

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 7:00 PM.

Present: Councilmembers Beaton, Brocksmith, Carías, Hulst, Hudson, Moberg, Molenaar, and Mayor Boudreau.

Staff Present: Interim Police Chief Cammock, Assistant Fire Chief Harris, Project Development Manager Donovan, Parks & Enrichment Director King, Finance Director Volesky, Library Director Huffman, Development Services Director Phillips, City Attorney Rogerson, and Senior Planner Lowell

Citizens Present: 58

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of August 14, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of August 20, 2019 payroll checks numbered 109494 - 109534 direct deposit checks numbered 72685 - 72921, and wire transfers numbered 764 – 768 in the amount of \$1,144,739.28
- C. Approval of August 28, 2019 Claims numbered 5162 - 5375 in the amount of \$1,748,348.45

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-D. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. City Attorney Rogerson invited the council to an executive session at 7:03PM not to last more than 20 minutes.
 - City Attorney Rogerson extended the executive session by 5 minutes at 7:23PM.
 - Executive session closed at 7:28PM.

REPORTS

- A. Committees
 - Finance and Parks & Enrichment Services - see Committee minutes for details
 - Public Safety - see Committee minutes for details
- B. Community Comments
 - Mayor Boudreau opened the community comments with a review of the rules of decorum.
 - Larry Pays – Sedro Woolley – Spoke in favor of the Safe Parking ordinance.
 - Scott Korrea – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about enforcement, civil liberty encroachment, and costs of providing these services.
 - Barbara Shaffer – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of the Safe Parking ordinance but had some reservations on a few issues; age limits, families, and visibility.
 - Loretta Oaks – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about drawing more homeless to the area.

- Kurtis Steinhauer – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of the Safe Parking ordinance; stated the need for additional support needed by homeless who aren't disabled, have children, or mental health issues.
- Keith Johnson – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of the Safe Parking ordinance; stated the homeless are eager to make this work and do everything right.
- Sheryl Pratt – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about garbage, drugs, feces, lawlessness, and property value.
- Tiffany Holien – Sedro Woolley – Spoke in favor of the Safe Parking ordinance; stated there are a lot of gaps in homeless services and this ordinance would help a lot.
- Suvero Arenas – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about increasing homeless encampments, garbage, needles, and emergency services. However, he would favor a single central location.
- Dianna McDougal – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about property values, enforcement, and safety.
- Jim Purd – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of the ordinance; stated the city is dealing with the emergency of zero vacancy and this ordinance is merely a bandage.
- John Stracken – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the ordinance; concerned about property values and increase in homeless encampments.
- Kristine LeBlanc – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the ordinance; concerned about safety and lack of public feedback of the proposed ordinance.
- Randy Nelson – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the ordinance; concerned about increasing homeless and the stress it puts on the community.
- Trish O'Brien – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the ordinance; concerned the ordinance hasn't been well thought out.

C. Council Member Comments

- None

D. Mayor's Report:

- None

E. Committee Agenda Requests

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Continuation of Closed Record Public Hearing – Dryden Request for Special Permission: Ms. Lowell introduced City Attorney Rogerson. Mr. Rogerson reviewed the legal options available to the City and recommended denial of the Special Permission. Mr. Rogerson reminded the council there was still a trespass issue to deal with and reviewed the options necessary to resolve the trespass; removing the structure or vacating the City vacating the property.

Councilmember Hulst moved the Council approve Resolution 969 denying the Dryden request for special permission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilmember Hulst moved the Council review vacating the property adjacent to the Dryden residence. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 7-0.

- A. Public Hearing – Amendments to Chapter 14.05 Mount Vernon Municipal Code (MVMC): Ms. Lowell presented a request to name the city's Hearing Examiner as the Building Code Board of Appeals. There was a discussion between the council, Ms. Lowell, and City Attorney Rogerson regarding the details of the Board of Appeals and the need to use the Hearing Examiner instead.

- Public Hearing opened.
- There being no comments the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilmember Hudson moved to amend portions of the Mount Vernon Municipal Code Chapter 14.05, Procedures, to name the Hearing Examiner as the Building Code Board of Appeals. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 7-0.

- B. Emergency Adoption of Interim Regulations – Limited Temporary Homeless Encampments (i.e. Safe Parking): Ms. Lowell requested the council declare an emergency and seek approval of interim regulations to allow limited temporary homeless encampments, otherwise known as safe parking.

- There was a lengthy discussion amongst the council members, Ms. Lowell, and Mr. Rogerson regarding various elements of the proposed ordinance including enforcement, potential legal issues, community feedback, permitting restrictions, age restrictions and so forth. The council identified 3 key issues they'd like further information on before they proceed with this ordinance.
 1. Limiting the number of temporary shelter permits a single location can hold.
 2. Confirming if having two camps in adjacent parking lots violates the 1000-foot shelter setback rules.
 3. Easing the age restrictions or setting up specific sites for family/juvenile only parking.

Councilmember Beaton moved to table this ordinance to the next council meeting on September 11th, 2019. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hulst. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Street Closure Request – Skagit River Salmon Festival: Mr. Donovan requested the council approve a street closure request made by Skagit river Salmon Festival for Saturday, September 7th, 2019.

Councilmember Molenaar moved to approve a street closure request made by Skagit river Salmon Festival for Saturday, September 7th, 2019. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

Chase Kinney, Recording Clerk

ATTEST:

Doug Volesky, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor