

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 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: Project Development Manager Donovan, Parks & Enrichment Director King, Library Director Huffman, Development Services Director Phillips, City Attorney Rogerson, Public Works Director Bell, Senior Planner Rebecca Lowell, Engineering Manager Blaine Chesterfield, Senior Engineer Darin Christen

Citizens Present: 42

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of August 28, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of September 5, 2019 payroll checks numbered 109535 – 109577, direct deposit checks numbered 72922 - 73163, and wire transfers numbered 769 – 773 in the amount of \$937,115.17
- C. Approval of September 11, 2019 Claims numbered 5378 - 5560 in the amount of \$946,778.11

Councilmember Hulst moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

- A. Mayor Boudreau opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11th 2001.
- B. Committees
 - Public Works and Library - see Committee minutes for details
 - Public Safety - see Committee minutes for details
- C. Community Comments
 - Mayor Boudreau opened the community comments with a review of the rules of decorum.
 - John Stracken – Mount Vernon – Expressed a desire to learn more about the detention ponds in Mount Vernon and expressed issues with storm water in his neighborhood.
 - Gene Van Selus – Mount Vernon – Executive Director of Salem Village Apartments. Invited Mayor and Council to attend an open house September 24th from 1-3PM and thanked emergency responders for their contributions to the safety of their elderly residents.

- Richard Bowyer – Mount Vernon – Requested a 2-year moratorium on new construction permits for single family residences in the City with the exception of those already approved. Concerned about a strain on infrastructure and rising costs. He recommended Council look at Port Orchards recent water hook up hold as an example.

D. Council Member Comments

- None

E. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Boudreau invited the public to attend the next coffee hour from 10-11 AM this Saturday September 14th at Fire Station 3.

F. Committee Agenda Requests

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Continuation of Emergency Adoption of Interim Regulations – Limited Temporary Homeless Encampments (i.e. Safe Parking)

- Peter Donovan – Presented a slide show outlining the proposed ordinance.
 1. Gene Van Selus – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance.
 2. Dennis Pratt – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance, however, would prefer if this was being handled at a county level.
 3. Clive Boulton – Mount Vernon – Concerned about possible environmental impact of having more parked cars in the area.
 4. Elona Noels – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance.
 5. John Stracken – Mount Vernon – Expressed environmental concerns as well as liability concerns in the event of carbon monoxide poisoning from vehicles running.
 6. James Warr – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking but not as currently outlined. Believes Safe Parking should be on City owned property.
 7. Cathryn Stapleton – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance; stated the homeless community is full of active members who have jobs and just need a safe place to sleep.
 8. Kurtis Steinhauer – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance; stated the need for additional support needed by homeless who aren't disabled, or have mental health issues.
 9. Laura Paise – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance; stated she is actively working to heal some of the misunderstandings with the winter shelter and Monte Vista community.
 10. Karen Cornish – Mount Vernon – Active with homeless community; spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance.
 11. Peggy Witlock – Snohomish – Spoke against Safe Parking ordinance; concerned about garbage, drugs, feces, lawlessness and property values.

12. Silverio Arenas – Mount Vernon – Suggested the ordinance be tabled again; concerned about increasing homeless encampments, garbage, needles and emergency services. Would favor central location on City owned property.
 13. Richard Bowyer – Mount Vernon – Spoke in favor of tabling the Safe Parking ordinance until a later date.
 14. Tiffany Holien – Skagit County – Spoke in favor of Safe Parking ordinance; suggested it would be a big step to helping fill some of the gaps in homeless services.
 15. Red Lanker – Mount Vernon – Asked Council to table this item. Expressed concern with how the City will monitor these encampments and what will be the repercussions of failures to enforce the rules by site managers.
 16. Diana McDougal – Mount Vernon – Concerned about how violations would be addressed by the City.
 17. Trisha Bryan – Mount Vernon – Spoke against ordinance as written. Stated she would prefer a central location on City property.
 18. Valerie Moore – Mount Vernon – Spoke against the Safe Parking ordinance. Concerned with how it will effect traffic in her neighborhood. Would prefer centralized location.
 19. Wilma Torretta – Mount Vernon – Spoke against Safe Parking ordinance. Asked Council to table this item.
 20. Robert Schmidt – Mount Vernon – Expressed concerns with how broken down vehicles would be handled. Very concerned with derelict RV's that would end up parking near Safe Parking spaces.
- Rebecca Lowell then presented a second slide show detailing the ordinance followed by a lengthy discussion amongst Council Members, the Mayor, Mr. Rogerson and Ms. Lowell regarding various elements of the proposed ordinance as well as addressing many of the concerns heard during community comment.

Councilmember Hulst moved to approve emergency ordinance 3790 adopting interim regulations to allow limited temporary homeless encampments, otherwise known as safe parking. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation of Award for 2019 Best Overall Green Infrastructure: Mr. Bell informed Council that the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies has awarded the City's Downtown Flood Protection Project with its 2019 Green Infrastructure award for best overall project. Esco Bell Presented the award.
- B. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County: Mr. Huffman presented Council with a request to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Skagit County which provides the City a 2019 allocation to assist the Library in supporting citizens of unincorporated Skagit County.

Councilmember Hudson moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Skagit County to provide the City a 2019 allocation to assist the Library in supporting citizens of unincorporated Skagit County. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Bid Award – 2019 Street and Curb Ramp Improvements Project: Mr. Christen presented Council with a request to award the bid for the 2019 Street and Curb Ramp Improvements Project to Pellco Construction Inc. in the amount of \$330,368.00.

Councilmember Hulst moved to award the bid for the 2019 Street and Curb Ramp Improvements project to Pellco Construction Inc. in the amount of \$330,368.00. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 7-0.

- D. Bid Award – 2019 Street and Curb Ramp Improvements Project: Mr. Chesterfield presented Council with a request to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Ecology for Washington Conservation Corp for vegetation maintenance in drainage facilities.

Councilmember Brocksmith moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Department of Ecology for Washington Conservation Corp for vegetation maintenance in drainage facilities. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carías. Motion carried 7-0.

Kevin Rogerson invited the Mayor and Council to attend an executive session with no further action needed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:21PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

Tyler Rude, Recording Clerk

ATTEST:

Doug Volesky, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor