

**Snohomish City Council Minutes  
February 15, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

**COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT**

Lea Anne Burke  
David Flynn  
Karen Guzak  
Judith Kuleta  
Tom Merrill  
Donna Ray  
Linda Redmon, Mayor

**STAFF PRESENT**

Brooke Eidem, Planner  
Emily Guildner, City Attorney  
Scott James, Finance Director  
Rob Palmer, Police Chief  
Rebekah Park, HR Manager/Clerk  
Glen Pickus, Planning Director  
Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development  
and Communications Director  
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and Utility  
General Manager  
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:**

Felix Neals

***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.***

**MOTION** to by Guzak, second by Merrill, to excuse Councilmember Neals. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Burke, to move Public Comments 5. ahead of Presentations 4a. and 4b., and approve agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

3. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. **APPROVE** and **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to Sign Right-of-Way Use Agreement
- b. **AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Execute a Contract with Evergreen State Heat and AC for the Senior Center HVAC Replacement Project and **APPROVE** contribution for floor replacement.
- c. **AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Execute Lease Agreement for 1301 First Street

**MOTION** by Merrill, second by Guzak to PASS the Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (*Moved ahead of Presentations 4a and 4b. at the beginning of the meeting*):

**Jesse Podoll, in writing**, expressed concern over the ending of last meeting, and pushed for action regarding Walsh Hills safety concerns.

**Ival Salyer, in writing**, regarding sidewalks on Terrace Avenue.

**Morgan Davis** suggested the City purchase the County shop yard.  
**John Kartak** opposed five story buildings in the Midtown District.  
**Sarah Dylan Jensen** thanked the Council for their support of this year's Farmers Market

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Black History Month Proclamation. Mayor Redmon read the Proclamation declaring February 2022 as Black History Month in the City of Snohomish
- b. Introduction to New Housing, Mental Health and Related Services Sales Tax. Ms. Eidem presented information regarding the Sales Tax for Housing and Related Services, as adopted by Ordinance 2427. She also requested guidance from Council on topics to bring back for further discussions. She provided a background on the tax, as allowed under HB1590 (Ordinance 2427) and HB1406 (Ordinance 2378).

She explained both funds anticipated to generate up to \$640,000, but would take time to accumulate. Limitations existed on how the funds could be used, and were aimed at affordable housing and behavioral health. She outlined questions to Council to start the process:

What problems should be addressed with the funds?

What are the preferred public outreach levels and methods?

Council deliberated the issues on housing, which included discussions on:

- Funds could be used by the City or granted, loaned or donated to other agencies.
- Funds could be used to acquire existing facilities and convert them for use.
- Concerns regarding operation and maintenance if new construction pursued.
- Identifying existing organizations the City could partner with, such as Snohomish Affordable Housing Group (SAHG) and Housing Authority of Snohomish County.
- The County adopted the tax, but the City adopted its first so could control its own funds for City purposes.
- Consideration of City donating property to organizations for housing projects.
- Partnering with agencies with experience rather than City taking full responsibility of a facility.

Related to behavioral health issues, the Council discussed:

- Current facilities or organizations in the City that provided services.
- Data to determine types of issues people are struggling with.
- Public policy related to behavioral health.
- Finding data specific to the City and not County-wide.
- Incorporate discussions with those who know the community: Snohomish Police Department, Boys & Girls Club, School District, Senior Center, etc.
- More information was needed from local experts before decisions could be made on direction of funds.
- Find out from the community what/where the needs are; public outreach.
- Developing a committee of professionals or those with vested interest to assist in that outreach.

Mayor Redmon invited Steve Dana to address Council. Mr. Dana relayed personal experiences related to behavioral health issues in hopes of addressing where services were lacking. Providing services helped strengthen the community and provide community health and safety, not just for the individual. He felt transitional housing could

help ease the burden for some experiencing crises, and suggested referring to proven successful programs for assistance in developing one for Snohomish. He supported compassion, but also less tolerance for those taking advantage of that compassion.

Mayor Redmon invited Robert Smiley, founder of Hand Up Project, to speak. Mr. Smiley explained how his program reaches out to those in need of assistance, and provides them shelter and services with set boundaries. After someone leaves the program, he follows through with them to ensure long-term success. He explained the criteria reviewed for admitting someone into their program, which often occurred after someone completed a jail term, detox or treatment, but then had nowhere else to go.

Council thanked the speakers, and discussed next steps. With Council direction, staff would pursue developing a stakeholders group and requested Council provide suggestions on who to include. Councilmembers Ray and Flynn expressed interest at serving as Council liaisons to the group.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **ACCEPT** Planning Commission 2021 Annual Report and **APPROVE** 2022 Work Program

Mr. Pickus recapped the discussion held during the Workshop, providing a recap of the Planning Commission's 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Program.

### Public Comment:

**Morgan Davis** suggested limiting development and that the City purchase the County shop yard for affordable housing.

### Public Comment Closed:

**MOTION** by Flynn, second by Guzak, to accept the Planning Commission's 2021 Annual Report and approve the Planning Commission's 2022 Work Program. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- b. **AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Sign Professional Services Agreement with Transpo for Federal ADA Transition Plan

Mr. Monzaki presented background on completing an ADA transition plan. He explained the plan would focus on the public right-of-way by inspecting right-of-way facilities (sidewalks, ramps, buttons, etc.) to identify physical obstacles. The plan would also engage the public to identify and develop solutions.

Councilmember Merrill requested clarification the City could not delay the study. Mr. Monzaki confirmed the City needed to complete and publish findings.

Councilmember Ray inquired why the study was not included with the budget. Mr. Monzaki replied initially staff would complete the study but have since realized the scope of work was too great.

Councilmember Burke questioned if a request for proposal process was used. Mr. Monzaki answered the City had worked with this particular consultant before, and they were on the MRSC roster which allowed for their selection.

Public Comments:

**Morgan Davis** mentioned the report was only for cities with more than 50 employees.

Public Comments: Closed

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Merrill to authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the Professional Services Agreement with Transpo Group USA, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$134,960 to develop the City's ADA Transition Plan. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Councilmember Guzak inquired on having another workshop to discuss Terrace Avenue. Mr. Schuller advised one has been scheduled for May 3, 2022.

Councilmember Ray suggested expanding the purpose and scope of the City's Park and Recreation Board, and increase its membership from five to seven. The Board would be asked for oversight on open and green spaces in general, not just parks, to align with Council's goals regarding environmental sustainability and trees. Councilmember Guzak supported the notion, and Councilmember Burke felt items covered by the Parks budget should be brought before the Board.

Councilmember Burke mentioned concerns regarding noise and construction activity outside of established quiet hours in relation to the Walsh Hills development. Mr. Schuller invited sharing concerns with staff who could answer specifics related to the City's code. He mentioned staff was often on-site to monitor activity.

## 8. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Ray reported the Park Board was reviewing the PROS Plan and Averill Field design, and associated funding concerns the Council may need to address in the future. The Public Safety Commission was looking forward to working with the Police Department and Fire District; however, there were questions and concerns over an assigned staff liaison. She supported frequent, one-on-one discussions between the Council and each Board.

Councilmember Kuleta visited the Terrace Avenue site upon invitation of a resident. She reported the Legislative session was reviewing clarification of police reform bills and affordable housing mandates.

Councilmember Flynn thanked staff for their presentations, and suggested the School District be considered as a member of the stakeholder group for housing funds.

Councilmember Burke shared Park Board discussions regarding Averill Field playground equipment, and concerns regarding use of park impact fees in areas underserved by

parks. Green Snohomish helped remove invasive plant species at Cady Landing, and thanked the community and City staff for their support in that effort.

Councilmember Guzak reported the School District levy ballots appears to be passing, with certification on February 18.

9. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S ITEMS/REPORTS:** For the upcoming budget workshop, Council President Merrill proposed following the same format for reviewing and setting goals as used for the last budget. He also walked the Walsh Hills area on invitation, and felt a robust solution and conversation was needed on sidewalks in the area. He reported Community Transit was reviewing its services.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schuller outlined the March 1, 2022 budget workshop and suggested modifying the regular meeting agenda to accommodate an extended workshop discussion. The modified agenda would only consist of Call to Order, Approve Agenda, Consent Items, Public Comments, and a single Action Item, before adjourning back to the workshop.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Flynn to amend the standard order of business for the March 1, 2022 regular meeting as suggested. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

11. **MAYOR’S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon thanked Council President Merrill for stepping into the role. She remarked on work done by the Second Chance Foundation in Everett relating to transitional housing, and suggested them as a resource for potential uses of the housing funds.

12. **ADJOURN.** There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED this 1st day of March, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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Linda Redmon, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, City Clerk