williams stated concerns with the last zoom meeting, and that he was not able to comment at the meeting, and asked for a contingency plan for similar situations.

Mayor Penner stated that staff is working with a new platform, and that we are working through issues and are happy to build in some contingency plans.

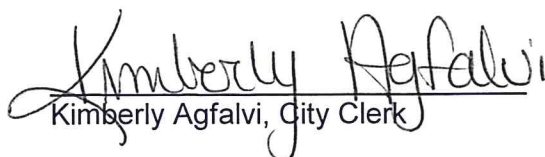
7. ADJOURNMENT.

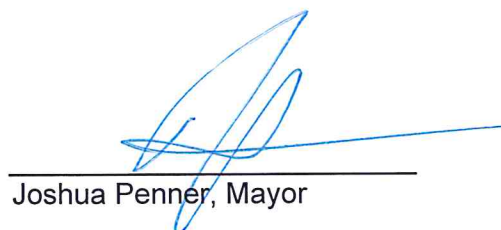
Deputy Mayor Hogan made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Bradshaw.

Motion passed (6-0).

Mayor Penner recessed the meeting at 8:39pm.

ATTEST:


Kimberly Agfalvi, City Clerk


Joshua Penner, Mayor