

GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2005

PRESENT: Councilmembers Young, Franich, Conan, Dick, Picinich, Ruffo and Mayor Wilbert. Councilmember Ekberg was absent.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Randy Lumsden, Program Coordinator/Claims Manager for Association of Washington Cities, presented an Equity Distribution check from the AWC/RMSA in the amount of \$6,701.00. He then thanked the city for allowing the City Clerk, Molly Towslee, to serve on the Operations Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA:

These consent agenda items are considered routine and may be adopted with one motion as per Gig Harbor Ordinance No. 799.

1. Approval of the Minutes of City Council Meeting of August 8, 2005.
2. Correspondence / Proclamations: a) Proclamation - Aids Walk Day
b) Proclamation – National Payroll Week.
3. Purchase Authorization – Crosswalk Lighting System.
4. Olympic Drive and 56th Street Roadway Improvement Project – Easements.
5. Public Art Contract Authorization – Rotary Pavilion at Skansie Brothers Park.
6. Liquor License Renewals: Hy-lu-Hee-Hee; Olympic Village 76.
7. Approval of Payment of Bills for August 22, 2005:
Checks #47913 through #48061 in the amount of \$370,700.13.

Councilmember Franich asked that item number five, Public Art Contract Authorization, be moved to New Business for further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.
Ruffo / Franich – unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance – Shoreline Master Program Precedence (Zone 05-796). John Vodopich, Community Development Director, presented this ordinance that would address the issue of non-conforming structures in the shoreline area. It would clarify that in the event of a discrepancy between the zoning code and the Shoreline Master Program that the SMP would prevail. The companion ordinance follows and proposes amendments to the Shoreline Master Program.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance No.1011 as presented.
Ruffo / Picinich – unanimously approved.

2. Resolution Accepting the Wright Annexation. John Vodopich recommended approval of this resolution for accepting an annexation of approximately 8.6 acres on the corner of Hunt / Skansie.

Councilmember Dick asked if a wetlands study had been received. Mr. Vodopich said that the wetlands report had been received on June 27th that identifies a small wetland on the south portion of the property adjacent to Hunt Street. Councilmember Franich asked for clarification on the current and proposed zoning designation.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution No. 652 accepting the Wright Annexation.
Picinich / Dick – unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Reading of Ordinance – Changing the Equivalent Residential Unit Assignment (ERU) for Laundromats. John Vodopich presented information on this ordinance that would change the sewer connection fee for laundromats. He explained that the sewer connection fee would be changed based upon actual or projected flow calculations and verified after one year of operation.

Councilmember Franich suggested amending the language to include that a flow-meter be required. Mr. Vodopich explained that the impact to the sewer would be determined by the water usage and so another flow-meter would not be necessary. This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

2. First Reading of Ordinance – Prentice Street Vacation – Boyd. John Vodopich presented information on this request to vacate a portion of Prentice Street that came before Council in May 9th. The city requested clarification on sewer utility easement which has been provided. This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

3. Comprehensive Plan Amendments SEIS Preparation – Consultant Services Contract. John Vodopich presented the background information on this contract with David Evans and Associates to prepare the supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Councilmember Ruffo asked about timing. Mr. Vodopich explained that the draft would be done by the end of the year. Councilmember Young added that the hospital portion would be back by September.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consultant Service Contract with David Evans and Associates in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty-three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$153,600.00).
Ruffo / Conan – unanimously approved.

4. Public Art Contract Authorization – Rotary Pavilion at Skansie Brothers Park. Mayor Wilbert said that after public input from the Gig Harbor Fisherman’s Club, that the artwork should be amended to read “Skansie Brothers” rather than “Andrew Skansie.” She then added that because there are girls in the family also, perhaps it should be changed to “Skansie Family.”

Mark Hoppen explained that the Arts Commission had gone to the Fisherman’s Club to ask about the nature of Andrew Skansie on the emblem, and what might be more appropriate, and “Skansie Brothers,” the same name as the park, was determined to be the most appropriate.

Councilmember Franich asked that this agenda item be postponed until the next meeting to allow extra thought. Mr. Hoppen recommended inviting the Chairperson from the Gig Harbor Arts Commission, as well as members from the Fisherman’s Club to come and speak to this issue.

Councilmember Picinich stressed that it should be specific to “The Andrew Skansie Family” as there are other families with the same surname.

STAFF REPORT:

Laureen Lund, Market Director – Welcome Center. Ms. Lund explained that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee would like direction from Council in order to bring the visitor information center as a city function and to be housed at the Bogue Volunteer Center and paid for by Hotel/ Motel Tax funds. She explained that the Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new site, and this would be a good time to make this decision. She asked Councilmember Young, who serves as Chair for the LTAC, to explain further.

Councilmember Young said that the Welcome Center would best be served as a city function utilizing the Hotel/Motel Tax funds, and that the LTAC agrees that this is a logical transition. He apologized for the urgency in requesting a decision from the City Council, but the Chamber of Commerce must give notice the first of September, and has requested an answer as soon as possible.

Mayor Wilbert said that she has taken this idea to the Board of the Bogue Volunteer Center, and they have said that it is a positive move.

Councilmember Franich said that the type of service being done at the Bogue Volunteer Center serves the local citizens well. He said that a visitor’s center mainly for tourists isn’t the same thing and voiced a concern for a lack of space. Ms. Lund explained that the only space requirement would be one corner of the building with a brochure kiosk outside.

Councilmember Picinich stressed that the Welcome Center be visible. Ms. Lund said that parking is better there and that signage will be included in the 2006 Lodging Tax Budget.

Councilmember Picinich asked how many staff members would be required to run the center. Ms. Lund explained that a part-time coordinator would be hired and volunteers would fill in.

Councilmember Franich asked if the city would receive funds from the lodging tax fund for the use of the building. Mark Hoppen explained that a portion of the costs such as staffing and maintenance would be paid from the lodging tax fund.

MOTION: Move to take over the function of the Welcome Center as a city function as of January 1, 2006, and housing this function in the Bogue Volunteer Center.
Young / Ruffo – five voted in favor. Councilmember Franich voted no.

Mark Hoppen reported that he recently attended the summer conference for the Washington City / County Management Association and learned that the cities of Sammamish, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond have teamed together to generate an on-line permitting process. He explained that this is a functioning model being studied by the International City / County Management Association. He continued to say that the process currently handles up to 60% of the permitting process on-line, and that he has asked staff to bring back information to consider for this budgeting process. One idea is to replicate the model and partner with Pierce County, University Place, Sumner and Puyallup. The other possibility is to join the existing consortium and have immediate access to the model. Mr. Hoppen finalized by saying that the cost to Sammamish for 60% of their permitting being done on-line is \$30,000.00.

Carol Morris, City Attorney, advised Council that the city's ordinance related to the provision of extending utilities outside the city limits was copied by the City of Stanwood. She had been hired to defend a challenge to the ordinance by Master Builders and Federal Court will come out with a decision on that in early September. In addition, King County Superior Court has a recent upheld a similar ordinance in a case involving Auburn. The challenge is that the cities cannot require property owners to conform to the city's development standards and the requirement to annex when requesting utilities outside their city limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS / MAYOR'S REPORT: Gig Harbor Community Center. Mayor Wilbert said that she had distributed an invitation to attend the upcoming September 27th kick-off for the Boys & Girls Club fundraiser in Gig Harbor. She encouraged support for this project.


ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

Eddon Boat Park Committee Meeting – August 29, 2005 - 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.
Franich /Young – unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized:
Disc #1 Tracks 1 – 21.



Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor



Molly Towslee, City Clerk