

**City of Puyallup
Regular City Council Meeting
January 21, 2014**

(These minutes are not verbatim. The meeting was recorded, and copies of the recording are retained for a period of six years from the date of the meeting and are available upon request.)

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Knutsen, Deputy Mayor Hopkins, Councilmember Door, Councilmember Palmer, Councilmember Shadko, Councilmember Swanson, Councilmember Vermillion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Knutsen announced an executive session expected to last thirty minutes, the purpose of which was to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase; to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; and to discuss litigation or potential litigation. City Manager Bill McDonald, City Attorney Kevin Yamamoto, Development Services Director Tom Utterback, Deputy City Attorney Steve Kirkelie, City Clerk Brenda Arline, Mayor Knutsen and the councilmembers recessed into executive session. Those attending the executive session returned to open session and the meeting reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Vermillion, second by Deputy Mayor Hopkins to approve the agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Vermillion, second by Deputy Mayor Hopkins to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS AND/OR PROCLAMATIONS

Citizen Recognition by the Police Department

Chief of Police Bryan Jeter presented Suzanne Hutchings with a plaque and a chief's coin in appreciation of her actions on December 18, 2013. On that day, while shopping on South Hill, Ms. Hutchings found a bank bag which contained a large amount of cash. She called the police and, while she was speaking with the responding officer, another woman approached requesting assistance as she had lost a bag that contained all of her savings. The woman was able to describe both the exact amount of money as well as another item in the bag, and the money was subsequently returned to its rightful and very grateful owner.

Toastmasters Week: February 2-8, 2014

A proclamation by Mayor Knutsen declaring the week of February 2-8, 2014 as “Toastmasters Week” in the city of Puyallup was read and presented to Cliff Craig, president of the “Talk of the Town” Toastmasters club which meets weekly at City Hall.

Sound Transit Presentation on Puyallup station access improvements

Nytasha Sowers, Sound Transit Project Manager, and Dan McReynolds from Parametrix presented information on possible access improvements to the Puyallup station as part of the “ST2” initiative. After identifying various options for improvements, Sound Transit is developing packages of options for public comment and final selection. The project schedule anticipates the completion of all improvements by 2023.

Ms. Sowers reviewed the project goals, evaluation criteria, and the current means of commuter access (car, bus, bike, walk, or drop-off), noting that challenges include traffic congestion and the projected increase in Sounder service by 2017. She described the pedestrian and parking garage improvements which Sound Transit is considering within one-quarter mile of the station as well as a potential parking lot, vehicle access and bicycle improvements within one-half mile of the station. The total project budget is \$52.4 million.

Mr. McReynolds reviewed preliminary findings regarding traffic congestion near the Puyallup station. Sound Transit is exploring options for reducing congestion; such options include tools to better manage traffic flow (e.g. the coordination of new or existing traffic signals) and possible capacity improvements to existing roads and/or intersections.

Ms. Sowers concluded that an open house to allow members of the public to review and comment on the potential access improvements will be held on February 6th from 4:30 to 7:30 at Puyallup High School.

Councilmembers relayed concerns about the impact on downtown traffic of train arrivals in the evening. Mr. McReynolds agreed that traffic in downtown Puyallup is affected by both freight and commuter trains, and backups often take more than one signal cycle to clear out.

Deputy Mayor Hopkins noted his preference for dispersed parking options. Councilmember Vermillion said if Sound Transit is considering locating a parking lot for commuters near Shaw Road to serve both the Sumner and Puyallup stations and relieve the pressure experienced by their respective downtown areas, it should also look at widening Shaw Road from 12th to 23rd.

Responding to Councilmember Palmer, Ms. Sowers said a traffic analysis will be conducted to determine how intersections connect and the impact of train traffic. Given that a high level of traffic growth is projected, Sound Transit will develop options such as the removal of curb bulbs that might create capacity.

Mayor Knutsen commented that the options do not include a new stop or station at Shaw Road. Ms. Sowers replied that substantial investments in the form of primary stations were made in downtown Puyallup and Sumner at the request of both cities.

Mayor Knutsen responded that even though 60% of Sounder riders are county residents and most of the population growth and therefore ridership increases will also emanate from the county, the county has no stations and thus cities provide the necessary infrastructure which allows access to the stations. He said parking in the downtown is needed to serve Puyallup High School, businesses, and the Department of Social and Health Services, among many others, and believed that tearing down a building for parking would constitute cannibalism. He disputed that the downtown has the infrastructure necessary to accommodate another Sound Transit parking garage and felt this would be the worst possible location for 400 more cars. He called on the county to accommodate some of the commuters and concluded that he supports mass transit but not at the cost of destroying the downtown.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Clay Ciolek spoke against the proposed amendments to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies, listed reasons why he believed the amendments violate the Vision 2040 Plan, and urged the City Council to disapprove them.

Mr. Bill Hilton encouraged support of the Puyallup River Trail project as the completion of this section is necessary to provide a user-friendly connection to the Foothills Trail. He noted Council's past support for the Riverwalk Trail, pointed out that funding is available, and asked for Council's support as he believed it to be the right thing to do for the community.

Dr. Ernest Bay spoke to the Toastmasters proclamation and noted the availability of many clubs that offer opportunities for anyone interested in participating. He announced that Toastmasters currently has an exhibit on display in the Puyallup Library.

Mr. Gil Hulsmann noted that phase four of the Puyallup River Trail project would complete 1,400 feet, and work in progress by other entities will leave 1,300 feet left to complete. In regards to the Shaw/Pioneer overlay zone, he noted the importance of the area and asked that property owners be included in any meetings or discussions. In regards to the development agreement submitted January 2nd, he pointed out that the applicant is offering to build low-income housing and incorporate low-impact development into the project.

Mr. Merv Swanson noted that the City waived fees for the WSU Research Facilities project at the Extension campus, as the fees and cost of infrastructure around its perimeter would have amounted to approximately \$5 million. Saying that WSU has been informed that the waiver was not permanent and that the fees will be assessed, he questioned if the waiver can be made permanent to avoid burdening the education center.

Mr. Bud Metzger noted that downtown traffic on 3rd and Meridian amounts to 21,000 cars a day while 19,000 cars utilize Shaw Road just south of Pioneer. He voiced the importance of sharing objective information regarding the traffic capacity of city streets. In regards to the amount of

Fair traffic generated each year, he questioned if the City has considered requiring mitigation from the Fair for its impacts to the community. He suggested that all major influences be taken into account when considering traffic and its changes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve a contract with SirsiDynix/Bibliotheca in an amount not to exceed \$140,111.80 to acquire equipment necessary to implement the second phase of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology upgrade in the Library

Approve a resolution authorizing a total of three new Pierce Transit stops on 39th Avenue SE and Valley Avenue NW

Adopt a resolution authorizing an interlocal agreement with Pierce County to ratify an amendment to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies relating to centers of local importance

Approve an agreement with Pierce County to receive funds for Enhanced 9-1-1 Participation in 2014

Resolution appointing Leon Leonard to the Planning Commission

Approving accounts payable, payroll and electronic fund transfers of \$8,573,586.42; ratifying and confirming payments as previously authorized by the finance director

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Swanson, second by Councilmember Vermillion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2245

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Puyallup, Washington to allow three new Pierce Transit stops along the north side of 39th Ave SE, west of 10th St SE and the north and south side of Valley Ave NW, west of 7th St NW.

RESOLUTION NO. 2246

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Puyallup, approving amendments to the Interlocal Agreement between Pierce County, the City of Puyallup, and other cities and towns in Pierce County, that ratifies changes to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies to add criteria to designate Centers of Local Importance as recommended by the Pierce County Regional Council, and authorizing the City Manager to sign such Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the City of Puyallup.

RESOLUTION NO. 2247

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Puyallup, Washington, confirming Leon Leonard's appointment to the Planning Commission.

CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

Award a contract to RS Underground, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$204,749.76 for construction of the Puyallup River Trail – Phase IV project

Council Action: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Hopkins, second by Councilmember Palmer to approve the contract with RS Underground, Inc. The motion passed 7-0.

Approve the conveyance of a wetland parcel from the Homeowner's Association of Pioneer Place 2 in the interest of facilitating future restoration and maintenance of the wetland

Council Action: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Hopkins, second by Councilmember Vermillion to approve the conveyance of a wetland parcel. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Continued discussion of utility rates

City Manager McDonald referred to items provided to Council, including three alternate ordinances, a memo from the Finance Director, and a PowerPoint presentation containing additional detailed information on the available options. He recommended first reading of the ordinance that would implement option number two.

Council Action: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Hopkins, second by Councilmember Vermillion to approve first reading of ordinance specifying option number two. The motion passed 6-1 (Knutsen).

Referral of the SPO overlay zone to the Planning Commission

City Manager McDonald explained that staff is seeking direction from Council on the referral of the Shaw-Pioneer Overlay (SPO) zone to the Planning Commission for review, following Council's previous direction to staff to meet with certain property owners regarding future land use in the area. Development Services Director Tom Utterback explained the proposed process, timeframe, and scope of review.

Councilmember Palmer preferred that the Planning Commission focus on recently annexed areas north of Pioneer, particularly the ML and CG zones, for the purpose of determining what types of standards (landscaping, screenings, etc.) might be used to mitigate a large project and ensure compatibility with adjacent zones. He saw no reason to look at the underlying CMX zone.

Mr. Utterback noted that, as reported earlier in the evening by Mr. Hulsmann, the city recently received a request for a development agreement for the proposed “East Town Crossing” project. Councilmember Palmer responded that evaluating this request will require a completely separate analysis.

Councilmember Vermillion expected that some terms of the proposed development agreement conflict with the SPO; as such, even though this parcel is on the south side, he advised that the proposed agreement be reviewed in the context of the SPO. He emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach with landowners, noted that requiring additional standards would likely increase a project’s cost, and said the City should not dictate but rather negotiate parameters. He was not sure that an overlay was needed if a development agreement could satisfy all interested parties and believed that the overlay should not be considered for the ML zone to the north unless other ML-zoned areas on the west and the CMX zone are also reviewed.

Councilmember Swanson criticized the SPO issue as myopic and said the entire area must be looked at with the aim of determining whether Puyallup wants to annex the rest of the area, or leave it in the county. He did not believe it was constructive to spend limited resources on smaller issues without first addressing the large, fundamental questions.

Mayor Knutsen hoped that a way could be found to satisfy both the landowners and the public, noted the hard work from staff on this matter, and expressed that property owners want developments that are attractive and do not generate complaints.

Councilmember Palmer favored moving forward on multiple fronts, and agreed it would be worthwhile to discuss whether the remainder of this area will be annexed.

Deputy Mayor Hopkins supported directing the commission to focus on certain critical aspects that should be addressed right away and felt that the area to the south could be addressed via a development agreement or perhaps a rezone.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Vermillion, second by Mayor Knutsen, to refer this matter to the Planning Commission as outlined and discussed. The motion failed 2 – 5 (Door, Shadko, Hopkins, Palmer, Swanson).

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Palmer, second by Deputy Mayor Hopkins, that Council direct the Planning Department and the Planning Commission to review the extension of the Shaw-Pioneer Overlay (SPO) to recently-annexed properties north of Pioneer Way (excluding the RM and AG/open space zones), with particular emphasis on the ML and CG zones. For the ML zone, provide Council options and a recommended option for design criteria and performance standards to supplement the base ML zoning to ensure quality development compatible with the adjacent CMX and RM-10 zoning and the overall area. Design criteria to review should include, but are not limited to: vegetative setbacks, tree screening, landscaping, building frontage, scale and orientation, and low impact development stormwater methods, including green roofs. The motion passed 4 – 3 (Swanson, Vermillion, Knutsen).

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McDonald offered to set up meetings with new Councilmembers for the purpose of providing overviews of the services and operations of the various departments.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Door attended the Police Department's Citizen's Academy graduation and congratulated Police Chief Bryan Jeter and Crime Prevention Coordinator Lisa Isaacs for a highly successful program. She announced the upcoming "Murder in Margaritaville" event sponsored by the Puyallup Main Street Association.

Councilmember Vermillion additionally commended Chief Jeter, Ms. Isaacs and the officers who participated in the Citizen's Academy. He reported his service as a judge of DECA projects, some of which were extremely creative, and on recent business conducted by Pierce Transit's executive and finance committees. He noted his attendance at the Pierce County Regional Council, where different committee assignments were made, and said Puyallup now has representation at the Puget Sound Regional Council which evaluates programs and applications for the purpose of making recommendations on state and federal transportation funding.

Councilmember Shadko requested a staff report on the River Road revitalization plan which the Planning Commission reviewed a few years ago.

Councilmember Palmer expected that Council's upcoming retreat on February 12th will be productive.

Councilmember Swanson referred to an invitation Council received for a joint meeting with the WSU Research and Extension Center. He reported on the response to the FCC regarding the "shot clock" federal rules-making issue, spoke to services offered by Rainier Communications Commission which the city may wish to consider, congratulated Dr. Leonard on his appointment to the Planning Commission, and additionally congratulated the Seattle Seahawks on their advancement to the Super Bowl.

Deputy Mayor Hopkins solicited citizen applications to serve on the City Council Salary Review Commission and Design Review and Historic Preservation Board. He reported on recent actions taken by the Flood Control Zone committee with respect to prioritizing projects for funding, and encouraged a Seahawks national victory.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knutsen reported on a recent meeting with seniors at the Activity Center. Noting that, as mayor, he is required to sign certain documents, he announced his intention to notify Council when he signs on behalf of Council or the city.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:20 p.m.