

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

June 22, 2023

Mayor Steve Sexton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Councilmembers present:** Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, Anna Chotzen (remotely), Joe DeGloria, Scott Green, James Stavig, and Jamie Weiss. **Staff present:** Leif Johnson, Katrina Kallio, Mike Luvera, Marv Pulst, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, Rob Toth, Sarah Ward, and Greg Young.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green** to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Scott Green updated Council on the Audit & Finance meeting. Expenses of note include: \$60K to Tiger Construction for Fire Dept. Renovation and \$42K for a Parks work vehicle.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Aslett** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of June 22, 2023, in the amount of \$356,830.40; and June 2023 Utility Billing Refunds in the amount of \$90.00; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending June 15, 2023 in the amount of \$878,285.12. 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. Contact information for all the City Departments is available at www.burlingtonwa.gov.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton reminisced with Council on the successful feedback and turnout for the 2023 Berry Dairy Day events. The Mayor had sent out an email to city staff thanking the Parks and Rec staff, the Streets crew, Fire/EMS and Police, Chamber staff, and all of the volunteers that made Burlington shine (and anyone that may have been missed in that acknowledgement). **Mayor Sexton** commented that the Skagit Valley Herald front page article was spot on with a picture that could have been taken 30 years ago, if not for the modern helmets.

SWEARING IN:

Chief Luvera introduced Officer Josh Warren, a lateral transfer from the Tulalip Police Department, welcoming him to the City of Burlington and **Mayor Sexton** conducted the swearing in ceremony.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Bill Aslett shared an encounter with a distressed citizen and complimented the Burlington Police Department, first on the scene, and the Fire/EMS responders for providing excellent service.

Councilor Joe DeGloria complimented the timing of the Firecracker Tournament, held the weekend following the Berry Dairy Days Festival, and echoed the Mayor's comments on a successful BDD event.

Councilor Keith Chaplin was in attendance at the BDD fireworks show and noted an educational conversation with a recent First Steps Center graduate.

Councilor Anna Chotzen thanked the Mayor, Council, and everyone for their patience with her remote attendance to the June Council Meetings and intends to be back in person at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Jamie Weiss updated Council on the Parks and Rec Advisory Board meeting wherein a pump track discussion was a central focus with a representative from the Skagit Cycle Center providing an overview of history, the in's & out's, and track maintenance information. **Weiss** stated that additional conversation was had about the Boerner Park survey process, pickleball courts and corresponding funding, and the development of a more formal CIP process for Parks & Rec.

Councilor Keith Chaplin gave a report for the Public Works Committee with a long list of covered topics including: staffing for the Berry Dairy Days event, an awarded federal grant and corresponding timeline with a potential future FTE (Full Time Employee), a Streets department project that involved adding conduit to the sidewalk instead of the roadway, a pop up irrigation proposal for Parks & Cemetery, and an Andes road project overview. There was a continued discussion revolving around water rights, irrigation, and irrigation management systems from Council. **Councilor Weiss** inquired whether the new FTE position would be full-time with **Chaplin** responding the intention would be for it to be grant funded to align with the duration of the project.

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Councilor Scott Green provided Council with an overview from the Public Safety Committee meeting wherein the recruitment for employees continues with both the PD and Fire/EMS experiencing staffing challenges. **Green** shared that there was a tour of the remodel and invited interested Councilmembers to join at the next meeting on July 11th if interested in joining a tour.

Councilor Bill Aslett sat in as a City of Burlington representative on the reoccurring SKAT and SCOG meeting and reported to Council on the Waste Management versus Republic contract discussion, upcoming transportation grant opportunities, the recent CoB Comp plant received a blessing on the transportation component. **Aslett** shared that SKAT had done research and was going to implement specialized, high tech smoke detectors and cameras in their bathroom facilities that could be a potential solution for some of the City's public restroom challenges. The upcoming SKAT meeting will include a ride on a SKAT bus to the Burlington Senior Center for lunch. **Councilor Keith Chaplin** attended the North Star Meeting and was encouraged by the collective buy-in from local legislators. **Chaplin** liked meeting with other Cities' Councilmembers and enjoyed the recent joint workshop with the Burlington Planning Commission and City Council. **Mayor Sexton** commented on the regional waste topic and contract proposals on the table. **Sexton** encouraged Council to look into the topic prior to June 26th when there would be a County vote on a contact with Waste Management or Republic.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Parks & Library Director Sarah Ward briefed Council on the Berry Dairy Days event with all hands on deck from City of Burlington staff and gave an update on the Boerner Park survey process.

Finance Director Joe Stewart provided an overview of the Finance Department from year 2022 including themes of: staff cross-training and transition, audits, grant tracking and reporting, new funding accounts. **Stewart** shared that in 2023 the department is focusing on staffing consistency & growth and continuous improvement.

Fire Chief Rob Toth updated Council on the Fire Hall Remodel project which is approximately halfway through, about 2/3 of the way through Phase II of a three phase process. **Greg Young** added that the contractor even reported being slightly ahead of schedule. **Chief Toth** would like to host some type of open house for the community once the project is complete.

Public Works Director Marv Pulst shared news that the Wastewater Treatment Plant boiler replacement had plumbing underway.

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PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PRESENTATION:

No Presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA:

No Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING:

No Public Hearing.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION:

Maiben Park Conceptual Design

Public Works Director Marv Pulst reported on the RFQ for Maiben Park which received 7 applications, and was reviewed by a 5 person panel made up of 4 City staff and Councilmember, plus Parks & Rec Board member, **Jamie Weiss**. The selected proposal was submitted by M & M Landscape Architects whom has already met with the City Administrator and Public Works Director to outline the scope of work for the request. There will be a presentation of the results of that discussion at the July 13th Council Meeting. Dialogue continued between Councilmembers, Pulst and Young about the possible timeline, cost, intended outcome of the project and the comparative score of M & M Landscape Architects. Furthermore, **Pulst** and **Young** alerted Council to a new park in Bellingham near Barkley Village featuring a natural design and Portland Loo restroom, should anyone like to view those discussion items firsthand. Lastly, **Pulst** shared that there had been no applicants for the Parks Building remodel RFQ but the deadline was not until July 3rd.

ACTION ITEMS:

Modification to the 2nd Children's Librarian Proposal

City Administrator Greg Young refreshed Council on the discussion from the June 8th Council Meeting wherein in lieu of hiring a secondary Children's Librarian, the Library could create and hire a new job classification which would be a Bilingual Children's Services Associate. **Library**

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and Parks Director **Sarah Ward** shared that the Library looks forward to hiring for the new position.

Councilors Chaplin/Aslett made a motion to add the Bilingual Children's Services Associate position to the Non-Represented Employee Wage Grid and advertise for the position. All in favor; motion carried.

Planner I and Planner II Positions

City Administrator Greg Young noted that this Action Item, also a carry-over conversation from the prior week, was along the same theme but different department as Action Item #1.

Councilors Aslett/DeGloria made a motion to authorize the addition of a Planner I position on the Non-Represented Employee Wage Grid and the renaming of the existing Planner position to Planner II as presented by staff. All in favor; motion carried.

Amendment of BMC 9.124

City Attorney Leif Johnson introduced the proposed City Code revision to Council wherein a lengthy discussion followed with explanation provided by **Johnson** on the legal processes and adaptations to align with State law and **Chief Luvera** shared some of the impacts for Public Safety including a key education component with Law Enforcement prioritizing teaching the public about the new law changes over making arrests. **Councilor Weiss** was not opposed to the proposed Code Amendment but suggested tabling the decision until the next Council Session. **Councilor Green** disagreed with **Weiss** and felt that the upcoming change in State Law warranted a more immediate Council decision with no need to delay. **City Attorney Johnson** added that Council could vote to pass the Amendment or not, and if the City of Burlington did not pass the Code changes that the legal cases affected would be processed by the County. **Councilor Stavig** commented on a portion of the proposed law that encourages Police Officers to provide rehab referrals to which **Chief Luvera** noted there is not cost effective local option that the Burlington Police Department could utilize as a resource. **Councilor Chotzen** had some questions about available referral programs and correlation to a larger framework tracking system.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Chaplin** to hereby move to adopt the proposed ordinance amending the Burlington Municipal Code, section 9.124, and authorize the Mayor's signature. **Councilor Weiss** opposed; **Councilors Chotzen, Aslett, Stavig, and DeGloria** in favor. Motion carried.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Joseph Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor