

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
October 17, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 17, 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, Tom Merrill, Felix Neals, and Donna Ray; Mayor Linda Redmon

Absent: Councilmember Judith Kuleta

MOTION by Guzak, second by Ray, to excuse Councilmember Kuleta. Motion passed unanimous (6-0).

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS** - Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Redmon read a proclamation designating October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Morgan Davis commented on an article in the *Everett Herald* newspaper. Jude Anderson, Snohomish Library, shared recent and upcoming library events. Bonny Headley commented on the Fall Tree Tour and consulting arborists. Jesse Maddox commented on temporary structures in the City.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

MOTION by Guzak, second by Merrill to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Alliance for Housing Affordability
 - b. CONFIRM Mayor's Re-Appointment of Merritt Weese to the Planning Commission
 - c. CONFIRM Mayor's Appointment of Sara Wagner to the Public Safety Board
 - d. APPROVE minutes of the October 3, 2023 regular meeting.
 - e. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #79536 through #79611 in the amount of \$267,240.69 issued since the last regular meeting; and payroll in the amount of \$229,041.21 issued October 5, 2023.

MOTION by Ray, second by Burke to PASS the Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. AMEND SMC Ch. 14.30 and 14.207 for Commercial Uses in Multi-Family Zones - ADOPT Ordinance 2472

Planning Director Brooke Eidem introduced the action and provided a slide show and background related to allowing limited commercial uses in conjunction with multi-family housing in multi-family (MF) zones. The primary location would be in the undeveloped northeast and west areas. Dimensional standards would not change, and land use tables would be updated with footnotes to identify certain regulations, such as hours of operation, delivery, size of commercial area, and no drive-thrus.

The other part of the amendment would be to eliminate the Neighborhood Business (NB) Zone, which was not well defined anyway and the intention of which was largely realized with the proposed amendments to the MF zones. The Planning Commission determined both MF and NB zones were not necessary.

Council asked questions to which staff responded:

- NB Zone could lead to spot zoning, which tended to benefit single owners over their neighbors.
- Any property zoned one of the three types of MF could incorporate commercial uses only if it fits the site.
- Childcare and elder care were already allowed on a limited basis in all residential zones
- Existing commercial development would not likely change, and the current market demand is for residential. These amendments allowed for flexibility.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis supported the amendment.

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Flynn, second by Guzak to ADOPT Ordinance 2472 amending Chapter 14.30 SMC, Establishment of Zoning Districts and Chapter 14.207 SMC, Land Use Tables, to allow limited-scale commercial uses in multi-family developments.

Council President Merrill felt this was a good direction as it emphasized small services that built, and not detract, neighborhoods.

Councilmember Guzak agreed, indicating walkability was important and allowed neighborhood gatherings.

Councilmember Neals also agreed, but cautioned to be mindful of parking, traffic, and other impacts to residents.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- b. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County Sheriff's Office for the Provision of Law Enforcement Services for 2024-2026

City Administrator Heather Thomas provided background of the agreement, renewing law enforcement services for 2024 through 2026. Other cities had passed their agreements, and staff determined there was not much the City could change. She and the Mayor were drafting a letter to submit to the County Council to consider rebates or credits for agencies that had little or no claims over the course of the contract to help alleviate the risk management cost impacts. The new contract carried a net increase to the 2023-2024 budget of around \$254,000, and figures would be used in modelling the 2025-2026 budget.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis supported the contract.
Jesse Maddox thanked law enforcement for their service.

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Merrill, second by Guzak to AUTHORIZE the Mayor to Execute the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County Sheriff's Office for the Provision of Law Enforcement Services for 2024-2026. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Multimodal Level of Service and City Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Public Works Director Nova Heaton provided a thorough review of City efforts related to multimodal processes (e.g. Complete Streets, First Street Master Plan, Urban Forestry Plan), and had invited Chris Comeau and Patrick Lynch, consultants with TranspoGroup, to identify multimodal levels of service (LOS).

Council was presented with information on:

- Transportation Master Plan Progress -- in process updating goals, policies, and LOS for Comprehensive Plan adoption.
- Growth Management Act (GMA) Transportation Requirements -- Cities were now required to include multimodal service in their Transportation Policy, which also need to be consistent with LOS, land use plan, and finance strategies.
- GMA Transportation Concurrency -- Ensures balancing the implementation of a transportation plan with growth.

Other points noted:

- Inadequate metrics results in inadequate outcomes. Larger intersections and more lanes of travel to alleviate vehicle delay could be at odds with other land use and transportation goals.
- LOS measured during peak travel times meant decisions were being made based on a narrow timeframe; plenty of capacity available during non-peak travel times.
- Balancing and prioritizing needs of different modes; cars may be inconvenienced to achieve other goals, like walkability.
- Goal of moving people, not just vehicles, while also being limited by existing development.

- Safety considerations of all model users.
- Key take-aways:
 - Peak hour traffic congestion does not equal “failure” of facilities.
 - There is no universal land use/transportation performance metric.
 - Metrics should be tailored to community planning and mobility goals.
 - Design measures to get what you want and trigger improvements.
 - GMA requires transportation concurrency but does not dictate method.

Council asked several questions and discussed the information provided.

- Many cities were reviewing their LOS standards due to the new requirements; each having its own goals to achieve.
- Community engagement would be done throughout policy development, starting with smaller policies that feed into the larger ones, and not just with the end result.
- Considering innovative ways to reduce traffic; work with public transportation for options, such as on-demand transit or alternate routes.
- Complete Streets will help define multimodal standards that can be implemented as areas are developed.
- Applying an analogy of a coffee shop to traffic: one expects to wait in line for coffee early in the morning. The same can be said for traffic during peak travel times. A certain level of choice remains with the individual.
- Reviewing LOS to ensure proportionate share of infrastructure improvements during development, applicable to both private and City projects.
- Perception of traffic and vehicular travel requires a shift in mindset and culture. We are never stuck in traffic, we are traffic.
- Multiple layers are involved and could impact one another.

b. Comprehensive Plan Update

Director Eidem presented a slide show outlining efforts to date on the Comprehensive Plan. Community engagement was largely the focus for 2023, utilizing Civic Ambassadors, Kids Design Snohomish, Climate Resilience Advisory Board and online surveys. Main themes so far focus on maintaining small town identity; prioritizing parks and trails and protecting nature and green spaces; sidewalks, walkability, and non-motorized transportation; and housing affordability and choice. Bill Webster, one of the City's Civic Ambassadors, shared experiences with engaging the community and capturing genuine feedback and comments.

Director Eidem outlined legislative changes and new requirements needed for the Growth Management Act and Comprehensive Plan, and how City staff were addressing those. These include review of climate and environmental considerations; growth and existing housing units vs. targets; workforce profile and imbalance in not having housing that is affordable to those that work in the City; and comparing land capacity analysis and buildable land reports to current zoning and potential development.

Council and staff discussed the updates:

- Establishing Midtown and development potential in the Pilchuck District.
- Possible rezone targets to meet development needs.
- Unannexed areas in the UGA cannot be included in housing targets, but it was wise to plan ahead.
- Subarea planning workshops are anticipated for early 2024, to discuss design concepts.

- Potential annexation and northeast sewer area development help drive planning focus.
- Park and Forestry Board was reviewing the PROS Plan update, with anticipated presentation to Council for adoption by the end of 2023.

Director Eidem shared an overall view of the schedule and status of each element with next steps. The Planning Commission would be heavily involved, and already anticipated meeting twice a month in 2024 to accomplish all assigned tasks. Director Eidem proposed adding two Civic Ambassadors to the Planning Commission, on a temporary one-year basis, to help with the workload, as well as to bring their unique community-focused perspective to the decisions being made. Council and staff discussed the proposal and generally felt a trial basis would be necessary before making any permanent decisions.

c. 2024 Legislative Agenda

Administrator Thomas presented a draft 2024 Legislative Agenda. Newer items include the Civic Campus, infrastructure investment, road usage and fuel tax, continuing a fully funded Public Works fund, and several public safety related topics that the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and the Washington chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA) were championing. Other topics included Public Works prevailing wage and apprenticeships, and emergency preparedness. Policy statements were largely the same as last year but updated to align with AWC and APWA. Councilmember Neals remarked on workforce readiness.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Councilmember Guzak inquired on status of the temporary structures recently discussed. Administrator Thomas responded staff were working with all the businesses contacted, and several have made the necessary corrections, and others were working with the City for permits or permanent structures. Business owners could also apply for a Snohomish Thrives business grant to help cover costs.

Council President Merrill talked with a representative for the old mill site south of the river and potential interest from the County, or other viable development options if the density fringe amendments are adopted by the County Council. He encouraged the community to attend tomorrow's meeting regarding Terrace Avenue options.

9. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Guzak appreciated the planters on First Street and the selection of foliage planted in them.

Councilmember Burke attended Puget Sound Day on the Sound and commented on the work to recognize Puget Sound restoration at a federal level.

Councilmember Flynn thanked all for their work.

Councilmember Neals appreciated the proclamation, and also noted October was Mental Health Awareness Month and Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month.

Councilmember Ray recognized the return of salmon to the Pilchuck River. A bear was recently spotted near Morgantown Park, reminding all to coexist.

10. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S ITEMS/REPORTS** - Council President Merrill appreciated the appearance of the planters on First Street.

11. **STAFF BRIEFINGS** - None

12. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS** – Administrator Thomas shared the following:

- City crews were working on potential leak of a water service line on First Street; impacted businesses have been notified.
- Avenue D between First and Second Streets would be closed tomorrow for paving.
- Ford Avenue and VanJan Street projects have been delayed due to grant funding received for other projects. The projects are back on track with 80% design complete, and bid solicitation scheduled for early 2024.
- Snohomish Thrives grant program opened yesterday. City staff were available to discuss potential grant options before starting the application process.
- Council will be discussing the 2024 property tax levy, with a public hearing scheduled for November 21, 2023.

13. **MAYOR’S COMMENTS** - Mayor Redmon reported the following:

- Internship and apprenticeship opportunities are being discussed with the School District.
- Snohomish School District's Homecoming Serpentine was last Friday, with appreciation expressed to City staff for their help.
- Correlation with the buildings, streets and sidewalks on First Street created a complicated issue that would take a lot of work and community input, as evidenced by the recent work on the water lines.
- Reminder of the Terrace Avenue community meeting tomorrow night.
- Participation this week in workshops on addressing issues related to community and government interactions, through solution-focused dialog.
- October 28 was the Zombie Walk to benefit the Food Bank.
- Congratulations extended to the Historic Downtown Association on receiving Washington Main Street designation.

14. **ADJOURN** - There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED this 7th day of November, 2023.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk