

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

Larry Countryman
Steve Dana
Judith Kuleta
Tom Merrill
Felix Neals
Donna Ray
Linda Redmon
John T. Kartak, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT

Debbie Burton, Finance Director
Tim Cross, Public Works Manager
Emily Guildner, City Attorney's Office
Yoshihiro Monzaki, City Engineer
Robert Palmer, Police Chief
Rebekah Park, HR Manager/City Clerk
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and Utility
General Manager
Brandi Whitson, Deputy City Clerk

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 declared federal, state and local emergency, and pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamations 20-05 and 20-28, the Snohomish City Council held its meeting via remote participation.

2. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MAYOR JOHN T. KARTAK.** Mayor Kartak provided a statement regarding the necessity to conduct the remote meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order.

MOTION by Redmon, second by Merrill to remove Consent Item 9a from the agenda and approve the agenda as revised. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. **APPROVE MINUTES** of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting.

MOTION by Merrill, second by Ray to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

5. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. Legislative Update - Representative April Berg

Representative Berg discussed the current Legislative session, covering points such as racial equity, Covid-19 pandemic response, economic recovery, and the global climate crisis. She touched on budget, the Snohomish Food and Farming Project, and discussed how people can communicate with their representatives online.

- b. New Employee Introduction - Rebekah Park

Mayor Kartak and Mr. Schuller introduced and welcomed Rebekah Park, recently hired as the City's Human Resources Manager/City Clerk.

6. **CITIZEN COMMENTS.** Mayor Kartak welcomed the citizens to the meeting and discussed the procedures for providing citizen comment.

Citizen Comments:

Tabitha Baty thanked Mayor Kartak and Councilmember Countryman for meeting with Snohomish for Equity.

Mark Miller spoke about unity and finding common ground.

Morgan Davis commented on events in Washington, D.C., and questioned continuing the *Quarterly Magazine*.

Samuel King supported increasing the Mayor's salary.

Peter Messinger questioned law enforcement preparedness in case of another event.

John Lorenz requested the Council reconsider the Ordinance on airsoft guns.

Terry Lippincott did not support raising the Mayor's salary.

City Comments: Closed

7. **ACTION ITEMS:**

a. **AUTHORIZE** Purchase of New Loader

Mr. Schuller introduced Mr. Cross, who explained the request to purchase a new loader for the City. The City's current loader, purchased in 1996, was in need of substantial repair. It had been scheduled for replacement three times since 2006. Mr. Cross had reviewed costs of operation and maintenance of various makes and models, selecting the Case loader, and utilizing state purchasing resources to obtain the best price. The current loader can also be traded in, further reducing the purchase price. The loader is a key piece of equipment, especially during severe weather events.

Councilmember Dana questioned leasing rather than purchasing. Mr. Cross answered it was not financially reasonable to lease this particular piece of equipment.

Councilmember Ray inquired about budget impacts. Ms. Burton responded funds were allocated annually to equipment replacement. Equipment identified for replacement in the current budget would still be funded, and this particular equipment would have been included in the budget, but broke down after the budget had been adopted. She explained there were adequate reserve funds to cover the purchase without adversely impacting the budget.

Citizen Comments:

Merritt Weese supported the purchase.

City Comments: Closed

MOTION by Countryman, second by Kuleta to authorize the purchase of a new loader.

Councilmember Merrill thanked City staff for their work in keeping equipment running, often well beyond useful life. He suggested that leasing might work for other pieces of equipment, and supported purchasing the new loader.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- b. **AMEND** SMC 2.06 Uniform Policies for Boards and Commissions, and 2.27 Public Safety Commission - ADOPT Ordinances 2409 and 2410

Ms. Guildner and Councilmember Ray presented the background of the ordinances, which are to:

- address out-of-date information
- add a timeframe to fill vacancies with Council input
- add transparency for confirmations
- clarify role of the liaison to be a true conduit between the Council and the board

The Public Safety Commission was reviewed specifically for an updated purpose and to facilitate community involvement in public safety.

Citizen Comments:

Morgan Davis commented there were too many Boards and Commissions.

Citizen Comments: Closed

MOTION by Countryman, second by Kuleta to amend SMC 2.06.

MOTION by Neals second by Merrill TO AMEND THE MOTION and ADOPT Ordinance 2409 regarding SMC 2.06, with redlines. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (7-0)

MOTION by Ray, second by Countryman to ADOPT Ordinance 2410 amending SMC 2.27 Public Safety Commission.

