

Mayor Karnofski called the Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council to order. Councilmember Brian Wood, gave the invocation. Mayor Mike Karnofski led the flag salute. Councilmembers in attendance were Keenan Harvey, Jim Hill, Lisa Alexander, Brian Wood, Ladonna Page, Mike Karnofski, and Kim Lefebvre.

**Agenda Approval:** Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Alexander ‘Approve the Agenda as presented.’ Motion passed, all voting yes.

**Minutes:** Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Harvey, ‘Approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2023 Regular and Special Meetings.’ Motion passed, all voting yes.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2023-2024 Mid Biennial Budget Modifications:** Mayor Karnofski opened the public hearing at 6:07 PM. Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield provided an overview of the proposed changes to the 2024 Budget of the City. A brief discussion followed.

There being no comment from the public, Mayor Karnofski closed the public hearing at 6:18 PM.

**CITIZENS BUSINESS:** Two citizens from the audience spoke.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**2024 Lodging Tax Request:** Two citizens spoke to council and provided details on the Galactic Fest. Discussion followed. Upon motion by Councilmember Wood seconded by Councilmember Hill, ‘Approve the request as presented’. Councilmember Page, Karnofski, Lefebvre, Wood, Harvey, and Hill voted yes. Councilmember Alexander voted no. Motion passed, 6 to 1.

The requests were as follows:

- Kelso Highlander Festival - \$20,000 (requested \$20,000)
- Kelso Longview Chamber, Visitor Information Center – \$72,404 (requested \$72,404)
- Kelso Longview Chamber, Visitor Guide - \$1,235 (requested \$1,235)
- Kelso Longview Chamber, Galactic Fest - \$5,000 (requested \$5,000)
- City of Kelso – Tam O’Shanter Park \$100,000 (requested \$100,000)

**Discussion- Consideration of City Hiring an Administrator for the Main Street Program:** Upon motion by councilmember Wood, seconded by councilmember Hill, “Direct the City Manager to research available grant programs thru the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and other grant programs in general that are

available to The City of Kelso and report back to council. Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Page, "Suspend the Council rules to allow for further comment. Councilmember Page, Lefebvre, Wood, Harvey, and Hill voted yes. Councilmember Alexander and Karnofski voted no. Motion passed, 5 to 2. Discussion followed.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Ordinance No. (1<sup>st</sup> Reading) Setting the 2024 Property Tax Levy Amount:**

The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO FIXING THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY AD VALOREM TAXES AT \$1,709,778 OR MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW FOR THE 2024 BUDGET OF THE CITY.** Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Move to approve the Ordinance on the first reading, setting of the 2024 property tax levy amount.' Councilmember Page, Lefebvre, Karnofski, Wood and Hill voted yes. Councilmember Alexander and Harvey voted no. Motion passed, 5 to 2.

**Ordinance No. 23-3998 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) Amending the Budget for 2023 Fiscal Year:**

The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO RELATING TO PUBLIC EXPENDITURES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF RCW 35A.34.150, FIXING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED TO MEET SUCH EMERGENCIES AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE 2023-2024 BIENNIAL BUDGET OF THE CITY.** Upon motion by Councilmember Lefebvre, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Amend the budget for the 2023 fiscal year.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Andrew Hamilton:** 1) Reported on various meetings he attended. 2) Announced the city received a grant award from the Washington State Office of Public Defense in the amount of \$110,000.

**Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield:** No report.

**City Attorney Janean Parker:** No report.

**Community Development Director/City Engineer Mike Kardas:** Updated council on current and upcoming projects.

**Public Works Manager Devin Mackin:** Provided an update of current tasks being performed by the Public Works Department.

**Police Sergeant Kevin Tate:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Brian Wood:** No report.

**LaDonna Page:** No report.

**Jim Hill:** No report.

**Keenan Harvey:** Reported on meeting he attended.

**Lisa Knight Alexander:** Reported on recent meetings and local events she attended.

**Kim Lefebvre:** No report.

**Mike Karnofski:** 1) Reported on recent meetings he attended.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:26 p.m., Mayor Karnofski announced that the Council would adjourn into executive session to discuss litigation. The session was estimated to last 5 minutes and no action would be taken. The city attorney was present.

At 7:32 p.m., the Council reconvened into regular session.

There being no further business, Mayor Karnofski adjourned the meeting at 7:33PM.

  
MAYOR

  
CITY CLERK