

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting & Telephone
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sid Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

2. Roll Call

City Clerk Lisa Sokolik called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Dani Gaumond, Marcus Metz, Darren Robb, Tim Pearce, Steve Shepro, Andreena Bergman and Tim Schmitt. The meeting was quorate.

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Finance Director David Hammond, Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen, Police Chief Becky Lewis, Fire Chief John Cermak, Finance Manager Wendy Dowhower, Senior Planner Carly Ruacho, Economic Development & Marketing Manager Sarah Cho, Utilities Supervisor Leigh Danielson, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, Assistant to the Administrator & Communications Manager Krista Hintz, City Clerk Lisa Sokolik and Waste Management representative Michelle Metzler.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Gaumond, second by Councilmember Bergman to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Comments

The City did not receive any written comments or requests to verbally address the Mayor and City Council. Citizens who wish to speak verbally are required to register on the City Website by 9:00 am the morning of the meeting and are required to be visible on camera and identify themselves with name and address.

5. Staff Reports

6. Committee Reports

a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes November 15, 2021

Councilmember Schmitt had a question regarding the published formula to calculate park impact fees. Schmitt said it is very difficult to assess without any examples. He asked when the update is brought to council if three (3) examples could be included;

one for low-end priced homes, medium priced homes and high-end (million dollar) priced homes to show how each would be applied to the formula. Community Development Director Love answered that the formula is the existing city formula, and it is not based on house value, it is a flat fee that is paid per unit regardless of valuation.

b. Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes November 19, 2021

Schmitt commented that the Christmas decorations are talked about every year and what would it take to electrify all of them. Schmitt commented on the Discover Stanwood-Camano website viewing hits. He said the website has great information but is under promoted with only 1,000 users per month. Schmitt asked if the Economic Development Board could noodle this question “what would it take to double the number of visitors?” and what would the solution look like? Mayor Roberts thanked Schmitt for the comments and said they would be taken under advisement and a little research would be done.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Payroll Checks and Vouchers
- b. Approve January 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Shepro to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

9. Public Hearing

10. New Business

- a. Appointment of Economic Development Board Member Richard Good

Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Robb to appoint Richard Good to the Stanwood Economic Development Board, a one-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll call of votes was taken:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Councilmember Robb –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Pearce –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Shepro –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Bergman –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Schmitt –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Gaumond –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Metz –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Pearce to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Councilmember Steve Shepro to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee and Councilmember Marcus Metz as the alternate.

Roll call of votes was taken:

*Councilmember Robb – Yes
Councilmember Pearce – Yes
Councilmember Shepro – Yes
Councilmember Bergman – Yes
Councilmember Schmitt – Yes
Councilmember Gaumont – Yes
Councilmember Metz – Yes*

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Authorize the Mayor to Sign Interlocal Agreement with Washington School Information Processing Cooperative.

Councilmember Schmitt asked if a jurisdiction of dispute is needed in the contract. City Attorney Thompson answered that both parties are Snohomish County entities, and the contract will be entered into in Snohomish County, making the default Snohomish County.

Councilmember Shepro asked where city documents are currently stored electronically. Finance Director Hammond answered that city documents are stored on a server within Snohomish County's firewall, many records are available on the city's website, and many paper records are stored in the archive room; paper records are being digitalized in a purposeful manner.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Shepro to Authorize the Mayor to Sign Interlocal Agreement with Washington School Information Processing Cooperative.

Roll call of votes was taken:

*Councilmember Robb – Yes
Councilmember Pearce – Yes
Councilmember Shepro – Yes
Councilmember Bergman – Yes
Councilmember Schmitt – Yes
Councilmember Gaumont – Yes
Councilmember Metz – Yes*

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Authorize Mayor to Sign a Solid Waste Collection Services Contract with Waste Management of Washington, Inc.

Public Works Director Hushagen discussed the main changes made to the Solid Waste Collection Services contract from the previous contract that was signed in 2012. The new proposed contract specifies every other week pickup for yard waste. Council can decide to choose every week pickup for yard waste, but the rates will go up. Council will have to amend the motion if they choose every week pickup for yard waste.

Councilmember Schmitt asked what the main differences are between the 2012 and 2022 contract. Hushagen answered that the city is going to all carts being provided by WM, WM will be offering a discount to low-income seniors and disabled citizens, WM will bring out a dumpster for citizens to use if two consecutive pickups are missed due to inclement weather.

Councilmember Shepro commented that the contract over a 10-year period is worth an excess of ten-million dollars (\$10,000,000.), he asked what the reasoning was behind the decision for not seeking other bids. Hushagen answered staff spoke about this issue internally. In 2012, the city received a limited response when it issued a call for bids. For this contract, staff did not put it out for bid, as it would be switching gears, with WM carts already distributed throughout the city, routes already set in place, so another company coming in would not be competitive. *(Friday, February 11, 2022, Hushagen clarified his answer to the council: I want to clarify an answer I gave to a question posed by Councilmember Shepro last night. When asked about seeking a different provider for solid waste services I referenced that not doing so was an internal decision. As a point of clarification, I would like to note that this was a collaborative internal decision in that staff recommended it and was given direction to negotiate a contract with WM at the October 14, 2021, Council Special Workshop. Having realized I did not articulate this, and that several of the Councilmembers are new and did not participate in that decision, I felt compelled to send out this clarification.)*

Councilmember Schmitt asked if there are any other solid waste management companies? Hushagen answered there are a few farther down south, one or two in Everett, and one in Anacortes.

Councilmember Pearce asked fellow councilmembers their thoughts on the yard waste pickup schedule. To leave it as it is written in the contract for pickup every other week, or to change it to every week pickup. Councilmember Schmitt said he started a discussion on this issue and he received a split answer. Schmitt suggested to keep it every other week and the citizens who need it every week can get an extra can.

Councilmember Shepro asked what it meant by getting a second can. Waste Management representative Michelle Metzler answered that customers can subscribe for multiple carts, or they can set out extra materials when needed. It's also permitted to

put food and yard waste in garbage. About half the Stanwood residents subscribe to food and yard waste service.

Council Bergman asked if some residents subscribe to food and yard waste service through the spring and summer and cancel through the winter. Metzler answered that it is quite common for residents to sign up in spring and cancel in the fall, however, there is a cart redelivery fee of \$41.48.

Councilmember Shepro asked about the extra charge if not all recycling can fit in the recycling bin, such as large cardboard boxes. Councilmember Pearce said that question came up in the Public Works Committee meeting, with our wet climate Waste Management prefers residents to not put cardboard outside the recycling bin because wet and moldy cardboard cannot be recycled. If it doesn't fit in the container, it needs to be cut down to fit or it will have to go in the trash bin. Metzler said if it's set out at the curb, the driver will collect it, but a charge would go on the customer's next bill.

Motion by Councilmember Bergman, second by Councilmember Metz to authorize the Mayor to sign a solid waste services contract with Waste Management of Washington, Inc. for a ten year period ending in 2032.

Councilmember Robb made a motion to the motion to include in the contract weekly pickup of yard waste and food scrap recycling services. Second by Councilmember Shepro.

Councilmember Robb commented on the survey, although it is not heavily tipped one way, it is tipped toward weekly pickup. Only a couple hundred residents responded to the survey, but many residents who did not complete the survey contacted councilmembers to give their opinion, so Robb feels pretty well informed of what the public wants. Right now, half of the residents subscribe to the yard waste collection service. There is merit in the ability to put out extra waste, waiting two weeks, the cans can get heavy. There would also be an impact to the number of customers choosing food scrap recycling, so there are valid reasons to go either way, but Robb is most sensitive to the fee increase of 6% it is certainly a consideration, but on the whole, to provide the best service to the majority of residents, a weekly pickup service is best.

Councilmember Schmitt is for every other week yard waste pickup. He commented that there is not a good answer, whatever way it will only benefit half of the residents. It will saddle extra costs for those who don't need every week pickup, and some residents will be very sensitive to those extra costs. A simple solution would be for those who need extra service to order an extra can during growing season. Going every other week creates flexibility and lowers costs.

Councilmember Pearce can appreciate both sides, but he is considering the extra delivery charge of \$41.48.

Councilmember Shepro agrees with Councilmember Robb. There was a letter writing campaign last fall and a majority favored weekly pickup. Shepro will vote with the majority of residents of weekly yard waste pickup.

Roll call of votes was taken on the amendment to the motion:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| <i>Councilmember Robb</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Pearce</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Shepro</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Bergman</i> | – | No |
| <i>Councilmember Schmitt</i> | – | No |
| <i>Councilmember Gaumond</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Metz</i> | – | No |

Amendment to the motion carried 4 to 3.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Gaumond to authorize the Mayor to sign a solid waste services contract to include weekly pickup of yard waste and food scrap recycling services with Waste Management of Washington, Inc. for a 10-year period ending in 2032.

Roll call of votes was taken:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| <i>Councilmember Robb</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Pearce</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Shepro</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Bergman</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Schmitt</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Gaumond</i> | – | Yes |
| <i>Councilmember Metz</i> | – | Yes |

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Authorize the Mayor to Sign Ovenell Park Visioning Contracts with JA Brennan and Confluence Environmental.

Councilmember Shepro asked why ‘Riverfront Park’ wording has been dropped from the discussion when the 2016 Master Plan made references that Ovenell would be a riverfront park and the Parks, Recreational and Open Space Plan (PROS), adopted by Council in 2018, also mentions that Ovenell Park would include waterfront access.

