

**Snohomish City Council Minutes  
June 6, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The meeting was held in hybrid format with in-person attendance at the Snohomish Carnegie, 105 Cedar Avenue, Snohomish, and remote online access via Zoom.

- a. Roll Call

**Present:** Councilmembers Lea Anne Burke, David Flynn, Karen Guzak, Judith Kuleta, Felix Neals, Tom Merrill, and Donna Ray; Mayor Linda Redmon

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

- a. Juneteenth Proclamation.

Mayor Redmon read a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth 2023.

- b. Pride Month Proclamation.

Mayor Redmon read a proclamation recognizing June 2023 as Pride Month.

- c. Main Street Week - Historic Downtown Snohomish Association (HDSA)

Maygen Hetherington, HDSA Executive Director, provided a slide show including an overview of HDSA's missions, board of directors, a description of the Washington State Main Street Program (HDSA is an affiliate member), community partners, volunteer team, sponsors, partner organizations, HDSA's progress since last year's presentation, PBIA management, membership options, newsletters, and social media growth. She also provided an overview of events, projects and programs planned for 2023-24.

Council received answers to questions, including:

- Full accreditation in the Main Street Program could lead to new funding resources, alleviating dependency on events.
- Economic vitality classes offered for local business owners, such as how to convert event visitors to customers.
- Identifying partners to be the most effective for HDSA and the City.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were received from 19 people related to the Pride Parade event last weekend. **Ival Salyer** and **David Andrews** commented on pedestrian safety on Terrace Avenue. **Jude Anderson, Snohomish Library Manager**, shared the library's summer reading program, themed "All together now". **Bonny Headley** commented on infrastructure projects, and replacement trees planted on Avenue B.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

Mayor Redmon requested an amendment to the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss legal risk on course of action pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i)(iii) and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii), with no action to follow.

**MOTION** by Merrill second by Neals to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Redmon called for a five-minute **RECESS**, to reconvene at 7:32 p.m.

## 5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. APPROVE minutes of the May 16, 2023 regular meeting.
- b. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #78871 through 78870 in the amount of \$684,088.22, issued since the last regular meeting; and payroll warrants issued May 5 through May 20, 2023.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Neals to PASS the Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

## 6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. University of Washington Livable City Year Program's Climate Project

Planning Director Brooke Eidem provided a brief background of the partnership with UW and the Livable City Year Program, and associated projects. Students participating in the project provided a slide show with information collected, and a preliminary overview of a final report they will soon present to Director Eidem. Information shared included project background and timeline, progress to date, and policy options and highlights. Information and recommendations provided could be used by staff and Council to help update the Economic Development and Environmental Protection Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Council asked questions, which students and staff answered. Many answers would be included in more detail in the final report, but questions generally touched on:

- Incentivizing heat pumps rather than natural gas, and other green building avenues.
- Measured used to determine vulnerability tiers.
- Methodology on short term versus long term projects, and which to start with.
- Prioritizing funds, and tracking return-of-investments.
- Equitable consideration of potential policy change impacts; identifying populations of concern.
- Encouraging partnerships with other agencies to address issues and solutions.
- Impacts changes at federal, state and county level could have on cities and other agencies.
- Identifying urban heat islands and developing mitigation practices, such as through site design standards and re-establishing tree canopies.

- b. Parks and Recreation Board 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program

Park and Recreation Board Chair Alice Armstrong shared action taken by the Board in

2022, and provided an overview of the Board's 2023 work program. Areas of interest and concern the Board hoped to address included PROS Plan update, dog parks, Centennial Trail maintenance, park security and vandalism.

Council, Board members and staff discussed:

- Incorporating PROS Plan into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Scheduling recurring workshops between the Council and Board.
- Clarifying the role of the Board and its members.
- Potentially expanding the scope of the Board, and other changes the Council was considering for all its advisory boards.

Councilmember Burke and Mayor Redmon thanked the Board members for their dedication and service to the City's park.

c. Middle Housing Analysis Update

Clay White with LDC provided an in-depth review and update of the middle housing analysis project, with a focus on menu of policy options the City could consider. Mr. White covered connection with the Comprehensive Plan update, possible impacts of new legislation, and strategies and actions. Six draft strategies were presented, with actions to develop, including existing reports or policies, references, and advantages and disadvantages of each.

At 8:49 p.m., **MOTION** by Neals, second by Merrill to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The strategies were:

- New state laws focused on middle housing;
- Incentivizing new housing;
- Reducing cost of development;
- Encouraging a wide variety of middle housing options;
- Improving the regulator environment for permits; and,
- Preventing and mitigation displacement

Council inquired about lot coverage, multifamily tax exemption or other incentives, adjusting densities, recent City code amendments to streamline permitting, conducting market analyses, area median income and wages, population targets, buildable land, and considering housing decisions in a full circle way.

d. Comprehensive Plan Engagement Update

Director Eidem provided a slideshow updating Council on actions staff have taken to engage the public with the Comprehensive Plan updates. Outreach included initiating a Civic Ambassador program, Climate Resiliency Advisory Board, the UW Livable City Year program, questionnaires and surveys, an upcoming Subarea Planning Design Workshop, Kids Design Snohomish program, and a "Our Future Snohomish" carnival in July.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Councilmember Kuleta inquired about newly planted trees at the wildlife refuge.

Councilmember Flynn remarked on hearing many concerns about pedestrian safety throughout the City. City Administrator Heather Thomas shared that radar signs have been installed along Pine Avenue, the First Street Master Plan process should help address issues downtown, and staff will be cleaning and striping other areas. Police Chief Rob Palmer added radar trailers were mobile and could be placed in areas that receive complaints, and suggested contacting the Police Department with location and time of day of issues so they could monitor the situation.

Council President Merrill requested a timeline of when Council will be engaged with the Comprehensive Plan updates, and inquired about opportunities for Council outreach with the community. Administrator Thomas invited Councilmembers to work with staff to schedule appearances at the City's Farmers Market booth, and to share any other ideas they might have.

## **8. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Neals remarked on comments received about last weekend's Pride events,

Councilmember Burke commented on last month's Park Board meeting, watering and native plants at Pilchuck Julia Landing, and thanked the Pride event organizers.

Councilmember Guzak also thanked the Pride event organizers, as well as those involved with the Veterans Memorial unveiling. She would share the latest meeting minutes from Snohomish County Tomorrow and Alliance for Housing Affordability with Council.

## **9. COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS**

Council President Merrill shared Governor Inslee declared June as Ride Transit Month, and supported Councilmembers Burke's and Guzak's comments about last weekend's events.

## **10. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Human Resources Manager Rebekah Park had provided a summary of recruitment and retention in the agenda packet for Council consideration.

## **11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Administrator Thomas shared the following:

- Public Work Director Nova Heaton Nova would provide updates to Council via email.
- Staff reviewed options to protect the log on the Carnegie grounds and will install ropes signs. It was determined plexiglass could invite graffiti.
- The Police and Fire Departments' rescheduled "Battle of the Badges" food drive was held earlier today, with the firefighters winning this year's competition.
- The City will host a send-off for retiring Police Chief Rob Palmer and a meet-and-greet with incoming Police Chief Mike Martin on June 20, just prior to the Council meeting.

## **12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Redmon thanked all who helped return the Veterans Memorial obelisk to the Carnegie grounds and for the Memorial Day unveiling. She also thanked the Pride event

organizers, and shared a book Emerson Elementary students sent to then-Governor Jeb Bush in Florida in 2003 urging Tokitae the orca be returned home.

13. **RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss legal risk on course of action pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i)(iii) and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii), with no action to follow.

**MOTION** by Ray, second by Burke to adjourn the meeting at the end of the Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Ray, to extend the meeting until 10:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

At 9:50 p.m., Council recessed for five minutes, and withdrew to Executive Session to begin at 9:55 p.m., providing time to transition between meeting spaces. Session to last ten minutes, until 10:05 p.m.

13. **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

APPROVED this 20th day of June, 2023.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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Linda Redmon, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, City Clerk