

**MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, February 8, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**

Due to public health concerns, this meeting was held remotely.

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Kuhn called the meeting to order and called roll. Those present: Councilmembers Abersold, Denson, Himes, Markley, Rodenberg, Woock and Franich

Staff present: City Administrator Bob Larson, Community Development Director Katrina Knutson, Chief Kelly Busey, Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm, City Clerk Molly Towslee, Assistant City Clerk Josh Stecker, and City Attorney Daniel Kenny.

Guests: Maurice Hanks, John Howell, and Marty Kooistra

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Mayor Kuhn said that there are several year-end reports from the city's non-profit organizations. It would be nice to hear from them in person, and so he recommended moving their reports from the Consent Agenda and reschedule them to a time when someone could present the report to Council. Council concurred.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of City Council Minutes January 25, 2021
2. Receive and File: a) ~~Skansie Netshed Foundation 2020 Report;~~ b) ~~Chamber of Commerce 2020 Year End Report;~~ c) Planning Commission Minutes Dec. 17, 2020; d) ~~Visitor Center 2020 – Fourth Quarter Report;~~ e) ~~Downtown Waterfront Alliance Progress Report;~~ f) Black History Month Proclamation
3. Professional Services Contract Amendments – Duration of Work Extensions
4. Public Works Operations Center Phase 2 Building Final Design and Permitting – Professional Services Contract
5. Resolution 1197 – Rejection of Bids for an Air Gap/Break Tank System Project
6. Appointments to Planning Commission and Salary Commission
7. On-call Professional Engineering Services Contract - Parametrix
8. Approval of Payroll for the month of January: Checks #8244 through #8249 and direct deposit transactions in the total amount of \$460,463.42.
9. Approval of Vouchers for FY2020 and FY2021 on Feb. 8, 2021: Checks #94623 through #94721 and ACH payments in the amount of \$999,097.51.

MOTION: Move to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended.  
Woock / Himes – unanimously approved

**PRESENTATION:**

1. **Black History Month Proclamation.** Guest Speaker Maurice Hanks explained that Black History Month is an opportunity to learn and move forward. He shared a slide presentation introducing several people that may not be as familiar to us. Mr. Hanks said that there are several things we can do moving forward: read more about Black History Month, listen and learn more

about things you don't know, and take the time to get to know people that may be different than you because we are all family.

Mayor Kuhn read the Black History Month Proclamation.

2. [South Sound Housing Affordability Partners \(SSHAP\) Funding and Support](#) – John Howell, Cedar River Group, Marty Kooistra, Sapwood Advisors, and Community Development Director Katrina Knutson shared information on the future of housing opportunities in Pierce County. They explained the value of participating in SSHAP, projected budget numbers and what the money would be used for. Mayor Kuhn explained that he has participating in this effort for several years with the goal of more affordable housing.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. [Mass Vaccination at Chapel Hill](#). Mayor Kuhn reported that he volunteered at the event and thanked all those that were involved for making this past weekend's vaccination effort such a huge success. 992 does were provided. Chief Busey added that there would more events scheduled as the vaccine is supplied.

2. [Rotary Sister City Program](#). The Mayor read a report regarding the steps being taken to form a Sister City Program with the town of Selca on the Island of Brac, Croatia. The initial Board of Directors consist of Bob Anderson, Gig Harbor North Rotary, Rick Offner, Mid-Day Rotary, Chris Pellet, Gig Harbor Rotary, Peninsula School Board Member Natalie Wimberly and Gig Harbor Kiwanis President Nick Markovich.

3. [Mayor Kuhn reported that he provided testimony](#) to the State Senate Committee on Funding for Highway 16 Improvements *and* to the House Finance Committee in Support of Funding for the Downtown Waterfront Alliance Main Street Program.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

[State Auditor Data Security Breach](#). Administrator Larson provided an update on the third-party service provider to the State Auditor. He said at this time no action is required from the city and he will share more information as it is released.

### **STAFF REPORT:**

1. [I.T.S. Department Updates](#). Keith Smith reported that security awareness training for employees has been implemented, new AC units have been installed in the server room, and 33% of the city's input devices have been migrated to the new network infrastructure. New wireless access points have been installed and migration will continue until completion at end of April. He and Jeff Langhelm answer questions.

2. [Veteran's Park Playground](#). Jeff Langhelm shared pictures of the last stages of the project. When the Certificate of Occupancy is issued, there will be a soft opening, and then a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled later in February.

3. [Burnham Drive Landscaping](#). Jeff Langhelm reported that native plantings along Harbor Hill Drive and the stormwater pond are in process and should be in place by the end of this month.

4. [Community Vaccination Report](#) – Chief Kelly Busey said county-wide, over 770,000 people have been vaccinated. We are still in Phase 1B, Tier 1 and hopefully will move to Tier 2 soon. More clinics will be scheduled as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No one submitted written comments and there were no comments from the public attendees.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. [Resolution 1198 – Official Newspaper](#). Assistant City Clerk Joshua Stecker provided an overview for this effort to designate an official newspaper. He explained that at this time staff is recommending that we move to the daily News Tribune to allow more flexibility, formatting ease, and expanded reach for the city’s public noticing. Council recommended that this be revisited again in two years.

**MOTION:** Move to adopt Resolution 1198 designating the official newspaper.  
Woock / Markley – unanimously approved

2. [First Reading of Ordinance Adopting Ancich Park Dock Rules](#). Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm presented the overview for this ordinance to establish specialized dock rules and a mechanism for enforcement. He explained that after the rules have been adopted, authorizations for use of the Ancich Docks may begin in anticipation of the spring fishing season. He addressed questions and comments.

Councilmember Franich recommended that this be discussed further in a study session that would include the commercial fishermen.

**MOTION:** Move to postpone this to a study session to include the fishermen.  
Franich / Woock – unanimously approved

3. [First Reading of three Ordinances – Mobility Devices Amending GHMC Chapters 8.30 and 9.24 and repealing Chapter 10.24](#). Chief Kelly Busey provided the background information for these three ordinance to address regulations for the new technologies in personal mobility devices such as motorized foot scooters and electric personal assistive mobility devices. Council asked questions and discussed additional locations in which the operating speed of these should be limited. Chief Busey will amend the ordinance to add the word “sidewalk” to 8.0.050(B) before the second reading.

**COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMENTS:**

1. [Planning / Building Committee](#) Feb. 1. Councilmember Himes reported that they covered the residential framework in which we must operate within order to set population planning targets. They also talked about the supportive things that must be done i.e. Buildable Lands Report and UGA Annexation Study, as part of the visioning process. He said a lot must be done by the end of this year.

Councilmember Markley thanked staff and Mayor Kuhn for the work they’ve done to keep council aware of what is going on with these important issues.

2. [Parks Commission](#) - Councilmember Abersold said they held a public hearing on Restoring a Parks Name. The Parks Commission has made a recommendation to rename Austin Estuary Park to Austin Park, establish the Twalwacut Estuary, and to recognize the ancestral homelands of the sxwəbabš (sk-WHUH-babsh) people. The commission also discussed moving Parks Appreciation Day to this fall, and Director Langhelm gave an update on the parks.

[Councilmember Woock](#) gave a shout-out to Code Enforcement Office Adam Blodgett for his hard work.

[Mayor Kuhn reported](#) that the Chamber of Commerce is seeking approval to move the Gig Festival to the weekend of August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. City staff still must sign off on that date.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:**

1. Public Works Committee Feb. 9
2. Council Study Session Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m.
2. Civic Center Closed Mon. Feb. 15 – President's Day
3. Boards and Commission Candidate Review: Feb. 16

**ADJOURN**

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.  
Franich / Abersold – unanimously approved

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Mayor Kit Kuhn

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Molly Towslee, City Clerk