City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Minutes

City Council

Mayor Spencer Boudreau
Mayor Pro Tem Kalei LaFave
Council Member Ruth Kendall
Council Member Angie Wean
Council Member MaryAlice Wallis
Council Member Keith Young
Council Member Erik Halvorson

Thursday, March 21, 2024	**6:00 PM**	**2nd Floor, City Hall**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a special meeting in the Longview City Hall Council Chamber, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. Final disposition shall be taken on no other matter.

The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Office at 360.442.5004 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting. Please note - virtual attendees may comment verbally during public hearings only. Virtual attendees may also submit written comments to the Clerk's Office with the heading, "Public Comment for disbursement to the City Council".

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82394132374

Telephone options (dial any of the following numbers):

1-253-215-8782
1-346-248-7799
1-408-638-0968
1-669-900-6833
1-301-715-8592
1-312-626-6799
1-646-876-9923

Webinar ID: ***823 9413 2374***

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Mayor Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE**
   The flag salute was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

***Present**: Mayor Boudreau, Mayor Pro Tem LaFave, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Wallis, Councilmember Young (on-line), Councilmember Halvorson (on-line)*
***Absent/Excused**: Councilmember Wean (Participated on-line at 7:28 p.m. Arrived in person at 7:59 p.m.)*

***Staff Present**: City Attorney Dana Gigler, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim, Assistant City Manager Ann Rivers, Parks and Recreation Director Jen Wills, City Engineer Sam Barham, Police Chief Robert Huhta, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg, Public Information Officer Angela Abel*

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

24-00286 POTENTIAL LITIGATION PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110(1)(I)

The City Council as present at roll-call, City Attorney Dana Gigler, and Suzanne Michael entered Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Potential Litigation for a period of 15 minutes, until 6:18 p.m. At 6:18 p.m. Mayor Boudreau announced Executive Session would continue for an additional 15 minutes, until 6:33 p.m. At 6:33 p.m. Mayor Boudreau announced Executive Session would continue for an additional 10 minutes until 6:45 p.m. At 6:45 p.m. all parties came out of Executive Session. No decisions were made.

The Council recessed at 6:45 p.m. for 10-minutes and reconvened at 6;55 p.m. with all members as present at roll-call

Councilmember Kendall moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Wallis.
The motion failed by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Wallis
Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Halvorson, Mayor Boudreau

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

24-00287 EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - INTERIM CITY MANAGER JIM DUSCHA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - INTERIM CITY MANAGER JIM DUSCHA

Councilmember Kendall requested discussion of options available for the Interim City Manager. Requested a Personal Services Agreement.

***A motion was made by Councilmember Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember LaFave to approve the Employment Agreement for Interim City Manager with Jim Duscha**.*

An amendment to the main motion was made by Councilmember Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember LaFave to reflect Jim Duscha's requested changes in Section 2: Duties and Section 5: Vacation Leave, Sick Leave and Holidays.
Section 2, strike out Paragraph 2 and 3 - Duscha agrees that the stability of staff is of critical importance to ongoing City operations. Accordingly, Duscha agrees that he will not terminate any Department Heads or other employees reporting directly to the Interim City Manager during his term as Interim City Manager. The Interim City Manager agrees to facilitate, via the Human Resources department, an open, transparent, and competitive recruitment process for a permanent City Manager. He may apply to be considered for the permanent position of City Manager in a competitive recruitment process.
Section 2, add a new Paragraph 2 - The City Council will establish guidelines for the search for a permanent City Manager. In accordance with these guidelines, the Interim City Manager reserves the right to apply for the permanent position through the recruitment process.
Section 5, strike out fifteen (15) and insert forty (40)

Council discussed the amendment to the motion.

An amendment to the amended main motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by

Councilmember Wallis to re-word Section 2, Paragraph 2 -
Duscha agrees that the stability of city staff is of critical importance to ongoing city operations. Accordingly, Duscha agrees that if he terminates any Department Heads or other employees reporting directly to the Interim City Manager during his term as Interim City Manager, this action will be subject to an immediate and thorough investigation by a WCIA Attorney.

City Attorney Gigler repeated the amendment and offered comment.

Jason Still provided public comment.
Tom Samuels provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
Steve Ferrell provided public comment.
Teresa Purcell provided public comment.
Bill Youngren provided public comment.

Councilmember Wean commented via a recorded Powerpoint.

Council discussed the amendment further.

Councilmember Wean participated on-line by Zoom at 7:28 p.m.

The amendment to the amended main motion - Section 2, add Paragraph 2 - Duscha agrees that the stability of city staff is of critical importance to ongoing city operations. Accordingly, Duscha agrees that if he terminates any Department Heads or other employees reporting directly to the Interim City Manager during his term as Interim City Manager, this action will be subject to an immediate and thorough investigation by a WCIA Attorney.
Failed by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Wallis, Councilmember Wean
Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Halvorson, Councilmember Young, Mayor Boudreau

Clerk Ostreim read the amendment to the main motion - Section 2, strike out Paragraph 2 and 3 - Duscha agrees that the stability of City staff is of critical importance to ongoing City operations. Accordingly, Duscha agrees that he will not terminate any Department Heads or other employees reporting directly to the Interim City Manager during his term as Interim City Manager. The Interim City Manager agrees to facilitate, via the Human Resources department, an open, transparent, and competitive recruitment process for a permanent City Manager. He may apply to be considered for the permanent position of City Manager in a competitive recruitment process.
Section 2, add a new Paragraph 2 - The City Council will establish guidelines for the search for a permanent City Manager. In accordance with these guidelines, the Interim City Manager reserves the right to apply for the permanent position through the recruitment process.
Section 5, strike out fifteen (15) and insert forty (40).

An amendment to the amended main motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Wallis - Section 2, the requested new Paragraph 2, *strike out the sentence, "In accordance with these guidelines, the Interim City Manager reserves the right to apply for the permanent position through the recruitment process".*

Keenan Harvey provided public comment.
Larry Crosby provided public comment.
Jason Still provided public comment.
Tom Samuals provided public comment.
Randy Knox provided pubic comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
Steve Ferrell provided public comment.
Jane Still provided public comment.
Jacob Vedrode provided public comment
Tricia Rodman Junker provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.

A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
Mike Pederson provided public comment.

The Amendment to the amended main motion - Section 2, the requested new Paragraph 2, strike out the sentence, "In accordance with these guidelines, the Interim City Manager reserves the right to apply for the permanent position through the recruitment process".
Failed by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Wallis, Councilmemer Wean
Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Halvorson, Councilmember Young, Mayor Boudreau

Human Services Director Sabrina Fraidenburg explained vacation hours for exempt employees.

Mayor Boudreau asked for comments on the amendment to the main motion - to reflect Jim Duscha's requested changes in Section 2: Duties and Section 5: Vacation Leave, Sick Leave and Holidays.

Council discussed the amendment to the main motion.
Councilmember Wean arrived in person in the council chambers at the at 7:59 p.m. and questioned council interference and OPMA violations.

Tom Samuels provided public comment.
Mayor Boudreau left the council chambers at 8:04 p.m. and returned at 8:05 p.m.
Jason Still provided public comment.
Michael O'Neill provided public comment.
Michael Pederson provided public comment.
Glenda Johnson provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
Steve Ferrell provided public comment.
Jacob Vedrode provided public comment.
MaryJane Melink provided public comment.

Mayor Boudreau explained there was a second clean version of the contract attached to the agenda and then removed on the advise of the City Attorney. The second version is the proposed amendment to the main motion.

Teresa Purcell provided public comment.
Bruce Holway provided public comment.
Randy Knox provided public comment.

Councilmember Kendall corrected misinformation on a settlement.

The amendment to the main motion - Section 2, strike out Paragraph 2 and 3 - Duscha agrees that the stability of staff is of critical importance to ongoing City operations. Accordingly, Duscha agrees that he will not terminate any Department Heads or other employees reporting directly to the Interim City Manager during his term as Interim City Manager. The Interim City Manager agrees to facilitate, via the Human Resources department, an open, transparent, and competitive recruitment process for a permanent City Manager. He may apply to be considered for the permanent position of City Manager in a competitive recruitment process.
Section 2, add a new Paragraph 2 - The City Council will establish guidelines for the search for a permanent City Manager. In accordance with these guidelines, the Interim City Manager reserves the right to apply for the permanent position through the recruitment process.
Section 5, strike out fifteen (15) and insert forty (40).
Carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Halvorson, Councilmember Young, Mayor Boudreau
Nays: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Wallis, Councilmember Wean

Council discussed the process used to create a contract for the Interim City Manager as a city employee versus a temporary employee. Also discussed the subcommittee creation.

Jerry Larson provided public comment.
Bill Youngren provided public comment.
Jason Still provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
Diana Winther provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.
MaryJane Melink provided public comment.
Lisa Wolff provided public comment.
Michael O'Neill provided public comment.

The motion to approve the main contract as amended carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Halvorson, Councilmember Young, Mayor Boudreau
Nays: Councilmember Wallis, Councilmember Wean, Councilmember Kendall.
Council concurred to correct clerical errors in the original contract.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Tiffany Ostreim
City Clerk

Approved:_____
Mayor

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, MARH 28, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.