

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

**Monday
December 21, 2020**

7:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Lambert, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin (Virtual), Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala (Virtual)

ABSENT: Art Bettge

OTHERS: Tony Mangini, Palouse Ice Rink

STAFF: Tyler Palmer, Mia Bautista (Virtual), Jen Pfiffner (Virtual), Laurie M. Hopkins (Virtual)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Taruscio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council December 7, 2020 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

Minutes presented for approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes.

B. Disbursement Report November 2020 - Sarah Banks

Staff presented the November 2020 Accounts Payable Report to Public Works / Finance Committee on December 14, 2020. The Committee received the report and approved the disbursements as presented.

ACTION: Receive the Disbursements Report for the month of November 2020.

C. Regence Blue Shield Premium Reimbursement - Jen Pfiffner

In August 2020, the City's medical insurance provider, Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, provided a 15% rebate on premiums due to members not accessing medical services due to COVID-19. The rebate provided a credit of \$25,595.42 to the City in September 2020.

Of the total amount rebated, approximately 15% of the employee portion paid is \$4,780.55; the balance of \$20,549.61 reflects City paid premiums.

It is proposed to pass the full amount of the August rebate to employees via existing HRA

VEBA accounts. The amount per employee would include 15% of the premiums each employee paid in August, with the remaining balance split evenly among employees. The contribution would be made tax free to the HRA VEBA accounts for future medical expenses.

As the rebate was received until after the FY2021 budget was adopted, if this proposal is approved by City Council, the appropriation will be brought forward in the FY2021 open budget process.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve employee HRA VEBA contributions from the Blue Shield of Idaho August premium rebate amount of \$25,595.42 to staff, with 15% of the premiums each employee paid in August 2020 and the remaining balance split evenly among employees.

Kelly moved and Taruscio seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

Mayor Lambert proposed Marley Pankratz to the Sustainable Environment and George Skandalos to the Farmers Market Commission. Taruscio moved and Kelly seconded to approve the appointments. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lambert proposed the following reappointments: Dave McGraw to the Moscow Urban Renewal Agency; Annette Bieghler to the Board of Adjustment; Casey Holcomb-Hawkes to the Fair & Affordable Housing; Ken Faunce to the Human Rights Commission; Cindy Barnhart, David Wilson and Sonja Foard to the Moscow Arts Commission; Tanya Denison and Judy Brown to the Moscow Pathways Commission; Susan Steele, Robert Cooper and Justin Minden to the Parks & Recreation Commission; Dennis Wilson to the Planning & Zoning Commission; Kristin Haltinner and Amber Ziegler to the Sustainable Environment Commission; Joel Hamilton and Erin Bacon to the Transportation Commission; David Rauk to the Tree Commission. Sullivan moved and Taruscio seconded approval of the reappointments. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. Master Agreement Extension for Professional Services with Aspect Consulting (ACTION ITEM) - Kyle Steele

In May of 2016, the firm of Cardno-GS (now Aspect Consulting) of Yakima, Washington was selected by a Statement of Qualifications rating committee to assist the City of Moscow in the structuring and eventual implementation of a Stormwater Utility. In September of 2016, the City executed a Master Agreement for Professional Services with Aspect and completed a Comprehensive Stormwater User Fee Study in anticipation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II MS4 Permit that was issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and became effective October 1, 2019. The Master Agreement with Aspect expired September 30, 2020. Staff anticipates executing an additional task order for Professional Services this winter to assist with the MS4 Permit requirements. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on December 14, 2020 and recommended for approval to the full Council.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Master Agreement Contract Extension for Professional Services with Aspect Consulting, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Palmer introduced the item as written above. After a few comments, Taruscio moved, Kelly seconded to approve the Master Agreement Contract Extension for Professional Services with Aspect Consulting. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. Request from Palouse Ice Rink for Hamilton Funds (ACTION ITEM) – Tyler Palmer

By adoption of Resolution 2017-13, and its successor, Resolution 2019-16, the Moscow City Council approved a commitment of \$1 million of Hamilton Funds to the Palouse Ice Rink (PIR) for construction of an ice rink facility. Resolution 2019-16 sets the parameters of the City's commitment, which expires on May 22, 2022 which also the date of expiration of the conditional use permit for the ice rink at its current location at the Latah County Fairgrounds. PIR has recently reported that it is in negotiation for potential purchase of the former Northwest River Supplies building located on South Main Street. PIR Vice-President Tony Mangini is requesting the City Council to renew its commitment of Hamilton Funds to be used in the new location, rather than the current Fairgrounds location. PIR has submitted a new business plan and pro forma in support of their request. Staff has requested additional information from PIR that is necessary in order for staff to advise City Council. The 2020 PIR Business Plan and additional materials relating to the Council's previous commitment of Hamilton Funds are attached to the Council packet. PIR's request will be presented to City Council on December 21, at which time it is anticipated that Council will direct staff accordingly.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive request for \$1 million of Hamilton Funds from Palouse Ice Rink and provide staff direction.

Palmer introduced the item with a brief history of the ice rink as well as the details above.

Mangini provided a detailed background of the rink. In 2019, the Northwest River Supply (NRS) South Main Street location became available and was determined to be feasible for conversion into an ice rink. Pursuit of the property began, estimates for conversion were determined and a closing date has been set for February 2, 2021. There is now a plan in place with the ability to deliver on the promise to the commitment of Hamilton funds. With the past fundraising and the Hamilton funds if approved, the remaining cost needed to renovate is \$1,250,000. Since the public announcement of the new location for the ice rink, they have received 20% of that total. If construction starts and the fundraising has not been met, there is some flexibility with the money that is borrowed to prevent construction from stopping. They also believe another \$200,000-300,000 can be generated over the next thirty days. Construction schedule will be a continuing conversation. The construction can also be completed in phases such as hold off on lockers room and other amenities and concentrate on the code requirements and opening the facility.

If the PIR shuts down, the City would take control of the rink, including the debt. There are considerations the City needs to review as this request is very different than the previous request. Palmer said staff will need to explore what it will take to meet the needs of the city and then can sit down with PIR and see how to keep the project moving forward if the Council desires.

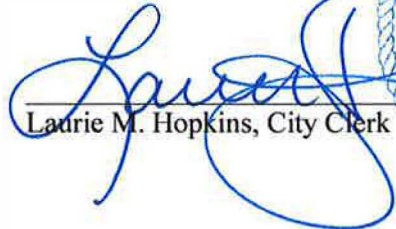
Sullivan moved to direct staff to continue looking into what it would take to commit Hamilton funds to the PIR considering the changes in this proposal. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

The Mayor and Councilmembers reflected on year 2020 including community unity, development in the south part of town, rising to challenges with creativity, sense of hope, and how the present impacts the future.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk





Bill Lambert, Mayor