

August 26, 2021

Mayor Steve Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Bill Aslett, Keith Chaplin, Joe DeGloria, Rick DeGloria, Scott Green, Chris Loving, and James Stavig. Staff present: Janice Burwash, Brian Dempsey, Geoff Hawes, Brad Johnson, Leif Johnson, Mike Luvera, Kristen Morrison, Katie Olafson, Marv Pulst, Jim Rabenstein, Rob Toth, Travis Schwetz, Joe Stewart, and Greg Young.

Mayor Sexton requested a motion from Council to switch the order of agenda items number 3 and number 4. A motion was made by **Councilors J. DeGloria/Green**. All in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/R. DeGloria** to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021, City Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Chaplin** to approve Accounts Payable invoices to be paid as of August 26, 2021, in the amount of \$348,357.01 and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period ending August 15, 2021, in the amount of \$725,244.87. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

City Attorney Leif Johnson stated that 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.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Bill Aslett thanked **Councilors Rick DeGloria and Chris Loving** for excusing him from the August 12, 2021, Burlington City Council meeting.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Sexton shared the final seven shelters for the Skagit First Step Center have been ordered. Additionally, two new prototypes of the pallet shelters will be placed at the

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site, a 64 square foot model and a 100 square foot model. These prototypes will be offered for testing purposes at no additional charge. These new models are made up of a stronger fire retardant material. Mayor Sexton also shared an ADA Approved bathroom prototype that should be available in the next few months that will also be placed at the Skagit First Steps Center for testing.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Swearing in of Police Officers

Mayor Sexton and Police Chief Mike Luvera held a swearing-in ceremony for 3 new Police Officers. Officer Devin Tyler, Officer Lisa Floyd, and Officer Shane Parker.

Cash by Fund for July 2021 and 2022 Budget Calendar

Finance Director Joe Stewart presented Council with a breakdown of the year-to-date revenues, expenditures, and ending cash by fund balances for the month-end of July 31, 2021. An additional discussion was held to go over the 2022 budget calendar with a tentative start day of September 9, 2021, spanning through the fall to November 23, 2021.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Keith Chaplin shared updates from the Public Works Committee meeting held on August 17, 2021. The IT and Streets Department are continuing to hook up commercial clients into the Fiber network and the Streets Department will be scheduling fiber trainings for the crew. A discussion was held about a possible installment of a signal on Andis Road with pedestrian crossing and sidewalks to accommodate for the heavier flow of traffic from the future apartment complex currently being constructed. Lastly, **Councilor Chaplin** shared his support for the Pease Road to Cascade Mall non-motorized safety improvement project.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

IT Director Geoff Hawes and **Streets Department Supervisor Travis Schwetz** shared with Council a brief update of some of the City's recent fiber deployment and how the Streets department plays a crucial role in these projects.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and Public Hearing on 1/10th Sales Tax for Homelessness

City Administrator Greg Young explained recent laws have been passed that provided means for the city to fight homelessness. The first funding from Olympia gave the city a rebate of state sales taxes for specific uses. The City of Burlington uses these funds to pay for the monthly services of the Friendship House to operate the First Step Center. The newest legislative action from Olympia allowed Counties and Cities to add 1/10th of 1% to their local sales tax rates to be used for activities that serve to mitigate the effects of homelessness, encapsulated in RCW 82.14.530. This RCW allows either a County or a City to impose the tax in one of two ways – 1) submit the issue to the voters, or 2) have the (City of County) Council adopt the tax by simple majority. The RCW details a broad range of allowable uses for the new money. The law also allows for the issuance of bonds for the same purposes and using the new funds to pay off the debt. Up to 10% of the money can supplant existing local funds. A lengthy discussion was held amongst Council and Staff.

Mayor Sexton opened the public hearing.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green** to close the public hearing. All in favor; motion carried.

This item will be brought back to Council at a later meeting for action.