Senior Planner Ruacho answered that waterfront access at Ovenell is not off the table and can be revisited at any time, but to develop the waterfront access would drive costs up due to permitting and mitigation that could be problematic.

Another key difference is Hamilton Park is at 98% design-ready and includes water access. Hamilton Park is right up the channel from Ovenell. Hamilton was not taken into consideration when the Ovenell Master Plan was developed. Community Development Director Patricia Love added that Ovenell showed access to the water, but there is also a railroad track. Staff met with representatives from BNSF one and one half years ago and learned that access over the tracks is going to be extremely difficult. They talked about the option to change it to a Rails to Trails program, but BNSF was not supportive of the idea. Love doesn't want there to be any misconceptions that this will be a waterfront property when there is a major hurdle with the railroad whether the City can gain access over the tracks.

Councilmember Shepro commented that in 2019, the City spent \$93,000 on the Ovenell Park Cleanup Project with the goal to open the park for passive use by the community. Shepro asked why the park is still locked? Ruacho answered that it was and still is the intention to have some access available. Providing access to the park has proven to be very difficult, that is it will be difficult getting people in and out safely. There is a need to have a parking lot, so the study is needed to know where the best spot would be for the parking lot.

Shepro asked if his recollection regarding the first environmental study is correct, that the wetlands area was quite a bit larger than anyone anticipated affecting what the existing Master Plan had in mind. Ruacho said the Master Plan is very conceptual in nature, when researching development ideas from the conceptual plan we have learned that access is complicated by many different reasons. The new plan would get more specific details to move forward with planning to get the park open.

Shepro asked if the plans that Iris Consulting put together in 2015 are valid. Ruacho answered they are valid just not realistic as we don't have free rein to do what is on the master plan, we didn't have the higher level of environmental report back then, and the permits have expired and need to be renewed.

Shepro suggested to approve the \$15,915 contract with Confluence and to wait to see the results of the environmental report before approving the \$88,000 contract with JA Brennan, then bring the environment report back to full council with the reasons why we should move forward with the new master plan.

Love said the intent is for the work by Confluence to help staff understand the critical areas on the property and the shoreline requirements because decisions cannot be made without knowing what is on site. Then that information would be shared with the Park and Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC) and other consultants and really start to sit down with PTAC and go over the current Master Plan, what the constraints on the property; the critical areas, shoreline, rail road, access. Then have a conversation with PTAC on what the goals and visions are for the property with all this information. JA Brennan would come into the picture at this point and be part of the discussion as he is

a park landscape architect, he would start drawing out the visioning conversation. JA Brennan would think about all the other properties owned by the city and figure out how Ovenell would fit in to the current park system.

City Administrator Smith commented that PTAC was formed to discuss Ovenell and Hamilton. A study for parks in general was done and the outcome of the report was the recommendation to build out existing parks before starting Ovenell and Hamilton, which is one of the reasons that Ovenell has not been opened.

Councilmember Schmitt agreed with Shepro's viewpoint, he too would like to see the environmental study done first and then make a decision on how to proceed.

Ruacho said it has always been the plan and the intention to do the environmental study first before starting the visioning phase.

Mayor Roberts asked if council approved both contracts and Confluence's report comes back with a worst-case scenario, do we have to honor JA Brennan's contract? Love answered that there is an escape clause in the contract, city would pay out what work was done up to the point of termination.

Schmitt commented that he has talked to many PTAC members individually, they are very passionate about the parks, and they have a wonderful vision, they would like for the Councilmembers to listen to them. Schmitt is wondering why the city is spending another \$88,000 on a visioning statement when we already have passionate PTAC members, is the city going to get \$88,000 more in value than what PTAC is providing?

Councilmember Pearce responded to Schmitt's question, PTAC can contribute to the vision, but they are not professional planners.

Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Schmitt to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Confluence Environmental for \$15,915.00, but to reject the contract with JA Brennan.

Roll call of votes was taken:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Councilmember Robb –</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Pearce –</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Shepro –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Bergman –</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Schmitt –</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Gaumond –</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Councilmember Metz –</i> | <i>No</i> |

Motion failed 5 to 2.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Robb to approve the proposed scope of work and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Confluence Environmental to execute work as outlined.

Roll call of votes was taken:

*Councilmember Robb – Yes
Councilmember Pearce – Yes
Councilmember Shepro – Yes
Councilmember Bergman – Yes
Councilmember Schmitt – Yes
Councilmember Gaumond – Yes
Councilmember Metz – Yes*

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Gaumond to approve the proposed scope of work and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with JA Brennan and Associates.

Councilmember Robb thanked councilmember Shepro for bringing a lot of these details forward and they are worth consideration.

Roll call of votes was taken:

*Councilmember Robb – Yes
Councilmember Pearce – No
Councilmember Shepro – No
Councilmember Bergman – Yes
Councilmember Schmitt – No
Councilmember Gaumond – Yes
Councilmember Metz – No*

Motion failed 4 to 3.

11. Citizen Closing Comments – Removed via Motion at the 3-26-2020 Meeting

12. Report of Officers and Committees

a. Mayor's Report

Mayor Roberts congratulated the nonprofit startup Snow Goose Transit who received a free donated bus from Community Transit. Roberts attended the Community Transit

event. Community Transit donates approximately 15 vehicles per year to nonprofits. Snow Goose Transit will use the bus to shuttle seniors around town and anyone else who may need a ride.

Mayor Roberts will be starting the 'Walks with the Mayor' on Fridays starting in May. Roberts attended an Emergency Management Board meeting for Snohomish County where they discussed Emergency Responses and the need for a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; the city has a CEMP in place.

Mayor Roberts attended a Mayor and Tribal meeting hosted by Snohomish County Executive Somers. Snohomish County will be reaching out to the county cities to discuss their ARPA funds allocations, so there may be potential ARPA funds available from the county.

Mayor Roberts is grateful for the new Covid numbers which are going down. He is looking forward to some normalcies and is hoping to have in-person council meetings soon. The school district meeting room is no longer available to have council meetings; staff is searching for a new location. The Mayor welcomed the City's new Police Chief Rebecca Lewis.

b. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Smith said that Assistant to the Administrator & Communications Manager Krista Hintz has uploaded to the city website the videos and recordings of the council meetings for the last four plus years (note: when meetings were held in person only audio was recorded).

Smith would like to get back to in-person meetings, especially for the workshops as those are more beneficial in person. He is hoping to plan for the next workshop to be held in person. Tonight's workshop felt a little rushed, and councilmembers did not have enough time to get all their questions answered. Smith asked councilmembers to continue to think about their priorities. Past Councils may have had different priorities, e.g., they may have wanted to concentrate on existing parks before spending money on the new parks like Ovenell. If this Council feels differently, that is the kind of priority staff needs to know, to change the directive that they were given by the prior Council.

c. Councilmember Reports/Questions

Councilmember Gaumond welcomed Economic Development Board Member Richard Good and congratulated Councilmember Shepro and Councilmember Metz for being appointed to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee.

Councilmember Bergman welcomed Economic Development Board Member Richard Good and congratulated Councilmember Shepro and Councilmember Metz for being appointed to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee.

Councilmember Schmitt thanked the City for its participation in Glass Quest, it is a great event for our area. When he worked at the thrift store, they directly attributed \$1,600 in sales to the event, which goes to those in hunger. Schmitt encouraged everyone to take up the Mayor's offer to walk with him, but he warned the Mayor is a power walker.

Councilmember Shepro recognized staff for the amount of work that went into tonight's meeting, he really appreciates it even though it makes the job as councilmember harder as there is more to read.

Councilmember Robb agreed with Smith about having the next special meeting workshop in person, if possible. The Public Works Committee did vote to hold their monthly meetings in person starting in March, they will be the first committee to venture off Zoom. Robb said it was nice to see Police Chief Lewis for the first time and to hear City Attorney Thompson's voice tonight.

Councilmember Metz said the issue of hazard pay is a hot topic. He thought Council would discuss the issue tonight and asked if there were plans to talk about it soon. Mayor Roberts answered there are no plans to discuss this issue. Roberts said at the last council meeting he asked for councilmembers to contact him or the City Administrator if they wanted to discuss this issue. It takes two councilmembers to add an item to the agenda, he only heard from one councilmember, so it was not added.

Councilmember Robb asked if ARPA funds would be discussed at the next City Council Special meeting, Roberts answered yes.

Councilmember Metz made a motion to put the topic of hazard pay as a discussion item on the next City Council Meeting agenda. Second by Councilmember Shepro.

Councilmember Schmitt commented that per the Rules of Procedures it requires two seconds by councilmembers to put the item on the next agenda. Roberts asked City Attorney Thompson if Council can vote now to put it on the agenda. Thompson answered yes.

Mayor Roberts called for votes on whether to discuss Hazard Pay at the next City Council meeting. Motion moved by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Shepro.

Roll call of votes was taken:

Councilmember Robb – No
Councilmember Pearce – No
Councilmember Shepro – Yes
Councilmember Bergman – No
Councilmember Schmitt – No

Councilmember Gaumont – Yes
Councilmember Metz – Yes

Motion failed 4 to 3.

13. Adjourn to Executive Session – None Scheduled for this Meeting

14. Reconvene and Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, and hearing no objection to adjournment, Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

CITY OF STANWOOD

ATTEST:

Sid Roberts, Mayor

Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk