

MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 26, 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. Present: Councilmembers Abersold, Denson, Franich, Markley, Rodenberg, and Himes.

Staff: Administrator Larson, Community Development Director Knutson, Chief Busey, Public Works Director Langhelm, Finance Director Rodenbach, Building Official/Fire Marshall Rice, Tourism/Communications Director Pettitt, City Clerk Towslee, Assistant City Clerk Stecker and City Attorney Daniel Kenney.

Guests: Lindsey Stover, Sharon Bishop and Monica Veles

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Councilmember Woock asked that Old Business 1 be moved up before the Staff Report to allow the public to provide testimony without having to wait. Mayor Kuhn clarified that the Staff Report would be quite brief as a study session has been scheduled to discuss the budget status report in depth.

Councilmember Rodenberg asked that Consent Agenda No. 3 Resolution 1206 – Lodging Tax Grants be moved off.

Attorney Kenny said the removal of the item from the Consent Agenda would not need a vote but moving the Old Business item would. Councilmember Woock made the motion to amend the agenda by moving Old Business before the Staff Report, but the motion died for lack of a second.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. City Council Minutes April 12, 2021
2. Receive and File: a) Eddon Boat Shop 2020 Year End Report; b) Parks Commission Minutes Mar.3, 2021; c) Planning Commission Minutes Apr. 1, 2021; d) Proclamation - Essential Workers Appreciation Week
3. ~~Resolution 1206 – Lodging Tax Grants~~
4. Change Order #1 to Well No. 3 Maintenance Contract
5. Approval of vouchers for Apr. 26, 2021: Checks 95145 through 95233 and ACH payments in the amount of: \$513,500.74

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as amended to move out number 3. Markley / Abersold – unanimously approved.

3. Resolution 1206 - Lodging Tax Grants. Councilmember Rodenberg recused himself from the vote as he is President of the Sportsman's Club, one of the grant applicants.

[Tourism / Communications Director Laura Pettitt](#) addressed questions and comments from Councilmember Franich, Abersold and Markley regarding using grant funds for tree replacement at the Sportsman's Club. The Mayor asked for public comment.

[Linda Ada – Purdy Drive](#). Ms. Ada agreed with Councilmember Franich that tree replacement isn't a good use of taxpayer money. She also asked why the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted in silence. The Mayor explained that it was to avoid the confusion of several voices.

There were no further public comments and so Council began deliberation on the merits of the grant recommendations.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 1206 as presented
Woock / Markley – roll call vote:

Woock – aye; Denson – aye; Franich- no; Himes – no; Markley – aye; Abersold – aye.
Rodenberg abstained. Motion passed 4-2

PRESENTATION:

1. [Harbor Wildwatch Year-end Report](#) – Executive Director Lindsey Stover provided information on how the organization delivered programs by transitioning to digital format when schools closed due to the pandemic. She thanked the city for the support.

2. [Eddon Boat Shop](#) – Sharon Bishop, Business Manager and Monica Veles, Special Projects Coordinator shared an overview of how the Boatshop navigated 2020 by providing virtual programs, an online auction, and using social media for community outreach. They provided a recap of 2020 programs, visitors, volunteer hours and financial data and shared plans for 2021 programming.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. [Proclamation - Essential Workers Appreciation Week](#). The Mayor credited Councilmember Franich for recommending a proclamation to recognize our grocery and retail workers. He added that Councilmembers supported this idea and provided input to add additional essential workers. He read the proclamation.

2. [YMCA Sports Complex - Brief Update](#). Mayor Kuhn said they have worked through the remaining issues and the lease will come to council during a study session on May 6.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: [COVID-19 Update](#). Administrator Larson provided a summary of the new American Rescue Plan (ARP) Corona virus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. He said staff will develop an estimated cost for each of the items on the preliminary list for use of the funds to facilitate our discussion with council.

STAFF REPORT:

1. [1st Quarter Finance Report & 1st Quarter Budget Status Report](#). Finance Director David Rodenbach introduced the financial report. He said we are on track for revenues around 11% for expenditures. He said the departmental objective reports will be addressed during the study session on Thursday and offered to answer questions.

2. [Auditor's Exit Conference](#). Director Rodenbach shared that the city came out with a clean fiscal audit for 2019. We've complied with state laws for material for operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

[Thomas Wick – Hunt Street NW](#). Mr. Wick said the development appears to be accelerating at the Courtyards / Skansie drainage which was approved under the auspice of a stormwater conveyance ditch across his property that doesn't exist. He wants to know what the end game is, what happens now with a new mayor, and why hasn't the construction stopped to evaluate the drainage.

No one else asked to speak and the public comment closed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. [Second Reading of Ordinance 1460 Amending Fireworks Regulations.](#)

Building Official / Fire Marshal Paul Rice provided a summary of the public comments that were received: 74% support a 1-day celebration; 11% wanted it left to the current 4 days; 11% asked that fireworks be banned; and 4% had "other" comments. He addressed Council questions and comments.

Mayor Kuhn asked Council to consider reducing the penalty for a fireworks violation from \$1,000. Council deliberated whether to reduce the fine.

[The Mayor opened the public comment period](#). Administrator Larson and Clerk Towslee took turns reading the comments submitted in writing.

[Ericka Dietrich](#) - 59th St. Ct. NW, asked Council to keep the current 4 days as an American Tradition.

[Heather McFarland](#) - Sherman Drive, asked that the celebration be limited to the 4th of July. She suggested soundless fireworks.

[Dave Willis](#) - 6707 Rainer Avenue, said he is not in favor of changing it to one day.

[Kevin Kennedy](#) - 9805 43rd Avenue, asked that fireworks be banned or at least restricted to one day.

[Jane Kennedy](#) – 9805 43rd Avenue, voiced support of limiting fireworks to only July 4.

[Linda Plumb and Barry Lewis](#) – 2812 Harborview Drive, asked to limit fireworks to 1 day on the 4th of July.

[Kent Holder](#) – 917 Kamas Way, urged council to consider limiting the damage to the 4th of July only.

[Bea Mezei-Rhodes](#) – 5415 36th Avenue, requested Council consider amending the fireworks ordinance to one day only – July 4th.

[Linda Hiser](#) – Fox Island, asked the city to limit the use of dangerous, loud fireworks to July 4th only.

[Nancy Jerkovich](#) – 3710 Harborview Drive, asked Council to limit fireworks to one day.

[Bob and Vonnie Marsic](#) – 4223 Overlook Court, are in full support of reducing the use of fireworks to 1 day, July 4th only.

[Kristen Sutich](#) – 6563 McDonald Avenue, said she is for one day of fireworks on July 4th.

[Carrie Barker](#) – 6715 Rosedale, said she votes for 1 day only.

[Jean Farrington](#) – 6810 Starboard Lane, asked that Council either limit the day or eliminate the sale of fireworks.

[Rebecca Floyd](#) – 7634 84th Ave Ct. NW, supports 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Keri Leigh](#) – 4004 105th St. Ct. NW, said fireworks should be banned entirely and asked council to take a step toward common sense by limiting fireworks to one day.

[Kara Aley](#) – 13520 Crescent Valley Drive, registered her support of fireworks for just 1 day – July 4th.

[Dave Miller, Tyler Miller, Joey Hugo, Ana Hugo, and Kevin Jansen](#); Managers of a TNT Fireworks Stand expressed their opposition to the proposal to amend the hours of allowable discharge of fireworks.

[Barbara Turecky](#) – 4409 88th Avenue NW, asked Council to limit the use of fireworks to just one day, July 4 and dedicate staff to monitor illegal fireworks.

[Randy and Maret Wahab](#) – 11321 Heather Place, voiced support of the proposed fireworks ordinance limiting the use in Gig Harbor to 1 day, July 4th.

[Yesenia Lamm](#) – 4106 31st Avenue Ct., spoke against reducing the days of use of fireworks.

[Eric Grenseman](#) – Harbor Crossing, share support for transitioning fireworks from 4 days to 1 day.

[Paul Beatty](#) – 10823 64th Avenue Ct. NW, supports one day of fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Dale Schultz](#) – 4207 31st Avenue Ct., supports one day – July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Don and Barbara Pearson](#) – 4493 Copper Court, said they support 1 day, July 4th for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Tom Walsh](#) – 10909 63rd Avenue NW, said his choice is for one day only for fireworks displays.

[Turi Janes](#) - 1102 136th St. NW, said she supports one day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Lynne Bouquet](#) – 8208 77th St. Ct. NW, supports 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor

[Harris Atkins](#) – 3139 Anne Marie Court, supports 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor and would prefer fireworks eliminated except in permitted or organized events.

[Michelle Kuelbs and Bruce Winhold](#) – 10981 Echo Rock Place, support 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

[Susan and Gary Elston](#) – 6269 Harbor Sunset Lane, expressed preference for zero days of fireworks, but vote for 1 day.

[Eric Anderson](#) – Artondale, wrote in support of the proposed ban of fireworks in Gig Harbor outside of July 4th.

[Marti Beeck](#) – city limits, supports 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor, but strongly supports no fireworks at all.

[Williams Kapes](#) – 7009 92nd Ave. Ct. NW, supports maintaining the 4-day period of fireworks.

[Charles Carlson](#) – Harborview Drive, supports 4 days of fireworks for the Independence celebration.

[Doug Sorensen](#) – 9409 No. Harborview Dr., shared support for 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor and enforcement of illegal fireworks.

[Jeanette Sorensen](#) – 9409 No. Harborview Dr., supports 1 day, July 4th only for fireworks in Gig Harbor.

This was all the written comments. [The Mayor opened it up to callers.](#)

[Robert Wood](#) – 2709 43rd Street, supports limiting fireworks to one day for all the reasons stated.

[Nancy Webster](#) - shared all the reasons she supports one day to celebrate and said it should be limited to designated areas.

[Dave Higby](#) – 9527 Crescent Cove Place, supports eliminating or limiting the sale and discharge to July 4th.

[Randy Curly](#), Area Manager for TNT Firework Sales, shared his reasons for opposing the limiting of fireworks discharge to one day.

[Brenda Lykins](#) – 11610 Arrowhead Drive, spoke in support of any limits on fireworks; and said limit it to one day.

[Angela Sisney](#) – 8026 Goodman Drive, spoke in support of limiting it to one day.

[Michael Davis](#) - 11611 Arrowhead Drive, supports discharge only on the 4th of July.

[John Harrington](#) – 6740 Soundview Drive, spoke in favor of limiting it to one day.

[\(Mr. Carter, speaking on behalf of wife Pamela Carter\)](#) – 4003 35th St. NW, urged the city to

limit fireworks to one day.

[Rini Ing](#) – 11007 66th Ave. Ct. NW, echoed the support for limiting fireworks to one day.

[Jasmine Myers](#) – 10540 Sentinel Dr., reiterated everything said about limiting to one day.

[Thomas Wick](#) – Hunt Street, suggested that the city should provide two consecutive days of fireworks display over the harbor.

[Frances Walker](#) – 7806 Skansie Ave., supports a ban on fireworks and in favor of the \$1000 penalty.

[John Johnson](#) – Asst. Fire Chief, provided data on calls the past five years and support for limiting discharge to one day. The Fire Department would like to partner in the education efforts.

[Jim Lykins](#) – 11610 Arrowhead Drive, shared support of the limit to one day but could also support a ban on fireworks.

There were no more hands raised and the Mayor closed public comment at 7:57 p.m.

[Mayor Kuhn said](#) he hopes that Council will vote for this, adding that he does not support a city firework show across the harbor.

Councilmember Woock thanked everyone who submitted comments and spoke and offered a motion.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 1460.
Woock / Denson –

Councilmember Franich shared his view and proposed an amendment to allow someone to celebrate if they work on the 4th.

[AMENDMENT:](#) Move to amend the ordinance to also allow fireworks on the 4th of July and the Saturday's that follow the 4th of July.
Franich / Rodenberg –

Chief Busey asked for a clarification on the amendment, saying the following Saturday could fall into the days past what the State allows. Councilmember Franich changed his motion to be the Saturday preceding the 4th and Councilmember Rodenberg concurred.

[A brief break was called at 8:06 p.m.](#) The meeting [resumed at 8:16 p.m.](#)

[Council deliberated](#) the amendment and the [City Attorney provided](#) asked for clarification because this amendment could result in two Saturdays. There was discussion on not allowing the additional Saturday and the number of those who spoke in favor of an outright ban.

[AMENDMENT:](#) Move to amend the ordinance to also allow fireworks on the 4th of July and the Saturday's prior to the 4th of July.
Franich / Rodenberg – roll call vote:

Woock – no; Denson – no; Rodenberg – yes; Franich – yes; Himes – no; Markley – yes; Abersold – no. Motion failed 4-3

Council continued deliberation including direction to the Finance and Safety Committee to revisit the civil penalty for a fireworks infraction.

MOTION: Call the question.
Woock / Franich – unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 1460 as presented.
Woock / Denson –

Woock – aye; Denson – aye; Rodenberg – no; Franich – aye; Himes – aye; Markley – aye; Abersold – aye. Motion passed 6-1

The Mayor stressed that it is all about public outreach and education. It was mentioned that it won't take affect until 2022 and so there is plenty of time for that to occur.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. [2021 Regional Decant Facility Beneficial Use Agreement – Port Orchard Interlocal Agreement.](#) Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm provided the background for this action to enter into an agreement for disposal of the city's vector waste. He answered questions.

There was no public comment and the following motion was offered:

MOTION: Move to authorize the Mayor or his designee to allow Public Works to utilize City of Port Orchard's decant facility for stormwater vacuum eductor truck waste.
Woock / Himes – motion passed 7-0

2. [Austin Honoring Art – Artist Services Contract Amendment No. 2.](#) Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm presented the details for this contract amendment.

There was no public comment and the following motion was offered:

MOTION: Move to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment #2 to the Artist Services Contract with Guy Capoeman for the Austin Honoring Art.
Denson / Woock – motion passed 7-0

3. [Eddon Boat Brick House – Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 6 / SHKS.](#) Director Langhelm explained that this is the same scope of work presented at the last meeting less the \$500 for evaluating the chimney. He said if the chimney is not replaced the building will be removed from the Historical Registry and Eddon Boat may have to return their grant funds. He responded to council questions and comments.

There was no public comment and the following motion was offered:

MOTION: Move to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 6 to the Professional Services Contract with SHKS Architects in an amount not to exceed

\$4,760.00

Woock / Rodenberg – roll call vote:

Woock – aye; Denson – aye; Rodenberg – aye; Franich – aye; Himes – aye; Markley – aye; Abersold – aye. Motion passed 7-0

COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMENTS:

Councilmember Rodenberg commented on the number of city positions that need to be filled. He said he'd like an emphasis on hiring. Mayor Kuhn said there would be more information on this topic coming Thursday.

Councilmember Himes concurred with these comments on hiring, adding that 1/3 of the year is gone.

Councilmember Franich reported on the Public Works Committee meeting and the three items that were discussed: 1) Murphy's Landing harbor dredging; 2) the pavement rating system; and 3) Water Franchise Agreements.

Councilmember Woock commented on the 1st Quarter Finance Status Report saying it provides transparency for the citizens. She said she looks forward to the discussion on Thursday and thanked all those who worked to put this together.

Councilmember Franich voiced appreciation for the council support for the Essential Workers Appreciation proclamation. He said that his intention was to bring extra attention to the retail workers who are the lowest paid employees.

Councilmember Abersold recognized the efforts of the Peninsula High School Key Club and their recent pancake drive. They brought in 600 pounds of pancake mix for those in need.

Councilmember Rodenberg also voiced appreciation for the proclamation and the focus on retail clerks but said there are many others that were excluded. He is thankful that we live in a community that makes sure that others receive essential care. Our retail clerks are among the very best.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Planning/Building Committee – Mon. May 3 at 3:00 p.m.
2. Parks Commission – Wed. May 5 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.
Franich / Himes – unanimously approved



Mayor Kit Kuhn



Molly Towslee, City Clerk