

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
October 4, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, 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
Nova Heaton, Public Works Director
Shari Ireton, Director of Community
Engagement & Strategic Initiatives
Shirah McDonald, Administrative Assistant
Yosh Monzaki, City Engineer
Rob Palmer, Police Chief
Rebekah Park, HR Manager
Heather Thomas, City Administrator
Nikki Thompson, City Attorney

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. ADOPT City Council Goals 2023-2024
- b. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Special Event Permit Contract for 2022 River Run
- c. APPROVE minutes of the September 20, 2022 regular meeting
- d. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #77489 - 77580 in the amount of \$700,298.79, issued since the last regular meeting; and payment of payroll claim warrants #865 - 870, #3259 - 3368, in the amount of \$386,000.32, issued September 5 through September 20, 2022.

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ed Engel, Snohomish County Transportation Coalition, advocated for community transportation needs.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Spruce Street/Cypress Avenue Vacation Request

- a. Announce purpose and open public hearing. Mayor Redmon opened the public hearing and introduced Mr. Monzaki.

b. Staff presentation. Mr. Monzaki provided background on the request by the Snohomish Soccer Club, first brought before Council in 2015. The soccer club owned all the property adjacent to the vacation area, and no properties would be landlocked in the exchange of easements. He pointed out that the City would be getting more land than the City was giving up, and that the land could potentially be used to build a trail to Pilchuck Park.

c. Council's questions of staff.

Councilmember Burke was concerned whether an agreement had been made with the condominium complex, which needed to relinquish a portion of its easement for the trail to go through. Mr. Monzaki explained the condominium complex had not been approached, and would likely not be until the City had funding. Even though it could take five to ten years before the trail connection could be made, staff felt the property exchange was still worth pursuing.

Councilmember Flynn asked who would pay for the fence between the trail and the soccer field. Mr. Monzaki responded that since the property belonged to the City, the City would bear the financial responsibility for the fence.

Council President Merrill wondered why there was a request for the land swap now. Mr. Monzaki replied the soccer club had been using City property for years, and was now ready to make improvements.

d. Public testimony. There was no public testimony.

e. Close public testimony. Mayor Redmon closed public testimony.

f. Council deliberation. Councilmember Burke expressed concern that the condominium complex might not grant the City an easement. She cited another case with the Centennial Trail where the property owner pushed back, though the City had established a right-of-way. Mr. Monzaki explained specific right-of-way descriptions would be attached to any future ordinance. Council was favorable to hearing more on this issue.

g. Close public hearing. Mayor Redmon closed the hearing.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

a. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreements, and PASS Resolution 1440 for Non-represented Employees

Ms. Park referred Council to the Collective Bargaining Agreements that had been reached with the City's Public Works and Office Technical bargaining units. She also noted that Resolution 1440 would give the same benefits to non-represented staff.

Public Comment: None

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Merrill, second by Guzak to AUTHORIZE the Mayor to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreements, and PASS Resolution 1440 for Non-represented Employees. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. **AUTHORIZE** Filling 1.0 Term-limited Planner Position, not to exceed 6 months

Ms. Park provided background of the proposal for Council to authorize a limited duration Planner position due to the City's current Planning Director Glen Pickus's retirement. She explained that the financial package the City was offering was in hopes that it could attract candidates in the current job market. Funding the interim Planner for the rest of 2022 would cost the City \$16,000.

Councilmember Neals asked what the current market looked like, and whether there were agencies that could fill the position temporarily. Ms. Parks explained that the current job market was difficult because many planning directors were retiring. Those in positions below director were being promoted from within, leaving a gap in experienced planners.

Council President Merrill wondered if the salary would be enough. Ms. Park responded that by offering the salary and benefits as advertised, she was hoping to draw in candidates just about to retire; they were most likely to consider a short-term position.

Councilmember Guzak noted that the Planning Department currently had a full workload, and most likely would need the help. Councilmember Burke queried the use of planning software instead of personnel.

Public Comment:

Jim Lewis supported Ms. Eidem as Mr. Pickus's temporary replacement during the recruitment process.

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Burke, second by Guzak to AUTHORIZE Filling 1.0 Term-limited Planner Position, not to exceed 6 months. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a. Transportation Priorities Update

Ms. Heaton and Mr. Monzaki provided details related to the City's Transportation Priorities Update, as provided in the agenda packet. Topics covered included the ADA Transition Plan, working with property owners to repair sidewalks, and an online public survey to help prioritize designation for repair by cost and schedule. They also discussed potential code revisions, the amount of repair needed to the aging infrastructure, and funding such repairs. A number of options for Terrace Avenue, including the possibility of a second access point at 22nd Street, were also discussed, as well as a Complete Street program.

Councilmembers asked questions discussed and received answers from Ms. Heaton on the following topics:

- Areas of the City that did not currently have sidewalks would be prioritized in order of need on a City repair list. Staff planned to build non-existing sidewalks into its Complete Streets policy. Priorities would be set (i.e. population density, schools) once the City had the results of the public outreach campaign. Equity and transparency would be a top priority.
- The Complete Streets program could be a funding mechanism for sidewalk repair if the City was nominated by either WSDOT or the Snohomish Health District.
- Complete Streets would be brought forward for Council action in either December 2022 or January 2023 in the form of a resolution indicating intent to create a program.
- The City could not use TBD funds for sidewalk repair; only for pavement preservation or intersections, though improvements may include updates to sidewalks and/or curbs.
- Funding through Public Works Trust Fund or developer requirements/options.
- There were currently no processes or options to put sidewalk repair on title transfers, though City staff would look into state laws to see if a title transfer could be a viable option for funding.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis suggested removing the stop sign at 19th Street and Bickford Avenue. **Jim Lewis** commented on improving infrastructure during construction and the need for more sidewalks.