6 – Year Transportation Improvement Program

Public Works Director Marv Pulst explained the purpose of this agenda item was to hold a public hearing to adopt “a perpetual six-year plan for coordinated transportation program expenditures” (RCW 35.77.010). This plan is utilized as a programming tool by local government and planning organizations and is also used by the Federal Highway

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Administration to authorize federally funded projects. Cities are required annually to submit this plan to WSDOT. **Pulst** outlined eleven projects that were being submitted.

Mayor Sexton opened the public hearing. **James Sweeney** from 650 West McCorquedale Road spoke in opposition to the George Hopper Bridge project timeline being continually pushed back. **Sweeney** also shared his disappointments with the negotiating process regarding the selling of his property for the proposed project to the city.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by **Councilors Loving/Aslett**. All in favor; motion carried.

Councilors Joe DeGloria and **Chris Loving** spoke in opposition to the George Hopper project. A discussion was held amongst the council and staff about the logistics and necessity of this project. **Councilor Bill Aslett** spoke in favor of the project and shared many businesses would see the benefits of this new construction.

A motion was made by **Councilors J. DeGloria/Loving** to approve the resolution approving the 2022 -2027 Transportation Improvement Program with the removal of projects #5 and #6 and authorize the Mayor to sign. **Councilors J. DeGloria, R. DeGloria, Loving,** and **Stavig** in favor; **Councilors Aslett, Chaplin,** and **Green** opposed. Motion carried.

Appointment to the 2022 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

City Administrator Greg Young shared the city was recently recruited for vacant positions on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. **Mayor Sexton** has recommended Dean Kirk, General Manager of the Hampton Inn to fill the vacant Business Representative position and Steph Vervaart, CEO of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce to fill the vacant Representative of an Entity Authorized to be Funded position, effective August 26, 2021. As there were no applications received for the position of Alternate Representative of Business Required to Collect the Tax, there will be on Committee vacancy for the 2022 advisory process. **Councilor Joe DeGloria** spoke in favor of these appointments and shared his enthusiasm for the Lodging Tax Committee.

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A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Chaplin** to confirm the appointment of Dean Kirk to the position of Business Representative, and Steph Vervaart to the position of Representative of an Entity Authorized to be Funded on the Lodging Tax Committee effective August 26, 2021. All in favor; motion carried.

Proposed Resolution Revising the Composition of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

City Administrator Greg Young explained per BMC 2.74, the representatives appointed to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee are to be reviewed annually. With new members on the Committee, this resolution will reflect the current composition of the advisory committee.

A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Green** to approve the resolution appointing all voting and alternate members to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and authorize the Mayor to sign. All in favor; motion carried.

Changes to CI-1 and CI-2 Zoning Regulations

Community Development Director Brad Johnson shared the Planning Commission previously recommended that changes be made to the land use and housing elements of the City's comprehensive plan as well as changes to the City's comprehensive plan map. The proposed code changes reinforce existing City land use and economic development policies by directing large scale, auto-oriented, commercial uses that involve outdoor sales to the west of the I-5 freeway, reserving large blocks of industrial land along the City's north-south rail line, and preventing incompatible uses from interfering with the intended uses in these zones.

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/R. DeGloria** to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation dated July 21, 2021, and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution. All in favor; motion carried.

Inter-local Agreement with Skagit County GIS Services

Community Development Director Brad Johnson explained Skagit County provides a number of technology services to the City of Burlington through an inter-local agreement, including IT, 911 communications, and GIS. The existing contract has expired and must be renewed for the City to continue receiving services from Skagit County.

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Burlington realizes significant economies of scale by utilizing software, equipment, and resources already maintained by Skagit County. The services provided through the inter-local involve managing data and information, as a public agency, Skagit County is in a better position to respond to public record inquires and is responsible for adhering to State record retention laws and processing public records requests.

A motion was made by **Councilors J. DeGloria/Chaplin** to authorize the Mayor to sign the inter-local agreement with Skagit County. All in favor; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sexton adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Joe Stewart
Finance Director

Steve Sexton
Mayor