

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Adams, City Clerk and HR Manager
Debbie Burton, Finance Director
Emily Guildner, City Attorney's Office
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development and
Communications Manager
Keith Rogers, Police Chief
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and
Utility General Manager
Grant Weed, City Attorney
Brandi Whitson, Administrative Assistant

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, and reviewed additional emergency restrictions currently in place.
3. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

The Mayor called for a motion to amend the standard order of business to move Item 7. Other Business/Information before Item 5. Citizen Comments, to allow Citizen Comments, Councilmember and Mayor Comments, and remove all other items as stricken from tonight's agenda.

MOTION by Sanders, second by Ray to amend the standard order of business to move Item 7. Other Business/Information before Item 5. Citizen Comments, to allow Citizen Comments, Councilmember and Mayor Comments, and remove all other items as stricken from tonight's agenda. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. **APPROVE MINUTES** of the May 19, 2020 workshop and regular meeting.

MOTION by Sanders, second by Redmon to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 workshop and regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

7. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS** (*moved at beginning of meeting*): Update on Recent Events

Council President Sanders updated the public on the events of the past few days. He advised citizens' comments will be heard, but the Council will be unable to answer all questions at this time, due to aspects of these events being subject to investigation.

Police Chief Rogers provided a recap of events beginning Saturday, May 30, as well as describing ensuing decisions and actions, including ongoing investigations. Chief Rogers thanked neighboring police departments, Washington State Patrol, and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board for their assistance.

Councilmembers provided feedback and thanked Chief Rogers for the information. Several questioned the acquisition and consumption of alcohol along First Street by those seen carrying guns, to which Chief Rogers advised investigations are active.

Mr. Weed remarked on First Amendment rights, as well as noting Washington is an open carry state.

5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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

Citizen Comments: Ms. Adams read aloud five (5) written comments, and fifty-four (54) citizens provided oral comments, all regarding the protests and events of the past four days.

Citizen Comments: Closed

9. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS**: Council President Sanders requested his remarks be made at this time. He acknowledged and thanked all the citizens that provided comment, apologized for, and denounced events of the past weekend and questioned his role as a leader in the community. He conveyed his commitment to working with the Council and leadership teams to develop a course of action in response to recent events.

6. **CONSENT ITEM: AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #72885 through #72956 in the amount of \$1,079,352.64 and payroll checks #70117 through #72967 in the amount of \$450,198.54 issued since the last regular meeting

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

11. **MAYOR COMMENTS** Mayor Kartak provided comment at this point in the meeting, and thanked all the citizens who spoke, and read aloud his previously published statement.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS**: *Item moved to go after Approval of Minutes and before Citizen Comments (between Agenda Items 4 and 5) at beginning of meeting*

Mr. Schuller suggested, given the course of the meeting tonight, that the City Council recess to Executive Session rather than reconvening the workshop discussion. He requested Council's input on the proposal, to which the Council advised they would like to comment.

8. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Ray thanked all the speakers, stating she shares their views, does not condone racism nor the behaviors occurring on First Street, and feels the City needs to take a stronger stance on these issues. She believes City leaders have it within themselves to better serve the community, and encouraged citizens to continue to comment.

Councilmember Kuleta attended Saturday's protest and enjoyed gathering with the community in an open conversation. However, on Sunday, the presence of armed individuals consuming alcohol along First Street was extremely upsetting. She noted these individuals stole the narrative of what was previously achieved by the peaceful protests. She pressed the Council to do more, and take definitive action to demonstrate that Resolution 1389 is not just a piece of paper.

Councilmember Redmon recognized each commenter by name, apologized for not doing better as a leader, and promised future action and not just words. She voiced concern at the presence of militia-type people on First Street, apologized that citizens did not feel safe in their own community, and implored for change and action from the City's leaders.

Councilmember Merrill thanked all who spoke and acknowledged their courage in speaking out. He apologized for not having the words to express the immense impact the comments made upon him, but promised to make it known that white supremacy and racism are not welcome in Snohomish.

Councilmember Dana suggested the Council take time to reflect on all the comments provided, and develop a work plan for themselves, as well as the community. The events along First Street brought to light how serious the issues are, and he is committed to developing a process to resolve them.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS** *(Item removed from agenda at beginning of meeting)*

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

MOTION by Ray, second by Sanders to continue the Workshop at a later date, and recess the regular meeting to Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and legal risks of a proposed action or current practice, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), with possible action to follow. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Council recessed to Executive Session at 9:32 p.m. for 45 minutes, with no action to follow.

13. **RECONVENE and ADJOURN:** The regular meeting reconvened and adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

APPROVED this 16th day of June, 2020.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John T. Kartak, Mayor

Pat Adams, City Clerk