

## CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

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February 23, 2023

Following a Council Workshop from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Mayor Steve Sexton** called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present: Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, Anna Chotzen, Joe DeGloria, Scott Green, and Jamie Weiss. Staff present: Brad Johnson, Leif Johnson, Mike Luvera, Marv Pulst (via Zoom), Steve Riggs, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward, and Greg Young.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chotzen/Chaplin** to excuse **Councilor James Stavig** from the February 23, 2023 City Council Meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/Aslett** to change the order of items on the meeting agenda relocating Agenda Item #3, the Proposed Arts Commission discussion, to the beginning of the City Council Agenda as Item #1. All in favor; motion carried.

### **MINUTES:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Chaplin** to approve the February 9, 2023 minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

### **AUDIT OF BILLS:**

**Councilor Scott Green** updated Council regarding the Audit & Finance meeting wherein they discussed budget amendments and quarterly reviews. A few expenses of note include: \$19K of Brightly Software and \$33K to Tiger Construction for the Fire Department Renovations.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Chaplin** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of February 23, 2023, in the amount of \$256,122.39 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending February 15, 2023 in the amount of \$792,391.52. All in favor; motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No Public Comments.

Members of the public may submit comments or questions by mail to City Hall at 833 S. Spruce Street, ATTN: Greg Young, or by email to [badministration@burlingtonwa.gov](mailto:badministration@burlingtonwa.gov). Contact information for all the City Departments is available at [www.burlingtonwa.gov](http://www.burlingtonwa.gov).

### **MAYOR'S UPDATE:**

**Mayor Sexton** informed Council of a visit with **City Administrator, Greg Young**, to the City Action Days held in the Washington State Capital where they spoke to legislators on behalf of the City of Burlington specifically in regards to Hwy 20 safety measures. **Mayor Sexton** shared

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updates from the North Star Project including concerns about program funding and upcoming presentations for Council to explain Martha's Place, a new shelter opening soon in Mount Vernon, and another presentation for the First Steps Center to review the budget challenges. Regarding the topic of a First Steps Center rebuild, the **Mayor** proposed putting the project on hold until there are stable and sustainable funding streams available and to focus CoB attention on already established countywide commitments.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/Weiss** to change the meeting agenda order relocating Agenda Item #1, the Proposed Arts Commission discussion, prior to all presentations and other agenda items. All in favor; motion carried.

**Councilor Chaplin** commented on the upcoming Chicken Parade at noon on Sunday.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Proposed Arts Commission**

**City Attorney Leif Johnson** presented a revised ordinance draft for Council review and suggestions based on previous input. Leif noted that it is common practice to revise committees as needed. Further discussion was held wherein the make-up and role of the commission, term limit pros/cons, funding model, qualifications, and framework were considered. There were differing Council opinions on who should approve the City of Burlington artwork, Council versus the Arts Commission.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/Weiss** to adopt Chapter 2.80 Burlington Arts Commission. All opposed, motion failed.

A motion was made by **Councilors Chaplin/Weiss** to adopt Chapter 2.80 Burlington Arts Commission with revisions, strike "and City Council" under criteria subsection (1) and use "Artistic expertise" instead of "Professional eligibility" under criteria subsection (1). All in favor; motion carried.

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:**

**Councilor Weiss** provided a Parks & Recreation board report with the meeting covering topics pertaining to a Rotary Park bathroom delivery in early summer, dead trees on the North Side of the new dog park, a Berry Dairy Days event preparations, and potential Maiben Park tennis

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court to pickle ball court conversion. There was a presentation held at the Parks & Rec meeting about the Portland Loo to discuss pros and cons of the product.

**Councilor Chaplin** shared the Public Works meeting highlights ranging from the completion of the PD fence, a City website rebuild, newly submitted engineering plans for the Burlington bike shop, the dog park at 95% complete, and Wastewater Treatment Plant retiree after 30 years of service. **Chaplin** added that the Burlington-Edison School District also informed the City that they would not share tree removal costs, for poplar trees on a property line between LU school and Rotary Park.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**Assistant Fire Chief Steve Riggs** presented on Phase I and Phase II of the Fire Station Remodel. He covered the history of the CoB Fire Department and original use of the current fire hall constructed in 1995 which went from a volunteer department to a team of 33 employees, 24 of which are full-time. **Councilor Chotzen** inquired about the morale of the crew which **Riggs** shared was overall high despite cramped sleeping quarters.

**Police Chief Luvera** informed Council of House Bill 10.25 explaining some of the wording and corresponding scenarios that could be a liability concern for the City and he encouraged Councilmembers to read the bill, reach out to elected officials, and to advocate for rewording of the bill at [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov). Next, **Luvera** presented on City of Burlington PD history from 2017 – 2023 sharing department organizational charts, squad structure, average years of PD employment service, crime rate statistics, and the future vision of Burlington Police Department. **Councilor Chaplin** inquired about the new legal prosecution team which **Luvera** stated was already benefitting the department.

**Streets Supervisor Travis Schwetz** updated Council on the Streets department staff, division of the department between Streets and Storm Drain Maintenance, the list of duties performed by both departments, challenges, upcoming department goals, and a list of recent major accomplishments of projects completed in-house by their team including: Whitmarsh Road flood repair, The Fairhaven alley sewer repair, building the First Steps Center, installing the PD security fence, and implementing the new Dog park.

**PROCLAMATION:**

No Proclamation.

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**PRESENTATION:**

No Presentations.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Revised 2023 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)**

**City Administrator Greg Young** brought the CIP back to Council for review with Councilmembers holding long dialogue on the materials. Some topics in question ranged from how other plans such as the Comprehensive and Prose Plans align or impact the CIP, how/when the CIP can be modified, and the overall purpose of the CIP versus a budget.

**Councilors Weiss, Chotzen, and DeGloria** were interested in postponing the vote for further discussion and digestion of the topic in a workshop setting. **DeGloria** requested a "redline" document that showed edits that were made during the recent revision process. **Community Development Director Brad Johnson** proposed reviewing a side-by-side comparison of the "old" and "new" documents to fulfill the request.

**Councilor Stavig** provided comments on the Revised 2023 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) by email, see bullet points below:

- Police Motorcycle – I am not in favor of this plan. I am glad it is pushed back a year so this can be discussed further. These Motorcycles will increase the operational costs for the Police Department. We have budgeted more officers and increased the amount of police cars we have, which will increase the costs of the Department going forward. There is the liability costs of having officers on motorcycles. The motorcycle officer will also require a back-up officer in a police vehicle, should an arrest need to be made. We have increased spending in the police department and I think we need a "cooling off" of adding additional costs to the department. There will be additional, if not ongoing training for motorcycle officers, which I don't think is necessary in our town. Tickets can certainly be issued in police cars, which is safer and our Northwest weather is not so motorcycle friendly.
- Jason Boerner Park - We talked about doing a community survey for this park to get a sense from the neighborhood for what the neighbors would like to see at this park. I would not like to push this back until next year, as I think this can be done this year. Pushing a survey back until next year will just delay and progress to this park in

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following years. We have community members that are pushing for great things at other parks, but there are a lot of children in this area and I don't think this Park has received a lot of attention in several years. I would like to see this survey done this year for this park.

- First Step Center – I am opposed to this project due to the costs, placement, and what is being proposed. As the Mayor mentioned when this project was proposed, the operations of this project after it is built is the biggest hurdle. The Council has not been given any operational costs of what it would take to run this facility after it is built. Who will pay the costs going forward? I think the amount of money that would take to build this facility could be used in a better fashion. We have not been given adequate reporting on the current First Step Center operations and costs so I certainly would not agree with anything going forward, as the Council does not have a clear picture of what is going on now.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Chaplin** to accept the Planning Commission's recommendations dated February 15, 2023 and adopt the revised 2023 CIP. Opposed by Councilors Weiss, Aslett, Chotzen & DeGloria; motion failed.

This item will be discussed more in-depth in a workshop setting and return to a future Council Meeting for a final review and vote.

#### **Revised 2023 Fee Schedule**

**City Administrator Greg Young** introduced the edited 2023 Fee Schedule adding that for various reasons the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that the City of Burlington would like to maintain is the CPI-W which is already utilized by the City for Union and Non-Union agreements.

**Councilors Chaplin/Chotzen** move to adopt the revised 2023 Fee Schedule. All in favor; motion carried.

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

**City Attorney Leif Johnson** recited the following: pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 (4)(b), RE: Collective Bargaining, that a portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. The meeting is OPMA exempt and held closed session. **L. Johnson** stated that the closed session will last approximately 15 minutes, extended as necessary, and that there would be an expected vote at

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the conclusion of the session. There was a 5 minute break and the session began at 10:05 p.m. with a 5 minute extension. Session adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

A motion was made by **Councilors Astett/DeGloria** to accept the negotiated agreement with the Police Guild. All in favor; motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mayor Sexton** adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

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Joseph Stewart  
Finance Director

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Steve Sexton  
Mayor