

**Snohomish City Council Workshop Minutes
June 21, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Workshop Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2022. 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.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

Lea Anne Burke
David Flynn
Karen Guzak
Judith Kuleta (*arr. 5:02*)
Tom Merrill
Felix Neals (*remote*)
Donna Ray
Linda Redmon, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT

Brooke Eidem, Planner
Shari Ireton, Director of Community
Engagement & Strategic Initiatives
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
Heather Thomas, City Administrator
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

2. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Council Goals

Council President Merrill provided a spreadsheet listing the goals, and sharing accomplishments and actions taken towards each. He suggested the Council review the goals one at a time, providing any updates or comments.

Goal 1 -- Expand Community Involvement and Communication

Councilmember Kuleta reported the “Coffee with a Councilmember” events were less formal for conversations with the public, and have been a positive experience overall. The Town Halls have been successful as well.

Goal 2 -- Economic and Business Recovery

Council President Merrill recapped work done during the pandemic to assist local businesses. Council and staff discussed:

- Allocations of ARPA funds; staff will provide further updates at the July 5 meeting.
- New staff positions to help monitor and find ways to utilize ARPA funds.
- Outreach to those that may not have been reached yet.
- Impacts of inflation and work force issues; clarification from State on flexibility of fund use.
- Emergency management helping to identify vulnerables and potential fund uses.
- Use the latest census data now available and business licenses to review home occupations versus storefronts.

Goal 3 -- Update Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Ray commented on the Public Safety Commission and reports from the Design Review Board (DRB). Considerable work is needed for other committees, such as the Economic Development Committee (EDC). The Council discussed:

- Economic Development Manager was hired, replacing much of what the EDC did.
- Establishing by-laws for Boards and Commissions.
- On-going training, certifications, and other support for Board and Commission members.
- Board and Commission deliverables; consistent reporting back to Council.

- Consideration of staff time and City resources needed to support Boards and Commissions.
- Council specifying directions and projects for each Board or Commission; help them understanding their role and expectations.
- Clearly-defined roles and expectations also help with recruitment; volunteers can better understand commitment levels.
- Consider abandoning a Board or Commission if there is no reason for it to move forward.

Goal 4 -- Promote Community Involvement in Public Safety

Councilmember Ray described the status of the Public Safety Commission with their revised goals and focus, and collaboration with the Police and Fire Departments. They are currently focusing on Neighborhood Watch Programs, and hope to take part in this year's National Night Out.

Goal 5 - Extend Sewer North of Blackman Lake

Council President Merrill remarked on the subarea study referenced at the last meeting. Council discussed potential funding sources.

Goal 6 -- Investigate Barriers to Accessible Housing Initiatives

Council President Merrill commented on the Midtown planning and ongoing efforts with the County and AHA on tools and incentives for development. Council briefly discussed the multifamily property tax deferral program, and staff will present an update on the HB1590 sales tax use during the regular meeting.

Goal 7 - Foster Environmental Sustainability

Council President Merrill outlined projects the City has accomplished, including native plantings at Pilchuck Julia Landing and electric car chargers. The Council discussed other actions and accomplishments:

- Environmental considerations when discussing Midtown.
- Partner with Republic Services for annual clean-up.
- Tree inventory; uses of the information collected.
- Public outreach and education; resume Town Halls, Snohomish 101 or other City-wide event on conservation.
- Community groups interested in helping around the City.
- Promote solar energy, water conservation and other utility programs.
- City staff to resume attending Farmers Market for public outreach.
- Including noxious weeds education with public outreach.
- Include environmental-related topics in the Quarterly Magazine.
- Include environmental-related topic as part of Board and Commission roles.
- Address climate resiliency, not just sustainability.
- Educating the public on plastics and recycling; request update from Republic.
- Potential Earth Day event next year.

Goal 8 -- Create 2022-2027 City of Snohomish Strategic Plan

The Council briefly discussed the need to update the Strategic Plan knowing the Comprehensive Plan will need updating in 2024. Ideas considered included:

- Set Board and Commission goals consistent with the Strategic Plan.
- Review Strategic Plan for outdated information.
- Eliminate, or combine Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan.
- Update the existing Strategic Plan rather than completely rewrite it, knowing the Comprehensive Plan is due for an update.
- Having a Strategic Plan can help secure funding and grant opportunities.

Goal 9 -- Extend Broadband Citywide

Council President Merrill remarked on Ziplly Fiber’s work throughout the City on broadband infrastructure, but unknown in terms of equity--was everyone being reached. Ms. Thomas reported the County was issuing an RFP for a full County assessment, including cities; the information from which could be helpful for the City to utilize. Council President Merrill suggested the City consider infrastructure in terms of economic development as well.

Goal 10 -- South Urban Growth Area (UGA)

Council and staff briefly discussed the UGA, generally feeling unless development was economically viable, it was too expensive for the City to maintain the bridge and utilities. The County relaxed some rules for the area, but maintaining the density fringe area impacted potential development. Large hurdles existed in annexation consideration as well, and potential, though limited, expansion of the airfield.

3. **ADJOURN:** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED this 5th day of July, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
June 21, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2022. 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.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Brennan Collins, Project Manager
Tim Cross, Public Works Operations Manager
Brooke Eidem, Planner
Emily Guildner, City Attorney
Shari Ireton, Director of Community Engagement
& Strategic Initiatives
Yosh Monzaki, City Engineer
Rob Palmer, Police Chief
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
James Pullen, Division Lead - Parks
Heather Thomas, City Administrator
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

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

MOTION by Guzak, second by Burke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

3. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. AMEND SMC 5.36 Solicitors and Canvassers - ADOPT Ordinance 2447
- b. ADD New SMC Chapter 2.38 Mayor, to Define Duties, Role and Powers of the Office of Mayor - ADOPT Ordinance 2448
- c. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Contract for the 2022 Kla Ha Ya Days Festival
- d. APPROVE minutes of the June 7, 2022 special and regular meetings
- e. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #77013 through #77081 in the amount of \$1,248,945.31, issued since the last regular meeting.

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

4. **PRESENTATION:** Pride Month Proclamation

Mayor Redmon read a proclamation declaring June 2022 as Pride Month in Snohomish.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Morgan Davis commented on the number of units and allowed density in Midtown.

Mike Edwards, Snohomish Lions, commented on the Lions Club's Kla Ha Ya Days Beer Garden.

John Kartak commented on the divisiveness of the Pride Month Proclamation.

Fred Gibbs questioned permit approval for outdoor seating during Kla Ha Ya Days for downtown businesses.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. AMEND SMC 14.240.060 Related to Fence and Retaining Wall Height - ADOPT Ordinance 2437

Mr. Pickus provided background of the proposed Ordinance, which corrected errors related to fence heights, and established retaining wall height based on the lowest necessary to achieve its function, rather than a specified height.

Councilmember Neals inquired if any retaining wall permits were denied. Mr. Pickus explained the Code provided for an administrative variance, which he used to approve an application, and also prompted the proposed revision.

Councilmember Flynn inquired if future variances would be impacted. Mr. Pickus clarified that variances would not be needed if the specified height limit was removed.

Public Comment: None.

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Merrill, second by Guzak to ADOPT Ordinance 2437 amending SMC 14.240.060 to re-establish a maximum height for fences located in rear-yard setback areas and to remove the maximum height limit on retaining walls located in setback areas. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- b. AMEND Title 14 SMC to Remove References to Repealed Chapter 14.205 SMC - ADOPT Ordinance 2438

Mr. Pickus provided background of the proposed ordinance amending various sections of Title 14 and creating a new Chapter 14.205 Business Park. He explained Chapter 14.205 was repealed, but references to it were still present elsewhere in the Code. Also, the proposed new chapter for Business Park (BP) would restore regulatory language that previously existed in Chapter 14.205.

Public Comment:

Joshua Scott commented on allowing residential uses in the Business Park zone through separate permitting, and architectural design considerations.

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Guzak asked if Mr. Pickus would address Mr. Scott's comment. Mr. Pickus explained in the BP zone, residential use area could not surpass commercial use area, and constructing together ensured all uses could be measured. The intent of the BP zone was not to provide housing; however, the Planning Commission could review options to allow housing if Council wished them to. The proposed ordinance merely restored what was previously in the code and was not creating new regulations.

Councilmember Guzak questioned common architectural design. Mr. Pickus replied that only applied to non-contiguous development, and the Planning Commission could review provisions on this and report back.

Councilmember Ray inquired how long the provisions were missing from the Code, and if there were any existing issues. Mr. Pickus answered since November 2021, and the section had only been used once with Snohomish Station.

Councilmember Neals suggested the topic was a question of growth management, and how to manage an area when an opportunity to build on a parcel existed. One should contemplate highest and best use of the property, and the needs for the commercial areas that housing may complement. He felt it worthwhile for the Planning Commission to take up the topic.

MOTION by Guzak, second by Flynn to ADOPT Ordinance 2438 amending Title 14 Snohomish Municipal Code to correct references to the repealed Chapter 14.205 SMC including creating a new Chapter 14.211 SMC, Business Park. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Pickus requested clarification that Council would like the Planning Commission to deliberate residential uses, as discussed. Councilmember Neals confirmed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Housing, Mental Health and Related Services Sales Tax Update

Ms. Eidem provided an update on the Sales and Use tax as authorized under HB1590. She provided a brief background on the task group, their meetings, recommendations, and potential funding sources. The recommendations fell into three main categories:

- Service gaps
- Priority populations of focus
- Ideas for new or enhanced ideas/programs

Ms. Eidem described the next step of public outreach to receive feedback, which could include polling, surveys and other options for those that cannot make in-person events.

Councilmember Neals asked if the recommendations were prioritized and had any supporting data. Ms. Eidem explained populations to serve through HB1590 funds were prioritized, but potential services were not. The task group did not have data at this time.

Council President Merrill expressed wanting to see data that supported the outcome, especially closer to the City. He remarked members of the group were from the County and wanted to ensure the focus was on City issues. He inquired about childcare services. Ms. Eidem replied childcare was one of the service needs, but did not receive consensus amongst the group, although they did acknowledge the need. It was possible that during public outreach, the options may be refocused to address needs more local to Snohomish. Council President Merrill remarked ranking of housing and homelessness or near-homelessness may change when looking closer at the City as opposed to County. Councilmember Kuleta concurred, as the recommendations seemed rather broad. She pondered how to reach out to groups to identify them, as some did not always ask for help.

Public Comment:

Ray Cook, Snohomish Affordable Housing Group (SAHG), commented on the importance of providing safe and affordable housing.

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Guzak thanked Ms. Eidem for the update, and remarked on Mr. Cook's comments. She's looking forward to addressing the issues.

b. National Guard Street Vacation Request

Mr. Monzaki provided background of the vacation request, details of the parcel, and historic use of the Armory. The next step would involve drafting a resolution to set a public hearing date, after which the Council could discuss compensation and any other requirements. He asked for Council to provide direction on if they would like to proceed.

Council President Merrill asked why the vacation was not requested sooner. Mr. Monzaki answered the Armory was looking to expand its building, which was already in the right-of-way, but a permit could not be issued until the matter was addressed.

Councilmember Guzak inquired about the potential for landscaping or screening. Mr. Monzaki replied the proposed building location would leave grass along Avenue D.

Councilmember Burke requested clarification of the right-of-way use agreement. Mr. Monzaki explained the Fire Department was to the north, on property owned by the City. The City cannot vacate the entire width to one property, but rather split between the two neighboring parcels. The right-of-way use agreement resolved that issue.

Councilmember Neals questioned if heavier equipment would be brought in. Mr. Monzaki replied he was not sure.

Council President Merrill remarked on second growth pine trees on the parcel, and questioned if the City had any influence on them. Mr. Pickus explained if the vacation happened, the project would not be brought back to Council. Staff could bring the trees to the applicant's attention, though he was not sure what their specific plans were.

Councilmember Flynn inquired if the City could regard this as a gift and if so, could trees and landscaping be negotiable. Mr. Monzaki replied the City could gift the parcel and the ordinance could address those types of conditions. Ms. Guildner advised since dealing with another government entity, the City had more flexibility in compensation, and had the ability to reduce or waive compensation altogether.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Neals supported moving forward and reminded Council there was a utility purpose to the property when considering landscaping. Mr. Pickus stated he would inquire about the applicant's intention towards the trees.

c. Gazebo Landscape Plan

Mr. Collins provided an update on the gazebo repair, describing the Design Review Board's approved work and Council's condition that the trees be retained. He explained one tree was declared a hazard tree and would be removed, but the other two would remain. The DRB would help select an appropriate replacement tree. Staff would review landscaping and future design to include an ADA ramp. The contractor volunteering the work was looking forward to the project, and hoped to have it completed by the Kla Ha Ya Days festival.

The Council asked several questions regarding the removal of the tree, who designated it as a hazard, and the best replacement. Mr. Cross explained the tree had been pruned some time ago which caused awkward growth and a weak point. The tree also contributed to biomass buildup on, and subsequent degradation of, the roof. There was also a hydrant nearby that could be impacted by the tree roots, and concerns existed over damage should the tree fall. Removing the entire tree or leaving the stump and roots would be evaluated, as would locating the best location of one or more replacement trees.

Mr. Collins confirmed the contractor would begin work as soon as their schedule allowed.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis commented on the cedar roof and supported retaining all trees.

Alice Armstrong questioned impact to the slope behind the gazebo if trees were removed.

Fred Gibbs, HDSA, objected to not being involved in the project, and stated use of Trex violated Historic District design standards.

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Guzak remarked on her trust in the DRB to take the project to the next phase.

Councilmember Kuleta thanked Nordic for volunteering the project. She supported consideration of multiple replacement trees to help retain bank stabilization.

Councilmember Burke commented on extended landscaping plans to address the slope as well. She suggested considering connections to the river trail as plans moved forward.

Councilmember Neals supported Mr. Cross's recommendations, and noted significant wind events and their impact on trees over the past year.

Councilmember Burke suggested a larger replacement tree may not transplant well and take longer to establish. Ms. Thomas remarked Mr. Pullen, Parks Lead, had landscaping experience, and the Parks crew would look at the site and solicit feedback on recommended species.

d. Blackmans Lake Aquatic Plants

Mr. Monzaki provided background of the topic of detection and removal of invasive aquatic plants. He described the proposed work of divers to remove curly leaf pond weed and survey the area. A study was needed to address blue-green algae blooms and best initial treatments, with a follow-up treatment schedule determined as part of that study. Staff would investigate grant funding to help cover study and treatment costs.

Councilmember Neals questioned what was currently done to mitigate the issues. Mr. Monzaki answered the diving services would take care of the curly leaf pond weed, and ongoing monitoring for algae blooms, with signs and website notifications posted if any were detected.

Councilmember Kuleta asked if inflow issues exacerbated the problems, and voiced concern on spending funds if the cause of the problems was not resolved. Mr. Monzaki replied the adoption of the 2019 stormwater manual required new development to construct stormwater detention facilities to treat runoff, which would help address the issue.

Councilmember Burke inquired if the standards helped address lake temperature. Mr. Monzaki suggested the underground detention facilities could help cool water runoff before leaving the site.

Council President Merrill asked if Friends of Blackmans Lake had performed any outreach with lake residents on reducing fertilizer and phosphate use on lawns. Mr. Monzaki had no response from them.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Burke supported any actions to address the public health issues the lake conditions can inflict, given the close proximity to parks and homes.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:** Council President Merrill encouraged Councilmembers to make note of goals to discuss at upcoming budget workshops.

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

Councilmember Ray spoke to the progress of the Public Safety Commission.

Councilmember Kuleta was working on August's Artwalk with Ms. Ireton.

Councilmember Neals observed when talking about committees, the issues before them were broad and Council should consider collaborations between them.

Councilmember Flynn thanked Ms. Eidem for her work on the housing task group, and for consolidating their thoughts. The Snohomish Senior Center was hosting a pickleball tournament this weekend at the Boys & Girls Club.

Councilmember Burke expressed appreciation for the Pride Month proclamation. She described Snohomish as a community that prided itself on celebrating many different things,

including diversity and its value and history. She hoped this was a first step in addressing forms of discrimination and violence.

Councilmember Guzak attended AHA and SCT meetings, and the 30th anniversary dinner for SAHG, outlining the number of affordable housing units constructed in Snohomish. She was glad to see projects for the City and SAHG to work together in a mutually-beneficial partnership.

10. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill agreed with Councilmember Guzak's comments, and supported SAHG's efforts in sustaining affordable rent. He disagreed with the Proclamation being divisive, but rather it exemplified Snohomish as a welcoming community.

11. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Ms. Thomas shared the following:

- The second ARPA payment of \$1.4 million was scheduled to arrive next week. Staff will present fund allocations to Council next month.
- City staff was seeing a growing number of high utility balances slated for shutoff, and was working on a code amendment to consider expanding options for payment arrangements.
- Vandalism continues to intensify--the picnic shelter at Hill Park has been repainted three times in the last two weeks. Excessive trash is seen as well. She requested community members leave the parks better than found.
- The Senior Center HVAC/Roof project was progressing well.
- Damage at the South Zone Reservoir has been repaired and back in service. She thanked the crews who had to go out daily to monitor and test.
- Public Works crews were working hard. They extended their appreciation for the increased staff to better handled the work. Their new asset management software should be fully operational later this summer.
- Parks and Water positions were filled, and other positions open for recruitment.

12. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon thanked staff for participating with the Department of Emergency Management's Cascadia Rising exercise. The scenario revealed Snohomish would be a population island and its own sole support for several days. The City will review its emergency response and recovery plans. She reported the following:

- Networking continues with HDSA and other economic developments along the Snohomish-Skykomish corridor.
- Event season was beginning, with Kla Ha Ya Days, soccer events and more. She expressed her appreciation to staff for supporting the organizations' efforts, and remarked on future review of the special event application procedures.
- Hot Cakes and Hoedown has been postponed.
- National Night Out is August 2.
- Artwalk is August 18 at the Carnegie.
- The Youth Council will host an ice cream eating contest at Kla Ha Ya Days.

13 **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVED this 5th day of July, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk