



Regular Meeting –via Zoom meeting # 836-6487-7078
Monday, August 17, 2020
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Styron Sherrell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Whitaker, Johnson, Gillespie, Morton, Linden, Peretti and Whalen.

Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief Hernandez, Public Works Director Afzali, Finance Director Robbecke, City Attorney W. Scott Snyder and City Clerk Trisha Summers.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Motion (Whalen/Whitaker) “to remove item 7B from the agenda for tonight’s meeting.” **Passed 7/0**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

All public comments that were submitted to the City Clerk will be attached to these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Check Approval Process

a. Minutes Approval:

- i. August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting
- ii. August 10, 2020 Study Session

b. Claims Approval:

- i. Approval of the checks/vouchers/disbursements numbered 67348 to 67412 in the amount of \$631,827.21.
- ii. Approval of the payroll disbursement of August 5, 2020 in the amount of \$243,105.40.

MOTION (Morton/Gillespie) “to approve the Consent Agenda.” **Passed 7/0.**

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Styron Sherrell read the Proclamation for the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Utility Assistance Program Resolution 20-1936 Approval

Director Robbecke presented this item. The City was awarded \$237,900 from the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund administered by the Washington State Dept. of Commerce. The city will utilize funds to cover unanticipated and unbudgeted costs for public health and safety related to COVID-19. The City will also help citizens who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 by providing assistance to eligible residential utility customers with up to \$300 per household to pay their utility bills. There will be an application process and funds will be awarded on a first come first served basis. The amount allocated to support the Utility Assistance program is \$50,000.

Council expressed that they were in favor of this item coming to them.

MOTION (Morton/Peretti) "to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached Resolution 20-1936, establishing a Utility Assistance Program and allocating CARES Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$237,900." **Passed 7/0**

B. Council Procedures Resolution 20-1935 Approval

This item has been removed from the agenda for tonight's meeting.

C. East Pierce-Community Building contract approval

Finance Director Robbecke presented this item to council. East Pierce Fire and Rescue has a temporary need for additional space during construction of a new fire station and has expressed interest in rental of the Community Building through August 31, 2022. The city has negotiated a short-term rental agreement that is amendable to both parties. The annual revenue in rent to the city is \$8,174 plus annual CPI. Tenant will be responsible for all utilities as well as routine maintenance and janitorial duties.

Council is glad to see this and are happy to be able to help out. This is a win/win for the community.

MOTION (Linden/Gillespie) "move to approve the attached Lease Agreement with East Pierce Fire & Rescue, detailing the terms and conditions by which the Milton Community Building will be utilized, and authorize the Mayor to execute said agreement." **Passed 7/0**

D. East Pierce-Fire Station contract approval

Finance Director Robbecke presented this item to council. East Pierce Fire & Rescue is in temporary need of additional space during construction of a new fire station and has expressed interest in the rental of three additional office spaces in the fire station building through August

31, 2022. The annual revenue increase in rent to the city is \$1,434 plus annual CPI and an increased percentage of shared utilities.

Council is glad to be able to accommodate East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

MOTION (Peretti/Whalen) "to approve the attached Lease Agreement with East Pierce Fire & Rescue, detailing the terms and conditions by which East Pierce Fire & Rescue and the City of Milton will utilize the fire station building and authorize the Mayor to execute said agreement."
Passed 7/0

E. Mayor Compensation Ordinance 1991-20 Approval

Finance Director Robbecke presented this item to council. The Mayor's current compensation rate is \$2250 per month. This rate was established for the ceremonial or other regularly established duties of the position which is not consistent with a full time Mayor. To recognize the additional duties and efforts required for the position, a salary of \$72,000 per year with no medical or other benefits was suggested by City Council members at the August 10, 2020 study session. Current allocation in the 2020 budget affects the General fund, Water fund, Electric fund, Stormwater fund and Information Technology fund. It is recommended the Mayor perform a new time study to determine if the existing allocation reflects the current duties and responsibilities of the Mayor.

MOTION (Morton/Gillespie) "to repeal Ordinance 1988-20 and establish a new salary for the Mayor of \$6,000 per month or \$72,000 per year, consistent with a full time Mayor." **Passed 7/0.**

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Whitaker-

- Glad we came together and gave increase to Mayor with the data we were given.
- Glad to see East Pierce contracts that we have passed and that we are able to help East Pierce.

Councilmember Linden -

- Appreciate everyone's work and due diligence on the Mayor compensation.
- Yuma Street is confusing because the speeds change on it. Would it be possible to work with Edgewood on this?

Councilmember Johnson-

- Thank you to Director Afzali for offering to contact citizen on "net metering". Also, thanks for email today regarding safety issues and walkers, it's very dangerous.

Councilmember Gillespie-

- Thanks for all the staff and council effort that went into the Mayor's compensation agenda item.

Councilmember Morton-

- Thanks to all staff and council for the info provided on Mayor's compensation.
- It was sad to see last weekend go by without Milton Days. Worked at the park on the yarn collage this weekend.

Councilmember Peretti-

- I tip my hat the citizens for responding to the pandemic in the parks and on the trail. Federal way has had to shut down parks and Milton citizens are doing a great job and I appreciate that.

- Thank you to the council for working diligently on the Mayor's compensation, it was good to hammer that out.

Councilmember Whalen -

- Thank you everyone for the willingness to work through tough issues and I'm proud to be a part of this group.
- For Director Afzali-are the tainted water issues due to construction in Edgewood?
- Rob McDonald has had an accident and prayers would be appreciated.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Tony Hernandez, Police Chief-

- There is an arson investigation on 10th in Milton. There were minor injuries of two officers involving a domestic violence case, but nobody hurt, and the fire was extinguished.
- Milton helped with a fire response off of 23rd today.
- Speeding up Taylor is an issue. People use Milton to escape other jurisdictions for crime committed there and the police are very busy with this issue.

Nick Afzali, Public Works Director-

- We submitted a TIB grant application for Porter Way widening between Fife Way and Milton Way. The cost is \$740,908 and we are asking for \$666,817. There is a 10% match.
- There is traffic "road runner" data collection taking place for speed, volume, gap, etc. There is also a license plate study happening. We will use these data to determine the type of traffic calming devices to install on Yuma Street in Milton.
- The corner of Kent street property is being made ready for more parking as part of new sidewalks on Kent Way project.
- WSDOT is closing I-5 on 8/28 and 8/29 for new overpass girders. Lots of traffic will be using Hwy 99 during this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Fall Council Retreat will be on a Thursday at 10AM either mid-late September or early October.
- Sad to not have Milton Days and truly looking forward to next year. National Night Out, the Craft Bazaar and Tree lighting are looking grim as well.
- OPMA extension lasts through September 1st so we will just go with the flow. Continue to do what you can to stay safe and healthy.
- Will update community on school lunch program and the CARES info.
- Detective Amy Camden is retiring on August 28, 2020.
- Thanks for the hard work on the Mayor compensation. Milton will continue to move forward in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Shanna Styron Sherrell, Mayor

ATTEST


City Clerk

Trisha Summers

From: KEVIN RINGUS <romans8@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Trisha Summers; Shanna Styron-Sherrell; Robert Whalen; Susan Johnson; Todd Morton; Steve Whitaker; Jim Gillespie; Phil Linden; Steve Peretti
Subject: Re: August 17th, 2020, Council Meeting/Agenda Item 7E

Greetings Madam Mayor and members of Council

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to address you by email for this item. Shame on me for not paying better attention to the meetings scheduled. I had no idea that the Budget Retreat was held three days after the August 3rd meeting. It was never mentioned by anyone, but each of you most likely knew the date. How many citizens would have been available on a Thursday from 10am to 1pm?

With that said, you have all had the benefit of information and discussion that citizens have not been a part of in any aspect. The Budget Retreat did not allow for citizen comment. Council member Johnson, evidently, provided information on the topic. This item was added to the Study Session. No information provided in the packet. Once again, no ability for citizen comment. More importantly, no notice that this item was even going to be discussed. This discussion was the largest portion of the Study Session. I agree with Council member Linden that this appears to be rushed.

I stated in my very first email on this subject that the salary for the mayor's position should be raised. I appreciate the comments the Mayor made during the study session. My concern is, still, whether the budget can actually sustain such an increase... in any amount. Time will tell.

Now, after much discussion by council, there is yet another version of this topic.

Without the benefit of additional public comment (quite possibly without public knowledge), you have made the decision to increase the compensation for the mayor to \$6,000/month (\$72,000 annually). Hopefully, it works. The citizens benefit from an engaged mayor. There was also much conversation about using a salary commission in the future. Council members would certainly benefit from a salary commission.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and every response. I appreciate the commitment you have made to the citizens of Milton.

KRingus

Trisha Summers

From: Angelina Rieber <angelinarieber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:46 AM
To: Trisha Summers; Todd Morton; Shanna Styron-Sherrell; Steve Whitaker; Susan Johnson; Steve Peretti; Jim Gillespie; Phil Linden; Robert Whalen
Subject: Questions from a Registered Voter

What is going on with you guys?

Please submit this for the record, wherever it applies. Next council meeting, in response from the badly executed SNL parody.

Let's start with page 5 (E.) on the packet transcript available at:
<https://www.cityofmilton.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/7.20.20-Meeting-Packet.pdf>

The mayor has demonstrated a willingness and ABILITY.

She can do the job.

Let's move forward.

Council reports... I literally have no words.

But give me a moment and I will find them.

Councilmember Whitaker: okay...

CM Linden: For Indigenous Peoples Day, do you have any thought or ideas? An outline of a plane you can float out to the people of Milton and get some ideas?

CM Johnson: What's the significance of the 3 benches for you?

CM Gillespie: you're leaning back in the cut watching how everything is unfolding or revealing itself, if you will... What are you seeing?

CM Morton: In baseball terms, I wish you'd follow through with your throw.

CM Whalen: Summer, Fed Way, Fife and I believe Auburn all have FEDeX hubs. If they're abusing rules. Make them pay. Nobody likes traffic and it's impact in Milton. We're in agreement.

Council: Please start utilizing and interacting for and with those you feel you represent.

PAGE 16 is why I hopped out of bed, opened the laptop, and the reason you're annoyed with me....

The Honorable Kevin Ringus, is fair and just. However the municipal codes do not factor in the current reality. I do not believe all of you are, and I'm not speaking solely about COVID, I'm talking about the ever changing economic climate this town has to adapt to, when those questions are brought up, or suggestions or a plan offered it met with "thank you, we'll look into it"

I think it may be time to start thinking about innovation. It starts from the top. That woke Juneteenth moment shows what could be.

I respect Mr. Ringus and his opinion. He's not playing favorites, he's offering facts that are from the letter of the law. With that being said, that's why there's precedence set and challenged. Rules are not made to be broken, I just realized: they're made to evolve.

Let's just do this thing for once as a collective: pay someone for the job they're doing and pay them well if you want them to keep doing it.

Not once has anyone, if it's their honest opinion, said that "Shanna can't, or isn't doing the job" it's technicalities.

If you're fearful about retribution: it's obviously understandable, but let's change habits that didn't work so well in the past. Personally speaking, I promise on everything I would not attack. Have faith in the rest of the voters in Milton and speak openly.

But everyone on record has said she's been doing the job, and been doing it well.

I don't know how to type the shrug emoji but you get the point.

FINANCIAL SIDE NOTE:

Why hasn't anyone leveraged the Korum, Jet, and whatever dealership expenses and get a discount for exclusive business? They're all American dealerships so the engine work is nothing. Cross marketing, some social media posts about the great tune up X dealership did and there's a bigger price break.

PLUS there's nothing nefarious about it because you state there's a price discount for the endorsement, here's the kicker: you work this deal out with the dealership that has the highest quality standards.

Not a kickback. Just good old fashioned values.

Which Milton wants to portray?

But what do I know? I'm a high school drop out, that has 20 years in sales and marketing. From door 2 door to high end sales.

I'll defer to the college educated to hear their opinions on where to lean the budget up in ways that don't compromise the integrity on which this town wants to operate with.

As a special snowflake, I am politely requesting that common sense override the nonsense. We're all just tired. Paying someone for the job that they're doing, even when times are rough: we still pay what they're worth. You tip the food delivery person, the coffee person, the whoever to show that you know they're underpaid but still valued.

Obviously I'm oversimplifying but it's necessary. Tip the civil service workers when they do something good and maybe you'll get what you ordered.

For the record, I strongly believe when Milton is operated as a business, one that's in the black for clarification: Mayor and council should be full time, full paid positions. It's a full time job, for a city this size with such a close proximity to urban areas.

I look forward to seeing what council comes up with by October for fair wages for work. I'm equally excited to see what change brings in the future.

Thank you for reading this,
Angelina

Dear Men and Woman (Susan) of the Milton City Council,

I'm Brian Sherrell, husband of Shanna. I would like to share my thoughts with you. I would first like to thank you for your service; you are apart of who makes Milton the great community it is. I'm proud to live in a community that stands up for the flag and supports its police, more so now than ever. I'm also proud of the work my wife has done as a mayor. She has had to make so many hard decisions always doing what is best for our city despite political blow back. As anyone in the city will tell you, she watches every penny and detail making her an ideal steward of our hard earned resources. She does this with her heart on her sleeve, so much so that the nasty, untruthful words will always hit home. Seeing her sad breaks my heart. I can sum it up by saying that she cares. It has taken some time, but the city is running at a very high level thanks to her leadership and the team she has hired in leadership roles. No matter what happens, the city will be in a better place when she leaves office.

I know as of late you have received many citizen comments on the issue of mayoral pay with the majority being negative. Since my wife took office my opinion on the issue has changed greatly. When she was first elected, we both saw it as a part time position based on the compensation she would be receiving. She would run her photography business and finish working on her degree along with being mayor. She quickly realized that this was a futile effort as the demands of running the city took up most of her time. This became more than apparent when she had to run the public works department until the position could be filled. This is something that most of those opposed to her pay increase must not realize; she oversees the day-to-day operations of the city. Running a city with a police department, utilities, two unions and 47 employees is not a part time job. This does not include the political side such as running city council, attending meetings, and answering citizen concerns.

She does all of these things for the city not as a city administrator, but as a strong mayor. On a side note, it should be clear to anybody running for this position to know it is fulltime. Could you imagine any private company or large organization with a part time CEO, of course not. Gradually it became apparent to fulfill her commitment to the city and people that elected her that her photography business and schooling was going to have to be put on the back burner.

Needless to say our family took a huge pay cut when her main source of income became the \$18,000 annual salary as mayor. Can you imagine taking on a fulltime job for \$18,000? She could have just done it part time but the city would of suffered. As you may or may not know, I work as a truck driver and to make up the short fall I have picked up extra shifts for the last two and half years. I've been working 60 to 70 hours a week. Needless to say I'm burnt out. I was more than happy to hear that city council was finally willing to look at the issue of mayoral pay. **Please understand that the burden of such a low level of compensation is already being paid, and currently it falls on the back of one family.** This is not a gift; in

fact it is hard earned. The only gift that has been given has come from our family to the city the last two and half years.

Knowing what I know now, even if my wife was not mayor, anyone running for mayor should be compensated fairly for his or her time. **I'm asking you to end the financial penalty for serving as mayor.** Any citizen that wants to run for mayor should be able to do so without having to carry an additional full time job. No one can support himself or herself on what we are currently paying. Our mayor can't represent us properly if they're worried about how they're going to pay their bills. In our situation, if I lost my job or became disabled, Shanna would have no choice but to seek out full time employment, and the city would suffer. As a city we should also provide benefits to our mayor just as are provided to any other fulltime employee in the city. As for our family we don't currently need it. Should a person be financially wiped out due to an unexpected illness because they decided to dedicate four years to our community? In my opinion, proper compensation is morally the right thing to do.

I do realize that a salary of \$93,000 is a lot of money for us, and many others in our community. That number only seems staggering because we have been underpaying our mayor for so long. This number simply represents the average pay for a mayor running a similarly sized city without a city administrator. At this point we would appreciate anything, and are grateful that this issue is finally being brought up. However, please realize you would be getting value for the city by getting an above average mayor for average pay. To be fair we should have a salary commission to review the salaries of our elected officials. The city is also getting value by not needing a city administrator. Which I am told none of your directors want. Please ask them what works best for our city. Give the mayor and directors the tools they need to do there job successfully.

Please don't push this down the road. If your vote is no, so be it. So many times Shanna has had to make a hard decision for the city, I ask you to do the same. If I were in your position I would. Vote yes for two reasons, first because it will benefit Milton and second because it is the right thing to do.

I think there are three things I have learned with my wife being mayor:

-First is a strong mayor is a fulltime job. Having a fulltime mayor gives the citizens a fulltime watchdog in our city. This is the secret sauce to our form of government. If you only knew all the waste of our money she has cleaned up on our behalf, you would be proud.

-Second, we need fair pay even if its not average it needs to be enough that any citizen can run without financial hardship. Lets end the financial penalty for being mayor. Which also means benefits should be included. As a council member you have the power to correct this. Then there should be a salary commission to make sure we stay competitive.

-Third, we should be willing to pay a mayor who leaves a consulting fee so they can help transition any incoming mayor. It makes no sense for a mayor to leave and for the next mayor to waste time and money learning what the last mayor already knew. Any mayor who has the best interest of the city at heart would put differences aside for the good of the city.

If you made it this far, thanks for taking your time to hear my thoughts, and thanks for making Milton Great. There is no other place I would rather live.

Brian Sherrell

Trisha Summers

From: richard.cosner@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Trisha Summers
Subject: Fwd: Mayor Pay

Mayor and Council, I believe that both Mayor, and Council deserve pay raises, as each of you commit a lot of time, resources, and personal sacrifice to make sure Milton functions properly and adequately to service each and every citizen.

As for the Mayor and adjusting the budget, title, and description to meet the RCWs for an upgraded position to manage the City in a CEO capacity, I believe we do need to tread lightly, and believe me I whole heartedly believe the Mayor deserves every penny, but based on past history, not every person elected has been capable or willing to sacrifice their time, career, or current situation, to fulfill the new Mayor Requirements.

Since the Mayor controls the agenda, I would like to see measures to allow Council to be the only ones authorized to bring future considerations for pay, position description, safeguards, and addition/removal of the management portion for the Mayor, and allow Council to change the position in the future.

If the Council has the True Authority and Ability to add the topic to any Agenda in regards to the Mayor, Manager, Mayor/Manager Pay and Benefits, I believe citizens and myself will have more confidence in giving the Mayor a very deserving Raise.

Thank you for all you do, and I hope that Citizens understand your personal sacrifices, and favor raises not just for the Mayor but Council as well. City Staff has been great, and always deserve our full support.

Richard Cosner
507 7th Ave
Milton WA