

MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 22, 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, Franich, Himes, Markley, Rodenberg and Woock.

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

Guests: Tribal Councilwoman Anna Bean, Tribal Land Use Planner and Asst. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jennifer Keating, Assistant Director Historic Preservation Department Brandon Reynon, Tribal Language Department Director Amber Hayward, and Parks Commissioner & Ad Hoc Committee Member Louise Tieman (joined later)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of City Council Minutes: a) Special Meeting of January 29; and b) Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021
2. Receive and File: a) Planning/Building Committee Minutes Jan. 4, 2021; b) Boards and Candidate Review Committee Minutes Jan. 19, 2021; c) Council Study Session Minutes Jan. 14, 2021; d) Parks Commission Minutes Jan. 6, 2021; e) Council Retreat Jan. 27, 2021
3. Harborview Drive/Stinson Avenue Intersection Improvements – Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 4 / Transportation Solutions, Inc.
4. Municipal Cleaning Unit - Purchase Authorization
5. Approval of Vouchers for Feb. 22, 2021: Checks #94722 through #94834 and ACH payments in the amount of \$701,364.71

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented
Woock / Markley – unanimously approved 7-0

PRESENTATION: [Recognition of Ancestral Homelands -- Puyallup Tribal Council & Ad Hoc Committee](#). Mayor Kuhn acknowledged Tribal Councilwoman Anna Bean and thanked her for joining the meeting. He also thanked the others who worked to bring forward this presentation.

[Councilwoman Bean](#) thanked the Mayor and Council for this presentation. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts to honor the past, present and future generations of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. She shared historical information and said we are now in a time of revitalization. The renaming of the estuary honors their people and a history that is both tragic and beautiful.

[Mayor Kuhn](#) explained that it is our goal to provide recognition and education of the s̓x̓wəbabš Band of the Puyallup Tribe, and to name an area for the location of their village. He

acknowledged members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Councilmembers Denson, Abersold and Himes, Louise Tieman, Linda Pitcher, Charlee Glock-Jackson, Jeff Langhelm, and many tribal members that have been introduced.

[Louise Tieman, Amber Hayward, and Jennifer Keating](#) shared a slide show that touched on the themes of reconnecting, honoring, recognition, education, inclusion, celebration, and restoration of the Puyallup Tribe's history in Gig Harbor. The presentation finalized with an overview of the recommendations from the Ad Hoc committee.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

[Mayor Kuhn reported](#) that Puget Sound Regional Council has removed Gig Harbor from a Puget Sound Passenger Ferry route.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

[City Administrator Bob Larson](#) acknowledged the exceptional service from our public works crew, support of the police officers and other staff during the recent Valentine's Weekend snowstorm.

STAFF REPORTS:

[Chief Kelly Busey](#) provided an update on the vaccination effort. The case rate continues to decline, and the next two Saturday's will be for administration of the second dose.

[Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm](#) announced the resignation of Associate Engineer Josh Gilchrist, who is returning to his former employer. His projects will be transferred to the on-call engineering consultant and the position will be back-filled as quickly as possible.

[Community Development Director Katrina Knutson](#) shared that we were able to secure a short course on local planning for the 5th of March. The Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Council are invited. The public will be welcome to attend as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. [Second Reading of Three Ordinances Regarding Mobility Devices: Ordinance 1453 Amends GHMC Chapter 8.30; Ordinance 1454 Amends Chapter 9.24; and Ordinance 1455 Repeals Chapter 10.24.](#) Police Chief Kelly Busey presented a brief overview and addressed changes made from the first reading. He responded to questions.

[Ben Coronado](#) asked if these rules affect the Cushman Trail. Chief Busey responded that these mobility devices are prohibited on Cushman Trail partially due to restrictions placed on trails that used federal funding.

Councilmembers began deliberation on potential conflicts with the Cushman Trail connections to public sidewalks and speed limitations.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinances 1453, 1454 and 1455.
Woock / Rodenbach –

AMENDMENT: Move to amend 8.30.050(B) by lowering the speed limit from ten to five miles per hour.
Franich / no second to amendment.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinances 1453, 1454 and 1455.
Woock / Rodenbach – motion passed 7-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. [Resolution 1199 – Renaming Austin Estuary Park and Designating the tx^waalqəł Estuary Area in Honor of the s^xwəbabš Band of the Puyallup Tribe.](#) Mayor Kuhn said this has been quite a bit of work for almost a year and explained the efforts to obtain the overwhelming support that this has received.

[City Administrator Bob Larson](#) read several written public comments.

[Karen Burns](#) wrote in favor of the Recognition of Ancestral Homelands brought forward by the Puyallup Tribal Council & Ad Hoc Committee. She said making the ancestral homelands visible in Gig Harbor will help us teach the history of our area and will validate and honor the tribal descendants living here today.

[Lori Bonvicini](#) wrote to encourage support to rename Austin Park and the Estuary in North Gig Harbor in honor of our first inhabitants, members of the Puyallup Tribe. She looks forward to positive action on this and learning much more including the pronunciations.

[Charlee Glock-Jackson](#), Gig Harbor Arts Commission Chair shared the Arts Commission support for recognizing the ancestral homelands of the s^xwəbabč band of the Puyallup Tribe and Gig Harbor's rich Native American history by: 1. Naming of Twalwacut Estuary; 2. Changing the name of "Austin Estuary Park" to "Austin Park;" and 3. Recognition of Ancestral Homelands of S^xwəbabč Peoples.

[Kevin and Kathy Cummings](#) shared their support for the efforts to honor the ancestral inhabitants of our lands and waters in the naming of the Twa-al-cuth Estuary and the initiative to recognize the "Ancestral Homelands of the s^xwəbabč".

[The Mayor opened public comments from the attendees.](#)

[Mark Hoppen](#) provided a history of the property ownership of Austin Estuary Park. He said that renaming the estuary is appropriate and confirms the treaty rights in that area. He explained that this area used to be a summer camp for the children of the Puyallup tribe. He also shared that whole area is covered in six foot of sawdust and requires aeration to prevent odors.

[Ben Coronado](#) – 7305 46th Ave. NW. Mr. Coronado said it was a great experience to be part of this process and recognized the hard work of Louise Tieman. He thanked everyone for hearing his concerns and for investing the time on this effort.

[Jason LaFontaine](#), Program Manager for Peninsula School District Native American Education Program, provided an overview of his work to share the history and culture of the Native People with his students. He said that this is a powerful way for Gig Harbor to acknowledge and honor the First People of the Area. He spoke about the efforts to name the new elementary school.

[Stephanie Lile](#), Director of the Harbor History Museum thanked everyone and voiced the museum's support and delight in working on this project. There a lot of great things coming up, and she requested that the museum be allowed to be more involved.

[Jennifer Keating](#) said she never thought this level of collaboration would be possible in her lifetime. She thanked everyone for these discussions and efforts to honor the tribal history. This is an opportunity to bring everyone together at an actual site, speak to tribal members still here, and to learn tribal history.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 1199
Denson / Himes – motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Rodenberg voted nay.

2. [Resolution 1200 - Authorizing the Submittal of a Conservation Futures Grant Application to Pierce County](#). Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm provided the background for a potential acquisition of property through a Pierce County Conservation Futures Grants and partnership with the Puyallup Tribe. The resolution authorizes the Mayor to work with Forterra and the Puyallup Tribe to submit a grant application.

[Councilmember Denson](#) also spoke, adding that this is an amazing opportunity and outstanding deal. She shared her optimism for a successful grant and thanked everyone for their support.

The Mayor added that the city also owns property adjacent to this parcel that could be preserved.

[Mark Hoppen](#) provided additional background information for conservation efforts for this area and encouraged Council to purchase not only this parcel but the entire corridor up to Highway 16 as it is critical to the preservation of Gig Harbor. He also encouraged council to do an area-wide zoning change to R-5 in this corridor.

[Marian Berejikian](#), Friends of Pierce County, concurred with Mr. Hoppen's comments and voiced support of this proposal and to purchase even more parcels in this location.

[Councilmembers](#) shared comments, asked questions, and deliberated the proposal.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 1200 authorizing the submittal of a Conservation futures Grant Application to Pierce County.
Denson / Abersold –

The Mayor and Councilmembers continued deliberation on an amendment offered by Councilmember Himes.

AMENDMENT: Move to amend the resolution's eighth WHEREAS clause to read: "... The acquired parcel would be included in the City's parks open space inventory and maintained in its natural state as a conservation, historical, and cultural preserve with low impact trail access; and"
Himes / Franich – passed 7-0

MAIN MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 1200 as amended authorizing the submittal of a Conservation futures Grant Application to Pierce County.
Denson / Abersold – passed 7-0

At 7:30 p.m. the Mayor called a break. The meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

3. Public Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Docket. Senior Planner Carl DeSimas explained the process for handling comprehensive plan amendments and provided information for five proposed amendments. After he introduced each of the amendments, he and Community Development Director Katrina Knutson addressed council questions and comments.

1. PL-COMP-18-0001: Culture and Arts Element – Mr. DeSimas read the names of those who submitted written comment in support of this amendment. These comments have all be provided to Council: Charli Meacham, Marian Berejikian, Anne Smart, Patricia Frisino, Pam Jenkins, Marla Morgan, Serap Frank, Hannah Jay, Wendy Givan-Hess, Barbara Turecky, Lance & Gregori Trathen, Marta O'Neill, Ann Knapp, Scott Markowitz, Mark Hoppen, Terry McClelland, Ernie Donehower & Family, Lori Bonvicini, Robin Avni, Nora Eckstein, Charlee Glock-Jackson, and Lynn Stevenson.

2. PL-COMP-21-0001: Land Use Element Update Presentation combined with amendment below

3. PL-COMP-21-0002: Shoreline Master Program Periodic Update

4. PL-COMP-21-0003: Shoreline Master Program – Public Arts Exemption

5. PL-COMP-21-0004: House Element Update. For the record Councilmember Franich voiced his concern of the Washington State Department of Ecology overreach.

The Mayor opened the public hearing on each of these five amendments at 8:10 p.m. City Administrator Bob Larson read comments submitted for reading into the record first.

1. PL-COMP-18-0001: Culture and Arts Element:

Ann Smart, Executive Director for Arts & Humanities Bainbridge – Ms. Smart spoke strongly in support of inclusion of a Cultural Element as part of the comprehensive plan and believe it represents a significant statement of support from the city.

Ann Knapp, President Gig Harbor Arts Center Alliance, Board Member of Peninsula Art League, and member of the Ad Hoc Committee who wrote this Arts + Culture Element. Ms. Knapp shared support to move the Arts+Culture Element forward. She said this would allow the us to be ready to take advantage of available programs, grants, and opportunities.

Charlee Glock-Jackson, Chair Gig Harbor Arts Commission, provided the background for the crafting of the Arts + Culture element for inclusion in the city's comprehensive Plan. She shared the results of a survey that was used to gauge community support of arts and culture. These results, along with research of other jurisdictions' plans and guidance from former Senior Planner Lindsey Sehmel and GHAC Vice Chair Robin Avni resulted in a proposed amendment that was submitted in 2018. She urged Council to move this amendment forward.

There were no more written comments to read and the Mayor opened the public comment period on

this comp plan amendment for those in attendance who wished to speak.

[Josie Turner](#) – 9516 Randall Drive. Ms. Turner spoke on behalf of herself and her husband in support of inclusion of the Arts and Culture Element in the comprehensive plan. She stressed the importance of recognizing these elements, as it spurs economic development and educational opportunities for young people. This confirms the community's commitment of its arts and culture.

[Pat Lantz](#) said this meeting has been an uplifting engagement in quality of life issues. She said that the recognition of the richness and inclusiveness of our cultural heritage, historic preservation, the preservation of a unique natural resource, and a prosperous economic future all falls within the rubrics of arts and culture. She asked that this move this forward and thanked Councilmember Woock for finding a creative way to fund this effort.

[The Mayor asked](#) if there was any public comment on this or the remainder of the proposed amendments. There were no written nor verbal comments on the remainder of the proposed amendments. The public hearing closed at 8:29 p.m.

[Councilmember began deliberation.](#) Councilmember Woock recommended using a consultant to work on the Culture and Arts Element amendment.

MOTION: Move to include PL-COM-18-0001: Culture and Arts Element and to move it forward into the docket.
Woock / Rodenberg –

[After councilmembers shared concern](#) with spending money and staff time on adding this element to the comp plan, Councilmember Woock agreed to amend the motion as follows.

MOTION: Move to include PL-COM-18-0001: Culture and Arts Element and to move it forward into the docket and to allocate no more than \$15,000 for a consultant to perform the work on the project.
[Woock / Rodenberg](#) – four voted yes. Councilmembers Franich Markley and Abersold voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

MOTION: Move to initiate PL-COMP-21-0001 – Land Use Element Update.
Franich / Markley – motion passed 7-0.

MOTION: Move to initiate PL-COMP-21-0002 – Shoreline Master Program Periodic Update.
Franich / Woock – motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Rodenberg voting no.

Councilmember Rodenberg shared comments prior to the vote.

MOTION: Move to initiate PL-COMP-21-0003 – Shoreline Master Program – Public Arts Exemption.
[Franich / Woock](#) – motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Rodenberg voting no.

[Councilmember Himes](#) shared comments and asked questions prior to the vote on this element.

MOTION: Move to initiate PL-COMP-21-0004 – Housing Element Update.
[Franich / Woock](#) – motion passed 7-0.

4. [First Reading of Ordinance – WANRack Franchise Agreement.](#) Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm provided the background for this agreement to install fiber optic network connection between schools in city right of way. He stressed that this not a 5G installation. He answered questions. There were no public comments on this item and so this will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMENTS:

[Mayor Kuhn](#) announced that an invitation went out to the ribbon cutting for the playground at Veteran's Memorial Park tomorrow afternoon.

1. [Public Works Committee - February 9](#). Councilmember Franich reported that they discussed the WANRack Franchise agreement, the scope of work for the pavement maintenance program and commercial development access and parking stall widths. Councilmember Rodenberg asked about the discussion on fixing the ruts in the turn last on Olympic to Point Fosdick. Public Works Director Langhelm explained that due to the traffic sensors in the pavement this would be a challenging repair.

2. [Boards and Commission Candidate Review - February 16](#). Councilmember Woock said they appointed Councilmember Abersold as Chair for 2021. He reported that the committee reviewed the interview questions asked of applicants.

[Councilmember Woock](#) requested to have a report on the follow-up on the employee survey at the next meeting.

[Councilmember Franich](#) commented that art and culture is subjective and voiced concern for what direction recommendations for culture might take.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Planning & Building Committee – Monday, March 1
2. City Council Study Session – Thursday, March 4

ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.
Himes / Franich – unanimously approved



Mayor Kit Kuhn



Molly Towslee, City Clerk