Councilmember Merrill expressed appreciation to Councilmember Ray for her work and initiative on these ordinances.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8. **DISUCSSION ITEM:** Transportation Benefit District Overview

Mr. Schuller provided background on the Transportation Benefit District (TBD), and explained the discussion was to receive Council direction which capital projects are to be included in the ballot measure. Staff proposed including:

- Bickford Avenue/19th Place Intersection
- Pine Avenue/Maple Avenue Intersection
- *Possible Third Intersection:* Pine Avenue/Second Street Intersection

Council President Redmon questioned if the Pine Avenue/Second Street intersection was included in the Second Street Improvement Project. Mayor Kartak responded the project ended at Lincoln and did not extend to Pine.

Councilmember Ray requested further details on the Pine/Maple intersection. Mr. Schuller advised the intersection had concepts, but no actual improvements identified or designed.

Councilmember Merrill asked if projects could be substituted. Mr. Schuller responded no, they could not. Councilmember Merrill then questioned the use of the funds, and suggested

capital projects would take funds away from pavement preservation. Mr. Schuller explained TBD funds could be used for pavement preservation and as matching funds for grants.

Councilmember Dana queried including projects that had yet to be designed, and wondered if community input should be obtained prior to selecting the projects. Mr. Schuller answered Council could decide which projects to include. Council President Redmon explained knowing specific projects could help the pro/con committees write their statements.

Councilmember Ray inquired about the Maple/Pine intersection, and Council President Redmon inquired about other projects on the capital projects lists. Mr. Schuller responded staff was looking at projects that would be the most beneficial to the City as a whole.

Citizen Comments:

Sam King commented on the Second Street traffic signals between Maple and Pine.

City Comments: Closed.

Mr. Schuller addressed Mr. King's comment, indicating additional design was needed, as some of the lights were older needed replacement; however, additional turn lanes were considered in some of the proposed projects.

Mr. Schuller recapped Council direction to not include the Maple/Pine intersection, but to include pavement preservation, Bickford at 19th, and Pine and Second Street to address the traffic light.

He explained the next steps, which include the City accepting application for citizens who wished to volunteer for the pro/con committees. Those applications would be presented to the Council for its selections at a March meeting. Ms. Guildner would also be working on the required explanatory statement for the measure.

9. CONSENT ITEMS:

a. ~~**AUTHORIZE** the Mayor's Appointments to the Economic Development Committee~~
(Removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.)

b. **AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #74300 through #74382 in the amount of \$810,983.60, issued since the last regular meeting.

MOTION by Countryman, second by Merrill to **PASS** the Consent Items. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

10. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS: Councilmember Merrill queried discussing City priorities to present at the AWC City Action Days. Mr. Schuller explained conversations on such were held during the December Council meetings, from which Councilmember Merrill was absent. He would reach out to Councilmember Merrill with further details.

11. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember Neals reported on an invitation to speak with Snohomish for Equity.

Councilmember Countryman remarked Historic Downtown Snohomish was planning events

for 2021, and will again provide flower baskets along First Street.

12. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Redmon relayed information from the latest Snohomish County Health District's Board of Health meeting. The Board reported vaccines were being provided but did not have enough to meet demand. Drive-through vaccination sites were being planned and implemented on an appointment basis. As additional vaccines are received, additional appointment times will open. They also reported evidence of a new strain of the virus that was more contagious. Current testing and vaccines were just as effective against the new strain.

Council President Redmon also reported Snohomish County has reopened small business relief grants for those affected by pandemic restrictions.

13. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schuller reminded Council of the upcoming workshop on January 26 to begin review of the City's contract with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services.

14. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Kartak addressed citizen comments:

- Thanked Snohomish for Equity for the meeting.
- He was not associated with the Proud Boys and never asked for guns to be displayed on First Street during the protests.
- Actual costs and funding for the Second Street Improvement Project were still being determined.
- He has reached out to the community regarding evaluating the Mayor's salary.
- The bridge over Highway 9 at Bickford Avenue was owned by the state, and believed WSDOT will consider improvements during the next phase of Highway 9 improvements.

15. **ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

APPROVED this 2nd day of February, 2021.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John T. Kartak, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, Deputy City Clerk