

Mayor Art Smyth called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Council meeting was conducted via telephone conference call (Go To Meeting) pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamation No. 20-28. A roll call was taken to document those in attendance.

Council Members present were Avis Christensen, Tim Rieb, Jan May, Emmanuel Hurtado and John Housden. Also present were Public Works Director Lee Webster, Chief of Police Marcos Ruiz, Finance Director Misty Ruiz, Deputy Clerk Desha Rupeiks, City Attorney Chuck Zimmerman and Michelle Johnson of JUB Engineering.

The Regular Council meeting minutes from 2/10/2021 were reviewed. The final agenda for the March City Council meeting was also reviewed.

MOTION: *Council Member Christensen made the motion to approve March final agenda with the addition of Resolution No. 2021-03 supporting local water banks; review of Resolution No. 2020-09 Emergency Declaration for the Cold Springs/Pearl Hill Fire; Brewster Swimming Pool 2021 season, and contracts (under Council Member Christensen). Council Member May seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *Council Member May made the motion to approve the 2/10/2021 Regular Council meeting minutes. Council Member Hurtado seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

PAYROLL AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the City Council.

As of this date March 10, 2021, the Council, by a majority vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the voucher payment list and further described as follows:

February 2021 Manual A/P Total:	\$28,893.70
March 2021 Council A/P Total:	\$486,783.62
<u>February 2021 Payroll Total:</u>	<u>\$148,296.79</u>
TOTAL:	\$663,974.11

Check numbers: 3822-3835, 3838-3866, 61722, 61723 and 61777-61780-61862 and 61870.

Also approved were void checks #61779 for \$95.08 (contract terminated, paid in error), #61781 for \$50.00 (paid via card) and #61863 for \$101,925.51 (incorrect amount).

MOTION: *Council Member Hurtado made the motion to approve the above noted bills and payroll. Council Member Rieb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CHIEF OF POLICE MARCOS RUIZ:

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Chief of Police Marcos Ruiz reviewed the department updates. He stated that the department is fully staffed and running well. They will begin inhouse training now that the weather has started to improve. The new patrol car has arrived and will be in service soon. There were no questions or concerns brought by council.

FIRE CHIEF DYLAN GAMBLE:

Fire Chief Dylan Gamble noted the department has had good turn out for practices and have a few new members. There was a controlled burn in Pateros on March 6th, which provided a good training drill for the department. Gamble inquired whether the City had decided on a piece of property for the storage containers the department would like to set and use for practice drills. Public Works Director Webster said they had chosen a couple of sites and would like to meet with Gamble to view them. Council Member Hurtado asked whether or not Gamble believes we will be able to have the 4th of July Fireworks this year. Gamble noted he will be checking into purchasing the fireworks, and whether or not we can actually light them off/have the celebration in the park is going to all hinge on the Governors guidelines for public gatherings at that time.

MAYOR ART SMYTH:

BREWSTER SALMON DERBY EVENT APPLICATION:

MOTION: *Council Member Rieb made the motion to approve the 2021 Brewster King Salmon Derby Event Application for the dates of August 5th-8th. It is to be understood that the approval of the event by the City of Brewster is not a guarantee that the WA State Fisheries season schedule or the Governor of Washington will allow said event to take place due to Covid restrictions at that time. Council Member Housden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

BREWSTER REGATTA/STATELINE OUTBOARD RACING ASSOCIATION EVENT APPLICATION:

MOTION: *Council Member Housden made the motion to approve the 2021 Brewster Regatta Boat Race Event Application for the dates of June 24th-27th. It is to be understood that the approval of the event by the City of Brewster is not a guarantee that the Governor of Washington will allow said event to take place due to Covid restrictions at that time. Council Member Christensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03 - SUPPORTING LOCAL WATER BANKS:

MOTION: *Council Member Christensen made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-03, supporting local water banks and actively oppose inappropriate outside attempts to control and profit from local water resources. Council Member May seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

FINANCE DIRECTOR MISTY RUIZ:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09 – STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION COLD SPRINGS/PEARL HILL FIRE:

MOTION: *Council Member May made the motion to repeal Resolution No. 2020-09, ending the State of Emergency for the Cold Springs/Pearl Hill Fire. Council Member Hurtado seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:

Finance Director Ruiz reviewed the monthly finance report. Council had no questions or concerns.

BUDGET AMENDMENT, ORDINANCE NO. 939:

MOTION: *Council Member Hurtado made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 939, amending Ordinance No. 934, the City's 2021 adopted budget ordinance. Council Member Rieb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEE WEBSTER:

JUB UPDATES – MICHELLE JOHNSON:

Michelle Johnson of JUB Engineering reviewed project updates. She noted the well house and waterline work project is moving as expected. Apollo is continuing water tie ins for the new mains and hope to get everything connected over the next few weeks. Hospital Way main line installation will begin later this month. The pavement correction plan is being worked through with the contractor and the pavement subcontractor.

The contractor is working on the lower reservoir well house interior. The piping and connections to the existing system will occur in the next few weeks. Apollo is working on the deductive change order number to remove the remaining work for the State Way site from the project. There will be an amendment to the funding package with RD to proceed with a second well at the Canyon site. A submittal for water rights for the Canyon well is being prepared for the Conservancy Board in May.

PROJECT UPDATES: Public Works Director Lee Webster reviewed the following:

- Reviewed the Apollo water line tie ins on Hospital Way. No true road closures are in place, with access to hospital and other businesses/residences not affected.
- Reviewed the FEMA Flood Plan. There are concerns about what our system can handle, and the model is to be adjusted. A storm drain project is in the works for us within the next 2-3 years.
- A request for proposals for an Airport engineer will go out soon. The FAA has reviewed and approved our Airport Improvement Plan.
- Road striping will take place this year.
- The DCPUD partnership with respect to the Cove Park is in process.
- The Brewster Food Bank has to move from its current location. They've asked the City to help them locate a new area if at all possible.

BREWSTER SWIMMING POOL SEASON:

Public Works Director Webster stated that the department plan is to go on as planned with anticipation of the pool opening for summer use this year as it needs to be filled with water and prepared. Even under the Governor's current phase plan, (which allows facilities like the pool to be at 25% capacity) the calculated number of kids allowed into the pool at that percentage would calc out to about 75 swimmers. Finance Director Ruiz says we will need to start hiring and training guards and staff soon.

AVIS CHRISTENSEN – EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS:

Council Member Christensen thanked the three management employees of the City for their help with the City on many projects and with all of their extra effort and commitment during the Covid pandemic. To compensate these employees for their efforts and dedication, she proposed changing their non-union employee contracts from 6-mos severance pay to 12-mos of severance pay in the event that an employee is terminated without cause.

Council Member May stated she did not want this to set precedence for future employees in the same position. Council Member Housden is favor of keeping the current language at 6-mos. The question was raised what language is referenced in the contract for union employees. After much discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Council Member Christensen made the motion to modify the contract severance package for the City Clerk/Finance Director, Police Chief and Public Works Director from 6-mos severance pay to 12-mos severance pay, referenced in the without cause termination portion of the contract and to authorize the Mayor to sign updated, new revised employment contracts. Council Member May seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1. (Council Member Housden opposed).

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor Art Smyth

ATTEST:

Finance Director, Misty Ruiz

cz/dr