

CITY OF STANWOOD
City Council - Special Workshop Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting & Telephone
MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Sid Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Councilmembers present: Dani Gaumond, Marcus Metz, Darren Robb, Tim Pearce, Steve Shepro, Andreena Bergman and Tim Schmitt.

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen, Finance Director David Hammond, Finance Manager Wendy Dowhower, Fire Chief John Cermak, Assistant to the Administrator and Communication Manager Krista Hintz and City Clerk Lisa Sokolik.

1. City Hall and Police Station Capital Planning

Community Development Director Patricia Love discussed the background and the motivation for relocating essential services out of the floodplain and building a civic campus. Love presented the five civic campus design options. It has been confirmed by our local FEMA representative that the police station is an essential facility while the city hall facility is not. If Council decides to relocate or build a new police station, it will need to be moved out of the floodplain.

Love asked the Council to discuss the design options and to give feedback. The Mayor added that a small survey went out to residents who had an email address listed in the utility billing system; 180 responses were received.

Council discussed the issue of remodeling city hall and the police station vs. building a new civic campus.

Council comments:

- If building a new civic campus, have an architectural feature that helps define Stanwood.
- Keep city hall at the current location and build a council chamber on the city owned lot located just to the west of city hall.
- Could Snohomish County Sheriff contribute to the cost of the new police station? Love answered that the Sheriff's office is no longer planning to have a satellite office in Stanwood, so they would not be able to help offset the cost of a new police station.
- If building a new civic campus, the design should include something for the community, e.g., a surrounding park land or community center.

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- City hall is a sound building and was remodeled a few years ago, but the restrooms and breakroom were not included, so those rooms could be updated. The police need a better facility as they are an essential service to the city, especially in an emergency.
- A new civic campus is a long-term investment for the community.
- Remodel city hall with better curb appeal.
- Use the lot next to city hall to build a council chamber with parking below and an archive room above.

Love discussed the community insurance rating system program, the program that helps reduce insurance rates for residents and businesses located in the floodplain. It was confirmed with FEMA that having the police station located in the floodplain does not exclude the city from entering the program. Love said that the city can remodel the police station up to 50% of the appraised or assessed value every two years without having to move out of the floodplain.

City Administrator Smith commented on the City's efforts to flood proof the city with the following projects:

- Irvine Slough Stormwater Separation project phase I, which added a new pump has been completed and phases II and III are under way.
- SR532 Berm and Pedestrian Path project has been completed.
- Council recently approved the Floodwall project and it is under way.

The flood threat from the south has been greatly improved, flooding from north hasn't happened in a long time, and discussions regarding the dike on the city's western border are currently being discussed.

2. Ovenell Long Term Capital Planning

Community Development Director Love presented the Ovenell Park environmental study findings and future development options. Love asked the Council to discuss the future planning efforts keeping these options in mind:

1. Move forward with park planning efforts at Ovenell Park
2. Delay Ovenell Park planning to a future date
3. Focus resources on implementing the Heritage Park and Church Creek Park Master Plans
4. Prepare a plan to open Ovenell Park to the public based on guidance from the City's risk pool representative regarding public safety

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The Mayor asked council to think about if they want to put money into Ovenell or concentrate on the other parks.

Councilmembers agreed that Ovenell was not a good purchasing decision for a park with all the wetland areas, without BNSF's permission to cross the tracks, no water access, and no good way to enter and exit the park from SR532. Love responded that Ovenell was originally purchased with the intent to help with the flooding issues and the park was secondary, although it's disappointing that there isn't as much usable land, it is a good property for the city to own. Smith added that the property was purchased with grant funds, the city now owns more waterfront and more dike that the city can control. Gravel parking lots are not allowed in the downtown commercial area, so there will be a significant cost investment to put in a parking lot with a right-in, right-out only onto SR532. The City's insurance agent will have to do a risk assessment to figure out what needs to be done to open the park safely with 'at your own risk' signs posted. The access to the park from Saratoga will be a staff only access.

4. Adjourn

Mayor Roberts Adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

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Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk