

**Snohomish City Council Minutes  
September 6, 2022**

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

Emily Guildner, City Attorney  
Shari Ireton, Director of Community  
Engagement & Strategic Initiatives  
Scott James, Finance Director  
Shirah McDonald, Administrative Assistant  
Yosh Monzaki, City Engineer  
Rob Palmer, Police Chief  
Rebekah Park, HR Manager  
Glen Pickus, Planning Director  
Heather Thomas, City Administrator  
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

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

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Merrill to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of a discussion of potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to the Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

3. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Opioid Settlement MOU
- b. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Contract with JB Asphalt for the North Bickford Avenue Overlay Project
- c. APPROVE minutes of the August 16, 2022 regular meeting
- d. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #77327 through #77421 in the amount of \$389,733.66, issued since the last regular meeting; and payroll claim warrants #500 - #525, #608 - #736, #575 - #581, #744 - #747, #1130 - #1182, & #2156 - #2204, in the amount of \$679,537.12 issued July 5 through August 20, 2022.

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. District 5 Update - County Councilmember Sam Low

Councilmember Low provided an update on happenings in Snohomish County District 5:  
• Vacancy on the County Council.

- Evergreen Fair in Monroe had record attendance.
- Snohomish River Bridge project going out to bid with expected start in 2026.
- Health District integration proceeding.
- County and City partnership for Averill Park.
- County's ARPA funds of approximately \$160 million (covered purchase of hotels).
- Use of sales tax for housing options and other proposals (i.e. for mental health).
- Public works property final bids out next month.

Council asked questions:

- Use of the Health District building to continue.
- Stress on infrastructure with County growth alleviated by upcoming highway projects with WSDOT.
- Use of the former mill site south of the river, airport, density fringe.
- Fewer exhibitors at the Fair due to pandemic or overlapping dates with the Washington State Fair in Puyallup; exhibitors had to choose one or the other to attend.

Councilmember Low encouraged the City Council to pursue Transportation Improvement Board funding, to be awarded in December.

b. Transportation Benefit District Annual Report

Mr. Monzaki provided background of the TBD program, which was initially approved by voters in 2011 and reauthorized in 2021. Approximately \$9.2 million has been collected since 2012, with \$3.1 million spent, and approximately \$5.5 mil in grant awards. Some of the projects covered by TBD funds include the Bickford Avenue bridge overlay and the roundabout at 15th Street and Avenue D. He noted the price of asphalt was increasing, so the City was asked to delay paving Avenue D between First and Second Streets, in hopes that prices go down. That project is now expected for 2023, with additional funding sources available as well. Upcoming projects include Bickford Avenue/Ridge Avenue roundabout study, paving of Bickford Avenue from Weaver to 30th, and the Second Street/Pine Avenue traffic signal replacement. Pedestrian ADA improvements will be included, with the ADA transition plan underway.

Council asked questions, which Mr. Monzaki addressed:

- Condition of Avenue A between Tenth and 13th Streets and anticipated projects.
- Equitable prioritization of projects based on pavement condition in a variety of locations, not just single areas.
- Increased traffic and its effect on pedestrian safety reviewed as part of the Transportation Master Plan section of the Comprehensive Plan update, not the TBD.
- Radar speed signs to be installed along Maple Avenue.

c. Q2 Financial Update

Mr. James provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial update. He shared revenues and expenditures compared to 2021, fund balance trends, ending fund balances, and investment status.

Some questions and comments raised included:

- Spending not very high and some fund balances seem high because associated CIP projects have not yet started. Balances will likely decrease as projects are completed, as outlined in the Six Year TIP.
- City staff working on different reporting features so Council can see how these types of projects affect the budget.

- Alternative sources to offset reduced gas tax revenues; consideration of electric vehicle fees since they still use the same streets, toll roads.
- Staff prioritizing current City fleet for replacement.
- Budget calculator and spreadsheets will be shared as budget talks continue.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Morgan Davis** inquired about MFTE outreach efforts for the September 20 public hearing. **Paul Kaftanski** supported the MFTE program only if affordable units were provided.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. AMEND Ch. 14.212 Pilchuck District to Clarify Code - ADOPT Ordinance 2451

Mr. Pickus provided background and details of the proposed code amendment, which fixed errors in SMC 14.212.170, and addressed other points of clarification for developers in the Pilchuck District.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Closed.

**MOTION** by Burke, second by Guzak to ADOPT Ordinance 2451 amending Chapter 14.212 SMC to improve the clarity of the chapter, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Council President Merrill thanked staff for efforts to improve the application process.

**VOTE on MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- b. SET Public Hearing Date for Consideration of Spruce Street/Cypress Avenue Vacation Request - PASS Resolution 1435

Mr. Monzaki provided background on the request by the Snohomish Soccer Club, first brought before Council in 2015. The Club continued discussing options with City staff, and are now proposing a property exchange and easement. Mr. Monzaki explained the vacation process and how the request met those parameters. The dedicated areas could be used for a future trail connection from Pilchuck Park to Pilchuck Julia Landing, although an easement would still be needed from the neighboring condominium association. Additionally, the easement may allow the City to consider connecting the restrooms at Pilchuck Park to the sewer on Pine, rather than the pump station north of the park. He clarified that tonight's requested action by Council was only to pass the resolution setting the public hearing date.

Councilmember Neals inquired what would happen if the condominiums did not allow an easement. Mr. Monzaki explained their property extended from Pine to the Pilchuck River, and that without an easement, connecting the parks would not be possible.

Councilmember Flynn asked who maintained the proposed dedication and street frontage. Mr. Monzaki responded the soccer club currently did, but that would change to the City if the exchange occurred.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Closed.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Neals to ADOPT Resolution 1435 setting a public hearing on October 4, 2022 to consider the vacation of a portion of Spruce Street and Cypress Avenue and request for compensation. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

7. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:** Councilmember Ray shared a request that was presented to the Public Safety Commission regarding Neighborhood Watch signs. She suggested that with the Commission's efforts to develop the program, it would be important to dedicate funds to help neighborhoods purchase and install signs in appropriate locations. Ms. Ireton stated the topic would be presented at the next Public Safety Commission meeting, and the information would be shared with Council as well.

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

Councilmember Ray provided an update for the Public Safety Commission, and the Park Board was still working on the PROS Plan update.

Councilmember Kuleta commented on the successful Artwalk, and thanked City staff and the community members that were involved in organizing, setting up and directing the event.

Councilmember Neals remarked on the variety of attractions Snohomish held for people as evidenced by the recent Artwalk and Block Party. He mentioned discussions related to reviewing a permanent location of the Farmers Market.

Councilmember Flynn expressed appreciation for the Artwalk and Block Party and how they exemplified a diverse and accepting community by providing something for everyone. He also thanked Chief Palmer for ensuring the events were all safe and inviting for visitors.

Councilmember Burke reported the Snohomish Conservation District received extra funding to replace vegetation destroyed by cows at Pilchuck Julia Landing.

Councilmember Guzak shared demographic data from 2017 related to Snohomish's home ownership and rental situation. She reported on the upcoming Lions Club's Mad Hatter Croquet Tournament and Green Snohomish's Fall Historic Tree Tour.

9. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill reported meeting with City staff about the future expectations of the Economic Development Committee. He also requested Council provide any suggestions on their goals so they can be finalized at the special meeting on September 13.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Ms. Thomas shared the following:
- Introduced new staff member Shirah McDonald, Administrative Assistant, and announced Paul Morse would be rejoining the City in the Streets Department.
  - Thanked Councilmembers Kuleta and Flynn for the Artwalk. Staff received rave reviews for the event and planning for next year has already started.
  - She met with Councilmembers Guzak and Flynn about the next "Coffee with the Council."
  - A grand re-opening of the refurbished gazebo was planned for September 15 at 5:30 p.m.
  - Outreach efforts for the MFTE public hearing launched today on the City's website and

social media, and postcards were mailed out.

- The Fall issue of the Snohomish Quarterly will be released next month and will feature available resources and services.

11. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon thanked those involved with the Snohomish Block Party, reported that a diver would soon work to extract curly leaf pondweed from Blackmans Lake, and shared partnering with the County to recognize September as National Preparedness Month.

Mayor Redmon reminded Council of the special meeting for September 13, 2022, at 6 p.m., to discuss Council goals and future operations of the Carnegie.

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

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to DISCUSS pending litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i); Potential Real Estate Acquisition, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) or the Minimum Price to be Offered for Real Estate, under 42.30.110(1)(c); and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) as added at the beginning of the meeting. No action to follow.

At 7:47 p.m., Council withdrew to Executive Session to begin at 7:50 p.m., providing time to transition between meeting spaces. Session to last for 25 minutes until 8:15 p.m.

At 8:15, Ms. Thomas announced extension of the Executive Session for 15 minutes, to 8:30 p.m.

12 **ADJOURN.** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED this 20th day of September, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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Linda Redmon, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, City Clerk