

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2020, in the Snohomish School District Resource Service Center, George Gilbertson Boardroom, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, Washington.

**COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Debbie Burton, Finance Director  
Glen Pickus, Planning Director  
Yoshihiro Monzaki, City Engineer  
Keith Rogers, Police Chief  
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and Utility  
General Manager  
Grant Weed, City Attorney  
Brandi Whitson, Administrative Assistant

2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

Councilmember Kuleta requested moving Consent Item 8a to Action Item 6c.

**MOTION** by Sanders, second by Redmon, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVE MINUTES** of the January 7, 2020 regular meeting

**MOTION** by Redmon, second by Countryman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** on items not on the Agenda

Mayor Kartak welcomed the citizens to the meeting and discussed the procedures for providing citizen comment.

Citizen Comments: None  
Citizen Comments: Closed

5. **PRESENTATION:** Introduce Newly Hired and Promoted Employees

City Engineer Yoshihiro Monzaki introduced new employee Project Manager Brennan Collins, and newly-promoted employee Senior Engineering Technician Koi Simpson to the Engineering Department.

City Administrator and Utilities General Manager Steve Schuller recognized Tim Cross, newly-promoted Public Works Manager, responsible for the streets, parks, facilities and fleet divisions.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. **ACCEPT** the Planning Commission's 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Program

Planning Director Glen Pickus explained Snohomish Municipal Code 2.16.060 requires the Planning Commission provide an annual report to the City Council on its activities of

the past year. The Planning Commission approved an annual report for its 2019 activities and a work program for 2020. Both documents required City Council review and approval, and were discussed in detail at the City Council-Planning Commission joint workshop held earlier in the evening.

Citizen Comments: None

Citizen Comments: Closed

**MOTION** by Sanders, second by Merrill, to ACCEPT the Planning Commission 2019 Annual Report to the City Council; and APPROVE the 2020 Planning Commission Work Program. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- b. **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to Sign Amended Lease Agreement with the Boys & Girls Club

City Attorney Grant Weed presented the staff report and provided background on the new lease agreement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County (B&GC). The topic was discussed in detail at the October 1, 2019 City Council meeting. The Park and Recreation Board reviewed the proposed Teen Room addition at its October 9, 2019 meeting, and unanimously recommended City Council approval.

Mr. Weed explained rather than amend the existing lease, a new lease agreement would be expedient for the addition, as well as clarifying other sections such as a requirement for approval of a boundary line adjustment, parking, and maintenance responsibilities. The new agreement expires December 31, 2040, with an option for the B&GC to extend it for fifteen (15) years.

Mr. Weed explained the B&GC had reviewed the new agreement and approved it as written. The Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Bill Tsoukalas was also present to answer questions.

Citizen Comments: None

Citizen Comments: Closed

Council President Sanders asked Mr. Tsoukalas what the anticipated growth would be over the next few years. Mr. Tsoukalas responded other facilities with Teen Center renovations, such as Lake Stevens and Arlington, experienced a substantial increase of teen attendance, enrollment, and retention, as the dedicated space for teens helped alleviate sharing space with younger kids.

**MOTION** by Sanders, second by Countryman to AUTHORIZE the Mayor to Sign an Amended Lease Agreement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- c. **DESIGNATE** the Mayor as the Authority to Approve Applications for Retail Fireworks Stands, as Provided for by SMC 5.54.040 Fireworks (*Moved from Consent Item 8a to Action Item 6c at beginning of meeting*)

Mr. Pickus explained SMC 5.54.040 details a retail fireworks stand permit shall be granted by the City Council or their designee. This proposal is to have the Council designate the Mayor as the approver of the permits, to alleviate staff time in preparing

reports for the Council. The proposal does not affect any other measure in regards to fireworks.

Citizen Comments: None

Citizen Comments: Closed

**MOTION** by Merrill, second by Sanders, to DESIGNATE the Mayor as the Authority to Approve Applications for Retail Fireworks Stands, as Provided for by SMC 5.54.040 Fireworks.

Councilmember Kuleta commented for the record while she understands and supports this item is an administrative action, she is opposed to fireworks in general, having seen the devastation they cause both as a fire chief and a nurse.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** The motion passed (6-1), with Kuleta voting nay.

## 7. **DISCUSSION ITEM: REVIEW** of City Priorities

Mr. Schuller introduced a slide presentation outlining current City priorities, including updates on revenues, economic development, community partnerships, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) VISION 2050, and regional growth, such as Midtown Planning Area and the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA). Finance Director Debbie Burton provided an introduction to the City's 2021/2022 Budget process, outlining current revenue and expenses, projected sales tax revenues, spending limits, park impact fees, and one-time capital project considerations. Mr. Schuller and Ms. Burton requested the City Council keep these in mind as they discussed their goals and priorities for the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Merrill requested clarification that General Fund revenues could be used for capital projects. Ms. Burton advised that was correct.

Council President Sanders commented on topics he would like to consider for the next budget cycle: safety and security measures, housing availability and impacts of VRBOs, thinking outside City limits to incorporate agritourism, and the importance of working with local farmers on methods to draw people to the area.

Councilmember Dana commented on PSRC's review of Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) and how the City of Snohomish has not been as aggressive as other communities in taking advantage of those boundaries. He voiced concern over PSRC's VISION 2050 recommendation regarding no adjustments to the City's UGBs. He noted Snohomish needs to take a stand to ensure its UGB is set for the City's future and best interest, and to not allow other agencies to influence those decisions.

Mr. Schuller explained maximizing the City's UGB could be included as part of the Midtown Area, which is a Council priority in 2020. He also advised the decision to not modify UGBs was made by elected leaders as part of the Growth Management Hearing Board, and would not be reviewed again for another ten years. One could, however, lobby Snohomish County leaders for boundary adjustment consideration, provided the City met other regulations, such as proving capacity and applicable zoning changes.

Councilmember Dana again voiced his concern regarding being locked into the current UGB, without consideration for the City's future. Councilmember Countryman agreed with

Councilmember Dana, comparing the City's area reach to that of the Snohomish School District.

Citizen Comments:

**Mitch Cornelison, 331 Avenue F**, appreciated the discussion and comments. He believed most residents enjoy the size the City is now, and stated there are still many underutilized areas within the current UGA.

Citizen Comments: Closed

Mayor Kartak commented the footprint Snohomish has established seems to be doing well for the residents, as well as the region.

Councilmember Ray stated her concern is less about size, and more about maintaining a quality of life with a tight budget, which could be impacted by the cost of extending services to a wider area. She supported reviewing current areas within the City, such as the Pilchuck District and Midtown Area.

**8. CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. **DESIGNATE** the Mayor as the Authority to Approve Applications for Retail Fireworks Stands, as Provided for by SMC 5.54.040 Fireworks (*Moved from Consent Item 8a to Action Item 6c at beginning of meeting*)
- b. **AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #72210 through #72329 in the amount of \$435,822.15 issued since the last regular meeting.

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

9. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:** Mayor Kartak advised that he, Councilmember Merrill, Councilmember Kuleta, Council President Sanders, and Mr. Schuller will be attending the AWC City Action Days in Olympia January 28 and 29. He explained this is an opportunity to speak with legislators on statewide issues and those directly impacting Snohomish He will present requests for funding assistance for construction of the B&GC Teen Center, as well as for the Bickford/Weaver signal. He asked Council if they had any feedback or other issues they would like presented. Councilmember Merrill mentioned continued funding for the Public Works Trust Fund.

**10. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS:**

Councilmember Ray requested Council input for the direction of the Public Safety Commission and how the Commission can be most effective. Their next meeting is February 11, 2020. She also questioned developing a charter for the Commission.

Councilmember Kuleta attended the SnoWorks opening, Engage Snohomish's first meeting, and the Historic Downtown Snohomish Association meeting. She reported the HDSA is in contract negotiations for an Executive Director.

Councilmember Merrill attended the Community Transit meeting and was elected to its

Board of Directors. He met with Councilmember Dana and Council President Sanders to review Council goal-setting procedures. They will have something to present to Council soon.

Councilmember Redmon attended the Board of Health meeting. She reported their focus is on future policies around revenues, as well as the Health District's actions in regards to the Wuhan coronavirus case recently confirmed in Snohomish County. She mentioned the Youth Council's upcoming "Snohomish's Got Talent" show next week.

11. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Sanders described a calendar of regional meetings that will be provided to Council, and asked Councilmembers to let him and City Clerk Pat Adams know if they would like to attend any of the meetings. He attended the State of Everett breakfast, Snohomish County Cities Membership meeting, and taken on the Snohomish County Economic Development Committee first alternate position. He reiterated his goal to engage with regional committees and organizations, commented on the goal-setting meetings with Councilmembers Merrill and Dana, and announced the possibility of workshops the second and fourth Tuesdays in February.

He thanked Police Chief Keith Rogers and the Snohomish County Sherriff's Office for their hard work, having attended a ride-along recently, where he viewed their activities first-hand.

12. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schuller provided the Council with a preliminary construction schedule for the Carnegie Building Restoration Project, and reminded Council of its joint workshop with the Park and Recreation Board scheduled prior to their next regular meeting on February 4.

13. **MAYOR COMMENTS:** Mayor Kartak expressed his appreciation to the Council for their involvement with regional issues and organizations. He invited Police Chief Keith Rogers to provide an update on his recent training. Chief Rogers explained he attended a three-month training with the FBI in Washington, D.C., and expressed his honor at having been invited to it. He reported on what he learned, and the network of worldwide colleagues he acquired and remains in contact with. He was glad to return to Snohomish, and realized this is the assignment he desires to retain.

Council President Sanders expressed his gratitude for Chief Rogers wanting to remain in Snohomish, and remarked the department did very well in his absence. Mayor Kartak agreed, and stated Chief Rogers is a great fit for the City.

Councilmember Merrill questioned current trends in policing. Chief Rogers expressed the trends are fairly universal, especially officer recruitment and retention, working with the public, and issues of racism. He mentioned the biggest concerns are internal, dealing with officer fitness, health and stress management. He would like to explore and develop solutions, such as how the fire department, a similar service profession, successfully deals with these issues.

14. **RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:47 p.m., for twenty (20) minutes, to discuss two matters concerning potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), with no action to follow.

Mr. Schuller returned to the Council chambers at 8:07 p.m. to extend the meeting an additional twenty (20) minutes.

Mr. Schuller returned to the Council chambers at 8:27 p.m. to extend the meeting an additional twenty-five (25) minutes.

**15. RECONVENE and ADJOURN:**

**MOTION** by Redmon, second by Sanders, to **ADJOURN** the regular City Council Meeting at 8:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

APPROVED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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John T. Kartak, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, Administrative Assistant