

**Snohomish City Council Emergency Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council emergency meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Adams, City Clerk and HR Manager
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and
Utility General Manager
Grant Weed, City Attorney

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT

Larry Countryman
Steve Dana

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:** City Attorney Grant Weed explained the basis for calling an emergency meeting, and suggested the following findings:

Whereas, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African-American, was suffocated to death in Minneapolis, by a white police officer kneeling on his neck for several minutes; and,

Whereas, this death and Mr. Floyd's pleas for air were caught on video that has since become viral; and,

Whereas, every day since the video was released, protestors across the United States have come out in support of the Black Lives Matter movement; and,

Whereas, in addition to the protests against police brutality, numerous violent and destructive protests have broken out in Washington State and across the country; and,

Whereas, locally, riots have broken out in Seattle and Bellevue, causing damage to persons and property; and,

Whereas, on May 30, 2020, Snohomish for Equity posted a peaceful demonstration supporting Black Lives Matter at Second Street and Avenue D in Snohomish; and,

Whereas, on May 31, 2020, rumors of a violent riot targeting First Street, unrelated to the peaceful Black Lives Matter protests, became known to the police and local citizens; and,

Whereas, the police responded with opening its Emergency Operations Center, and commissioned additional personnel, anticipating potential destruction to property and harm to persons; and,

Whereas, under the pretense of protecting small businesses, numerous individuals unaffiliated with the police, came to First Street openly displaying semi-automatic rifles and other weapons; and,

Whereas, many of the hundreds of individuals that showed up on First Street began openly drinking while carrying firearms, made statements intimidating local residents with overt racial statements and racial undertones; and,

Whereas, similar behavior and open carrying of semi-automatic rifles and of other weapons continued on June 1 and June 2, 2020; and,

Whereas, some of the behaviors on June 1 and June 2, 2020 included assaults on peaceful protestors, reckless driving, and continued verbal intimidation; and,

Whereas, on June 2, 2020, the Snohomish City Council opened citizen comment during its regularly scheduled Council meeting to listen to the concerns of local residents; and,

Whereas, dozens of citizens provided comment, expressing their terror at the number of armed men that occupied First Street and continued to remain in town; and,

Whereas, given the number of citizens that expressed they no longer feel safe in Snohomish, immediate action needs to be taken to prevent injury or damage to our citizens, community and businesses;

Now, therefore, the City Council of the City of Snohomish finds that an emergency situation exists, and a special meeting of the Council is needed to address next steps and actions to protect the citizens, community and businesses.

MOTION by Redmon, second by Kuleta to revise the second to last “Whereas” to reflect that not only were there citizen concerns about the armed individuals, but also that the armed individuals were making threats or using threatening language toward the citizens. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

MOTION by Sanders, second by Kuleta, to accept these findings, declare an emergency to exist, and to convene this special meeting of the City Council pursuant to RCW 42.30.070 and 080, and to immediately recess into executive session for one hour to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation and legal risks of proposed actions or current practice, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i), with possible action to follow. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Council recessed to Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. for one hour to discuss 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 (5-0).
4. **RECONVENE:** The emergency meeting reconvened at 12:20.

MOTION by Sanders, second by Redmon to authorize issuance of a letter by the City

City Council Emergency Meeting

June 3, 2020

Council to the community as discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

MOTION by Kuleta, second by Sanders to schedule a special meeting, with appropriate 24 hour notice, for 5 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2020. Motion passed unanimously (5-0)

5. **ADJOURN:**

MOTION by Ray, second by Merrill, to adjourn the emergency meeting at 12:27 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

APPROVED this 16th day of June, 2020.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John T. Kartak, Mayor

Pat Adams, City Clerk