

**MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, May 24, 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 Franich, Markley, Rodenberg, Denson and Himes. Councilmember Abersold was excused.

Staff: Administrator Larson, Community Development Director Knutson, Public Works Director Langhelm, Finance Director Rodenbach, Tourism/Communications Director Pettitt, City Clerk Towslee, Assistant City Clerk Stecker and City Attorney Kenny

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

Councilmember Denson asked that Consent Agenda No. 8 be moved to New Business.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. a) City Council Minutes: Special Meeting - May 6, 2021; and b) Regular Meeting – May 10, 2021
2. Receive and File: a) Planning Commission Minutes - April 29, 2021; b) Parks Commission Minutes - April 7, 2021; c) Design Review Board Minutes - March 25, April 8, and April 22, 2021; d) Proclamation Honoring City Clerk Molly Towslee upon her Retirement; e) Proclamation – Pierce County Library 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
3. Contract for City Attorney and Special Services
4. 38th Avenue Improvements Phase 1a – PW Construction Contract Award, Contract Amendment No. 1 for Construction Support, and Professional Services Contract for Materials Testing Services
5. Municipal Cleaning Vehicle – Agreement for Purchasing Materials Amendment #1
6. Resolution 1208 – Updates to Fee Schedule
7. WWTP Biosolids Disposal & Transportation Contract Authorization
8. ~~Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team Lease at Ancich Park – Second Amendment~~
9. Approval of vouchers for May 24, 2021: Checks 95319 through 95421 and ACH payments in the amount of \$549,380.04

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda as amended to move No. 8 to New Business.  
Himes / Woock – motion passed 6-0

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Interim City Administrator Update. Mayor Kuhn reported that an offer has been made to Tony Piasecki, who was interim City Administrator in 2018. Confirmation for his agreement will be brought to council on June 14.

2. [Sports Complex Lease with YMCA Update](#). The Mayor read a press release regarding the signed lease agreement to enable the YMCA to fundraise, construct and operate two new synthetic turf athletic fields estimated at \$6.8 million. The Y will have until spring 2023 to raise the funds as the project needs to be completed by December 2024.

3. [Mayor Kuhn recognized Employees with 30 Years of Service](#): He thanked Kelly Busey, Jim Stattin, Tony Poling and Molly Towslee for their years serving the city.

4. [Mayor Kuhn then read](#) a Proclamation Honoring City Clerk Molly Towslee upon her upcoming retirement.

5. [Mayor Kuhn read](#) a Proclamation recognizing the Pierce County Library 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Gig Harbor was their first location. Mayor Kuhn also announced that it's the city's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well and there are upcoming plans to celebrate this milestone.

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

1. [Employee Engagement and Survey Update](#). City Administrator Bob Larson shared a summary of the strategy developed by the ad hoc committee tasked with addressing the survey results. He said that a Resolution of Support and action plan will be presented for council discussion and approval.

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

1. [Letters of Support for Federal Funding of Capital Projects](#). Tourism & Communications Director Laura Pettitt reported that we gathered letters of support for several potential future transportation projects, as well as the project known as the Gig Harbor Sports Complex. These letters of support from the community are part of the application packets submitted to legislators.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

[Tom Tomlinson – 7019 Stanich Avenue](#). Mr. Tomlinson shared his continued concern with enforcing the R-1 verses R-3 zoning issue occurring next door to him.

[Tom Wick – Hunt Street](#). Mr. Wick shared his lack of confidence that his emails are begin received or preserved. He voiced concerns with the application BB21-03-08 for a club house at the Courtyards at Skansie. He said this should require a completely new submittal with an environmental impact statement to address the drainage issues.

[Linda Foster – 6818 93<sup>rd</sup> Street Court NW](#). Ms. Foster, member of the Skansie Netshed Foundation, spoke to the need for roof repairs and repainting of the netshed. She said the Foundation works hard to keep the interior in good shape, but the leaking roof is damaging, and someone found a loose board off the front.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. [Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team Lease at Ancich Park – Second Amendment](#). Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm provided a summary of the reason this amendment is before council for further action.

[Councilmember Denson](#) explained that she pulled this item from the Consent Agenda as the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team was not amenable to the amendment and has offered an alternative amendment for consideration.

[City Attorney Daniel Kenny](#) further explained the need for a motion to adopt the clarified amendment that was approved at the last meeting. He said if Council wishes to consider the newly proposed amendment from the kayak club there are two ways to do this: 1) a motion to reconsider the action taken at the last meeting and then another motion to incorporate the newly proposed language; or 2) a motion to rescind the action taken at the last meeting and then begin the process to adopt a new amendment. He addressed questions regarding these options.

**MOTION:** Move to rescind the prior vote.  
Rodenberg / Denson – [roll call vote](#):

Denson – yes; Himes – no; Markley – no; Rodenberg – yes; Woock – yes. There was a 3-3 tie and Mayor Kuhn voted yes. Motion passed 4-3

Councilmember Franich voiced his concerns with the motion. [There was discussion on](#) the new lease amendment from the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team. The Mayor asked each Councilmember if they are comfortable taking action tonight.

Councilmember Franich said no. Councilmembers Denson and Rodenberg said yes, and Councilmembers Himes, Markley and Woock said they would like to discuss the amendment, but they are not ready to act tonight.

The Mayor and Council continued sharing comments on the terms in the amendment proposed by the Team. [Discussion will continue](#) at a study session to provide direction for what will be brought to council for a vote. It was agreed that public comment would be allowed at the study session and the council meeting.

2. [Ancich Mitigation Monitoring – Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 3/DCG](#). Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm presented the background for this annual mitigation monitoring contract. He answered questions.

The Mayor opened the public comments.

[Aaron Huston](#) – Mr. Huston voiced concern that his right to speak on the Ancich Lease Amendment was subverted. Mayor Kuhn that he would have two more opportunities to speak at the study session and the council meeting.

There were no further comments.

MOTION: Move to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Services Contract with Davido Consulting Group, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00.  
Himes / Woock – motion passed 6-0

3. Resolution 1209 – Adopting the Ancich Homeport Feasibility Study.  
Exhibit A, Alt E, Alt G, Alt H

Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm shared an overview of the process to choose an alternative for the Homeport Dock. He shared illustrations of the alternative designs, addressed comments, and answered questions about the designs.

The Mayor opened public comment period. City Administrator Larson read written comments.

Nancy & Nick Jerkovich – 3710 Harborview Drive, spoke in favor of approving the linear dock to preserve more open space for all and the view corridor. They said the need for moorage has been greatly exaggerated.

Karen Allen Berg – 3526 Harborview Drive, spoke in favor of the linear dock due to impacts on the neighborhood. She is not in favor of “renting out slips” to non-commercial boaters during the off season.

Lita Dawn Stanton – 3615 Harborview Drive, said the linear float design fulfills the need for commercial fishing moorage without wiping out one of the town’s last view corridor. She said the public needs and deserves safe and open waters to recreate at Ancich Park.

Linda Foster & Nancy Jerkovich – 6828 93rd St. Ct. NW / 3525 Harborview Dr. Ms. Foster and Ms. Jerkovich spoke in favor of the linear dock design. The current plans for the Paddler’s Dock and the traditional linear dock takes into consideration impacts on the view corridor.

Mary Ellen Jerkovich Gilmour – shared concern for a non-linear dock. She cited impacts on the open view corridor, keeping the historical nature of the commercial dock, and the safety of both commercial vessels and self-propelled water use vessels sharing limited space as reasons she supports the linear docking system.

Andy Babich – 8306 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct. NW. Mr. Babich spoke to the current and future needs for moorage and the limitations and safety concerns of rafting. He explained that finger floats are practical, functional and create safe and secure moorage solutions. He asked Council to reject Resolution 1209.

Guy Hoppen – 8402 Goodman Drive. Mr. Hoppen explained his participation in the processes for both Resolution 949 and 1209. He said the linear moorage facility allows for six boats. Design H moors 15-20 boats, assures 100 feet of open water view corridor and plenty of buffer for the safety of human powered craft. He said the future of

commercial fishing hinges on adequate public moorage, and asked council to reject Resolution 1209 and adopt Design H.

[Gregg Lovrovich – 5310 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW](#). Mr. Lovrovich addressed the concept of future expansion of a linear dock, citing the expense, permitting and mitigation constraints. He shared his belief that facility expansion wasn't properly analyzed and asked council to reject Resolution 1209 and adopt a common-sense version of Design H that protects the view corridor.

[Tom Lovrovich – 3811 Harborview Drive](#). Mr. Lovrovich voiced his strong support for float design H, recommending to decrease the two 80' slips to 60' on the Jerkovich side, adding one 80' slip to the Ancich side, and making stall 13/14 a 60' stall. He said the linear dock design is not large enough.

[Trevor Nordeen – Hudson Lane](#). Mr. Nordeen said he recently moved to Gig Harbor and what attracted him to the area was the heritage as an active fishing community. He shared support for the cultivation of a continued, strong commercial fishing presence and said he does not support R-1209's recommendation for Alternative E.

[Mike & Amanda Babich – 13510 Goodnough Drive NW](#).– Mr. and Mrs. Babich voiced their opposition to adoption of Resolution 1209. They said Design H would better serve the commercial fishing fleet, and the fingered dock space provides a higher quality use. There are no clear impacts to the Millville neighborhood from Design H, and the study shows the homeport will support itself financially by maximizing moorage. They asked council support for Design H.

[Zack Worrell – 8321 Goodman Drive](#). Mr. Worrell opposes Resolution 1209. He explained that this proposal doesn't provide nearly enough permanent moorage to support and retain our local commercial fishing fleet. A facility capable of supporting at least twenty vessels would satisfy the current demand.

[Mike Skrivanich – 11920 158<sup>th</sup> St. NW](#). Mr. Skrivanich said he is from a commercial fishing family located in Gig Harbor since 1909. He asked that council please say no to Res 1209 and to help the commercial vessels with a place to call home.

[Nick Babich 13310 Purdy Drive](#). Mr. Babich said he is strongly against the linear dock. He is proud of his family and friends fishing history, adding that none of them would be in favor of the linear dock. He shared support for Design H without the 80 footers on the Jerkovich side.

[Cindy Lumsden – 3710 Sellers Street](#). Ms. Lumsden said she backs the linear float option. She said it's important that our local commercial fishing vessels have a mooring option, but one that's safe, cost effective, and has the least amount of impact in the view corridor.

[Steve Paris – 9716 Crescent Valley Drive](#). Mr. Paris said we have a rich, healthy fishing heritage and he hopes the city will support a homeport facility that will house a sizable fleet into the future; something a linear dock will not do. He said his boat is moored in

Alaska because there is little opportunity for local moorage, and it would be nice to bring his boat home.

[Joni Dupille – 3304 Shyleen Street](#). Ms. Dupille said she is a proponent of the lineal design. When the Jerkovich Family agreed to the sub-lease the tidelands rights it was to help the city complete the project, maintain the view corridor, and preserve the last unspoiled part of the waterfront. The original design called for a linear docking system as the most aesthetically pleasing. Marine floats congest the navigational area creating a safety concern. She asked the city to stick to the original design.

[Nick Babich – 13310 Purdy Drive](#). Mr. Babich said his brother is going to Valdez to check on their boat and they had to leave another in Newport because of the lack of moorage here. He said they are not looking for free or subsidized moorage. He addressed the safety concerns by saying fishing vessels don't move much and they must be the safest because it's their job. He cited reasons that the linear design is unsafe for the massive boats to maneuver.

[There were no further public comments and the Mayor closed this portion at 7:59 p.m.](#)

[Councilmembers](#) and the Mayor shared comments and deliberated the results of the feasibility study.

**MOTION:** Move to approve Resolution 1209.  
Himes / Franich – roll call vote:

Franich – aye; Denson – no; Himes – aye; Markley – no; Rodenberg – no; and Woock – no. Motion failed 4-2

[Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm](#) asked if Council has enough data to consider alternatives or if the feasibility study needs to be updated. Mayor Kuhn and Councilmembers discussed making modifications to Alternative H to address both saving the view corridor and maximizing moorage. Also discussed was eliminating some of the 80 foot slips and transient recreational moorage during the times the fishing boats weren't present. This will be addressed through a future resolution or code amendment for rules of use of the dock.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMENTS:**

1. [Public Works Committee](#). Councilmember Franich reported they discussed the following: a) release of interest in a public property easement on Peacock Hill; b) prioritize the 6- Year Capital Improvement Project list; c) Parks and Open Space Recreation Plan update; and d) Ancich Storage Facility rental term length and fees. He encouraged Council to review the Parks Commission's recommendation for the rental at Ancich Park.

[Councilmember Woock](#) asked about a discussion about safety concerns with the storage facility. Director Langhelm responded that he is going to do a summary for the Mayor. Councilmember Himes said there should be a fairness consideration for public use of the facility.

2. [Finance & Safety Committee](#). Councilmember Rodenberg said they discussed the fireworks violations and penalties, and updates to the city's fee schedule. They also address the bicycle speed on Cushman Trail. Chief Busey shared with the committee that speed limits are set by ordinance, then signs would have to be purchased and speeds enforced. The Parks Commission has samples of directional signage that may be helpful.

[Councilmember Woock](#) asked that the Planning and Building Permit Fees be updated at least by next year.

[Mayor Kuhn](#) asked for suggested dates for a study session on the Kayak Club lease. It was decided that June 3 at 3:00 p.m. would work.

[Councilmember Franich](#) addressed Linda Foster's comments on repairs to the Skansie Netshed and asked that we get moving on this. The Mayor will follow up with Director Langhelm.

[Councilmember Denson](#) thanked the Mayor and Staff and YMCA for getting the YMCA Lease finalized.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:**

1. City Council Study Session – Thursday, May 27 at 3:00 p.m.
2. Civic Center Closed May 31 for Memorial Day Holiday
3. Planning & Building Committee Meeting – Monday, June 7 at 3:00 p.m.
4. City Council Study Session – Thursday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURN:**

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.  
Franich / Markley – unanimously approved

  
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Mayor Kit Kuhn

  
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Molly Towslee, City Clerk