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Guzak encouraged City staff to keep pursuing avenues for funding, and thanked City staff for investigating the Complete Streets program. Council agreed that they would like to see this issue come back to Council.

b. Potential Phasing of Averill Field Park Improvements

Mr. Collins updated Council on the Averill Field Project by offering them three options to consider. He asserted that City staff hoped to finish the design and development stage so they could move into the contract document stage. He detailed the three options:

1. Playground Only (\$1.23 million)
2. Playground and Pickleball Courts (\$1.43 million)
3. Playground and Sports Courts (\$1.51 million)

Councilmembers asked questions and staff answered on the topic, including:

- Averill Field would receive no additional funding from the Parks Impact Fees because the City's Park fund was almost "tapped out."
- The need for additional sports courts was considered.
- In the event of cost overruns, a 15% contingency was built into the budget. If it is projected to go over budget, staff would have to come back to Council.
- Doing the project all at once was a more efficient use of funds. If the project were done in phases, the City would have to pay the contractor roughly \$67,000 for each new mobilization. Any of Averill Field's three options would drain the general Park fund.
- Only initial planning work had been done for Homestead or Cady Landing. Most of

the major improvements were directed to Averill Field.

Councilmember Burke noted she would like to have a written, equitable policy on how parks were prioritized going forward.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis commented on funding the City Shop rather than Averill Field.

Jack Hedgecock, Snohomish Pickleball Group, suggested adding six to eight additional pickleball courts throughout the City.

Terry Lippincott, Snohomish Carnegie Foundation, supported development of Averill Field and suggested additional funding for the Snohomish Carnegie.

Public Comment Closed.

Councilmember Ray commented that she would like to see the project go forward. Council President Merrill expressed concern about all the expensive initiatives Council was considering and their impact on the General Fund. Councilmember Burke was worried about the General Fund too, but recognized that delaying construction would not reduce the cost. Councilmember Neals said that if the City had come this far, he would like to see the project go all the way. Councilmember Guzak asserted that Snohomish citizens were waiting for Council to do something like this project. She supported obtaining an original bid, and then consider the add-ons. Councilmember Flynn also believed the City should complete the project. The Council mutually agreed to move forward on Averill Field, with the final contract and costs coming before Council before proceeding

8. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:** Councilmember Kuleta asked if anyone might be interested in taking her place as a liaison for Snohomish for Equity, due to scheduling conflicts with the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Flynn inquired about the Bickford Avenue bridge after roundabout construction. Mr. Monzaki shared that design work had not yet started on the 19th and Bickford project. Traffic flows and impacts from the roundabout would first be considered.

Councilmember Flynn also expressed concerns about the political signs at the roundabout on Avenue D. He would like this roundabout to be made into a “no sign” zone for safety. City Attorney Nikki Thompson explained that the roundabout was currently within the right-of-way, but that the code could be reviewed to consider excluding gateway areas.

Councilmember Burke asked that an update on the City tree process and committee be brought to Park Board. She questioned if the Park Board would play a role in creating a tree code.

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

Councilmember Guzak asked for guidance on if it was appropriate to comment on NextDoor as a Councilmember. Ms. Thompson explained that people can communicate as a private citizen, but as a Councilmember one was speaking on the record, generating a need to retain the record. Ms. Thomas would ask staff to share information on NextDoor with the Midtown design standards.

Councilmember Burke recently attended *Puget Sound Day on the Sound*, learning about upcoming federal funding for estuaries, clean water, and culvert removal--the most money ever invested in the Puget Sound, including its broader goal of increasing the salmon population.

Councilmember Flynn thanked City staff for their reports and agendas. He also complimented the City's Public Works team for the professionalism and concern they show while out and about.

Councilmember Neals noted that citizens were still talking about the MFTE. He encouraged City staff to keep looking for affordable housing options within the City. He mentioned that Council should define and quantify what BIPOC was, and to be sure they included it in future decisions the City makes.

Councilmember Kuleta also believed the City needed to develop alternatives for "the missing middle." She noted that it was a nationwide problem and that the City should not let the issue go.

Councilmember Ray invited everyone to the Public Safety Commission's Neighborhood Watch Town Hall, on Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

10. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill repeated that the conversation about affordable housing in Snohomish was not over. With the advent of election season he strongly encouraged all those in attendance to do their research and get involved in their local and state races.
11. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Ms. Thomas mentioned the City will be contracting with the Transpo Group for an impact study in the Midtown District, based on the Task Force's recommendations, with results expected within four to six weeks. City staff planned to solicit input from HDSA, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses in regards to the numerous special events and permit process. The City's website would undergo a refresh this week.
12. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon attended the Snohomish Cities/AWC Cities on Tap meeting to hear about upcoming legislative priorities, as well as updates on HB 1590 funding priorities at the County. Snohomish High School's Serpentine was Friday.
13. **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

APPROVED this 18th day of October, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk