

LEAVENWORTH SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES July 24, 2017

Mayor Farivar called the July 24, 2017 Leavenworth City Council Special meeting to order at 1:00 PM and Councilmember Brinkman led the City Council in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Cheryl K. Farivar, Elmer Larsen, Carolyn Wilson, Margaret Neighbors, Richard Brinkman, and Sharon Waters.

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Walinski, Attorney Tom Graafstra, and Chantell Steiner.

Mayor Farivar stated that Councilmembers Mia Bretz and Gretchen Wearne are excused from the special meeting.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. Review of Bond Levy Request for Park & Recreation Improvements

City Administrator Joel Walinski reviewed a change to the agenda that included item #3 as an Ordinance rather than a Resolution. He identified for the Council several recent discussions with the Finance and Parks Committees pertaining to the opportunity to move forward with a recommendation to the registered voters of Leavenworth regarding a new ballot measure that would replace the City's current outgoing 1997 Fire Bond Levy that retires this year. He stated that the new bond levy option for the Park & Recreation Improvements would be just slightly different from the 1997 Fire Bond Levy annual request which would have little to no effect on current tax payers' assessments by the City of Leavenworth. He explained the discussions of the Parks Committee to review several major projects, including the potential purchase of Osborn Elementary and the creation of a wetlands park, and noted that these projects will need more time to review costs and implementation. The improvements being requested at this time were determined by the Parks Committee to be easily presented and understood by the voters, and attainable, if approved by the voters. The improvements will include a new play structure at Waterfront Park and new drainage and lighting improvements at Enchantment Park, each of which the useful life is anticipated to exceed 16 years with the primary purpose being for public use while sports teams and school uses will be secondary.

Administrator Walinski identified the options for bond term lengths between 10 and 15 years noting that the ballot title will allow for up to 15; however, the anticipated annual debt payment suggested to replace the Fire Bond Levy would meet the 10 year schedule and would save a significant amount of interest. He then noted several other factors that could affect property taxes in the coming year that include the Legislature's changes to the education package, additional Cascade School District levies that will be coming online from the previous school bond levy that voters passed, and the potential increase of the new Fire Bond Levy being proposed by the Fire District. He reiterated that the City's request for a new Park & Recreation Bond Levy would replace the current City Fire Hall Bond Levy at nearly the same rate and annual collected amount, which will have little to no effect.

The Council discussed options for educating the public on the new levy request and the need to include the various sports user groups as advocates for the levy. It was noted that this is a great opportunity for

the citizens of Leavenworth to decide if they would like to have these new park improvements that will have lasting economic and social benefits.

2. Motion to Suspend Council Rules Section 19 Actions Taken During Public Meetings

Administrator Walinski explained that the Council's rules state that all ordinances, resolutions, rule or regulation shall be adopted during regular meetings. He explained that due to today's meeting being a "special meeting", the Council will first need to suspend Section 19 of Council rules to adopt an Ordinance.

Craig Hess, 125 Pine Street, Leavenworth; Mr. Hess requested clarification on the action items occurring and why the regular meeting was cancelled; it was noted that the Council must rescind their own policy to adopt the ordinance and that previous to this item coming up there were no items anticipated for the July 25th regular meeting; therefore, it was cancelled by the Council at the last meeting. Mr. Hess spoke in favor of moving forward with the ballot measure for the voters, concurring with the Council that it is the right thing to do. He questioned uses of Lodging Tax Funds to assist in the improvements and it was noted that the City has and does use these funds when it can be determined as feasible for tourism purposes. In closing, Mr. Hess suggested that the Council also consider adding user fees to the parks systems to help generate revenue for future improvements.

Councilmember Brinkman motioned that the Leavenworth City Council moves to suspend Section 19 of the City Council Rules. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Neighbors and passed unanimously.

3. Ordinance No. 1550: Ballot Title for Park & Recreation Bond Levy Request

Councilmember Neighbors motioned that the Leavenworth City Council moves to adopt Ordinance No. 1550 setting the ballot title for a Park & Recreation Bond Levy Request for the November 7, 2017 Election. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilson and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Councilmember Brinkman motioned to adjourn the July 24, 2017 Special meeting of the Leavenworth City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Neighbors and passed 4-1 with Councilmember Larsen opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

APPROVED


Cheryl K. Farivar
Mayor

ATTEST


Chantell Steiner
Finance Director / City Clerk