

**Snohomish City Council Special Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, 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
Karen Guzak
Judith Kuleta
Tom Merrill
Linda Redmon, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT

Emily Guildner, City Attorney
Shari Ireton, Director of Community
Engagement & Strategic Initiatives
Rob Palmer, Police Chief
Heather Thomas, City Administrator
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT

Felix Neals
Donna Ray
David Flynn

2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. City Council Rules and Procedures

Ms. Guildner provided an overview of the reworked rules, based largely on new OPMA regulations passed by the State legislature, and providing an opportunity for Council to review, ask questions, and modify as needed. Topics and comments covered:

- General practice for absences was to provide something simple, such as "personal reason," for the record to acknowledge contact from the particular Councilmember.
- Changing his/her, he/she, etc. to generic they/them.
- Changes reflecting use of hybrid meetings; verbiage to allow electronic voting if results can be seen by the general audience.
- Notification of remote attendance in non-emergency meetings (emergency meetings having their own rules).
- Failed attempts to connect remotely (such as for technical difficulties) should not count towards the three allowed remote attendances.
- Adequate notice of remote attendance to ensure meeting material, comments and other tools can be shared.
- Public decorum section amended to address remote and in-person participation, comments, censoring, disruptions, personal attacks, excusal/ejection.
- Public comments should be directed to Council and be germane to the topic at hand; not back-and-forth conversations. Councilmembers can choose to address questions at other points in the meeting.
- Presiding Officer is the "point person" but the Council is in charge of their meeting.
- Meetings are usually recorded, and attending/commenting at a meeting acknowledges likeness and comments will be recorded.
- Define the types of meetings--regular, special, workshop, emergency, etc.--and their dates, times, allowed topics, and when they can be scheduled and by whom.
- New OPMA rules require public comment be received at meetings at which Council takes final action, but does not have to be on each item.
- Rearrange order of business to better reflect OPMA requirements, with potential new

- categories (e.g., Staff Presentations).
- Changes to the public comment section to differentiate from public testimony, address written comments, time limitations, when comments are allowed, and identification of speaker.
- Potential incorporation of other means for public to submit and share comments on agenda topics.
- Council's general support to remove public comment from Discussion Items.
- Retain three-minute time limit on comments/testimony.
- Potential amendments to the Municipal Code to align with the revised rules.
- Address Council rules on social media at a later time, if needed.

Public Comment:

Jim Lewis commented on broadband necessities for Council meeting technology and conversing with Councilmembers outside of meetings.

Morgan Davis did not support reducing public comment.

Public Comment Closed.

Ms. Guildner remarked she will revise the document based on tonight's discussion and bring back for Council consideration.

b. Legislative Agenda

Ms. Thomas presented the topic of a draft Legislative Agenda for discussion. A final agenda could be used as a general statement of support should a bill be proposed by the State or Federal Legislature, or help direct topics brought up during session.

Councilmembers provided feedback on adding priorities related to housing affordability, water quality, water-related issues (salmon, shoreline, sea level), tax credits for solar, electric vehicle purchasing, carbon tax, mental health and whole-body care services. Environmental sustainability was noted as a policy priority.

Public Comment:

Morgan Davis suggested eliminating whole body health and supported tax reform.

Jim Lewis suggested striking Digital Equity and Advancing Workforce Readiness.

Public Comment Closed.

Ms. Thomas invited further input from Council and advised a revised document will be presented for adoption at the December 6, 2022 regular meeting.

3. **ADJOURN:** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED this 15th day of November, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk