

GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

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

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 25, 2003.
2. Correspondence / Proclamations:
 - a. Letter from the Dept. of Transportation.
 - b. Letter from Washington Finance Officers Association.
3. Rental Agreement for Firearms Range Use – City of Bremerton.
4. Renewal of Copier Maintenance Agreements.
5. Grandview Forest Park Tank Repainting Project – Bid Award.
6. Approval of Payment of Bills for August 29, 2003.
Checks #40947 through #41095 in the amount of \$220,166.00.
7. Approval of Payment of Bills for September 8, 2003.
Checks #41096 through #41146 in the amount of \$108,934.84.
8. Approval of Payroll for the month of August.
Checks #2737 through #2806 and direct deposits in the amount of:
\$253,850.51.

John Vodopich asked that agenda item number 5, Grandview Forest Park Tank Repainting Project, be taken off the Consent Agenda due to bonding issues.

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the Grandview Forest Park Tank Repainting Project.
Picinich / Young – unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Continuation of Second Reading of Ordinance – Amending Design Review Procedures – GHMC 17.98. Steve Osguthorpe, Planning / Building Manager, presented this second reading of an ordinance that amends the procedures for the design review process. He gave a brief history of the ordinance and answered questions regarding the changes.

Councilmember Franich said that he believes that the Design Review Board should be making the decisions rather than the Hearing Examiner and said that he would be voting against the amendments.

Carol Morris, City Attorney, explained that she drafted the ordinance with the intention of keeping the Design Review Board and City Council out of jeopardy of suit.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 940 as presented.
Ruffo / Picinich – six voted in favor. Councilmember Franich voted no.

2. Hazen Annexation (03-02) Setting Date for Public Hearing. John Vodopich, Community Development Director, explained that the next step in the annexation process was for Council to set a date for the public hearing.

Elaine Wagner – 1710 Harmon. Ms. Wagner spoke in favor of the annexation and asked for clarification for why the difference in road widths in the proposed annexation area. John Vodopich explained that this is a private easement and suggested that she contact to the Pierce County Assessor to view the plat maps.

MOTION: Move to set the public hearing date of October 13, 2003 for the consideration of the resolution for the Hazen Annexation.
Picinich / Ruffo - unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Northwest Gig Harbor Employment Center Annexation (ANX 03-04) – Meeting with Initiators. John Vodopich presented this request for annexation of approximately 226 acres of property, explaining that this proposal was in process 2001 when the State Supreme Court invalidated the petition method for annexations. He addressed questions on the proposed zoning, city services, and the approval by Pierce County Boundary Review Board.

MOTION: Move to accept the notice on intent to commence annexation with the revised legal description and further authorize the circulation of a petition to annex the subject property contingent upon the required conditions.
Ruffo / Dick – unanimously approved.

2. Canterwood Division 12 Sewer Request. John Vodopich presented this request for 71 ERUs of sewer and Step System Agreement for an area included in ULID No. 3. He requested two separate motions to adopt the Utility Extension Agreement and a Step System Management Agreement.

MOTION: Move to approve the Utility Extension.
Ruffo / Picinich – unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to approve the Step System Management Agreement with Canterwood Division 12.
Picinich / Ruffo – unanimously approved.

3. First Reading of Ordinance – Utility Rate Reduction for Low Income Seniors. David Rodenbach, Finance Director, presented this two-part ordinance designed to allow a rate reduction for qualified low-income seniors, and establishes an average payment plan.

Staff answered questions regarding income levels and how the calculation was formulated. Council asked about the reason for two different classes of low-income citizens. Carol explained this was drafted this way to allow more flexibility. Council requested that the ordinance be amended to only have one category, low-income seniors. They also requested a breakdown on age and low-income percentages in the area. This will return at the next meeting for a second reading.

STAFF REPORTS:

GHPD – July Stats. No verbal report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Tenzler – Gig Harbor Sportsman’s Club. Mr. Tenzler read a prepared statement asking for Council consideration to exempt the club from the requirements in Ordinance No. 926 until they can relocate to a new location in approximately one and one-half years. He began to discuss litigation efforts and was asked by city attorney, Carol Morris, to confine his comments to the request for Council consideration and not to refer to litigation.

Mr. Tenzler continued, and requested an time extension for compliance with the ordinance. Councilmember Ruffo recommended that the club advise their attorney to contact the city attorney to discuss these issues.

Joe Wilcheck, President and CEO of Franciscan Health System. Mr. Wilcheck explained that he was present with Dr. Michael Newcomb, Senior Vice-president of Medical Affairs, and Laurie Nichols, Senior Vice-president for Strategic Planning, to give an update on the efforts to build a community hospital in Gig Harbor. He said the decision to build here is based on the need to improve the health care for the residents of the south sound and gave an overview of the studies that led to the decision to go forward.

Dr. Michael Newcomb. Dr. Newcomb explained that the Greater Peninsula is the second largest population base in the state without critical care facility. He stressed that in any emergency, time is critical, and a new hospital would have a 24-hour emergency department to provide critical life-saving services.

Laurie Nichols. Ms. Nichols discussed the criteria that led to the selection for the site in the Gig Harbor North area. She explained that the location is central to both Gig Harbor and south Kitsap County residents and allows for a 50-year growth plan. She discussed access, financial concerns, and the proximity to residential and commercial areas. Mr. Wilcheck addressed the concerns about the choice of location and water availability.

He explained that they have considered the Point Fosdick site, but they couldn't make the investment in this area. He said that this community is large enough to support two medical centers. He added that they do plan on placing a kidney dialysis facility in the Point Fosdick area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS / MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilbert reminded everyone of the upcoming second anniversary of the 9-11 tragedy.

Councilmember Dick stressed that he relies upon the accuracy of the information that he is given by staff when amendments are made. He asked that this effort remain consistent. Steve Osguthorpe explained that we would be obtaining the code in electronic format and that would help to eliminate discrepancies.

Councilmember Owel said that she and Steve Osguthorpe were planning on attending a hearing in Olympia on gambling zoning on September 19th. She offered to bring back a report with the results of the hearing.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

Council Retreat – Monday, September 15th at the Gig Harbor Civic Center – 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of discussing pending litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session for approximately five minutes at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussion pending litigation.
Franich / Owel - unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 8:38 p.m.
Ekberg / Ruffo – unanimously approved.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.
Ekberg / Franich – unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized:
Disc #1 Tracks 1 – 11
Disc #2 Track 1

Gretchen Wilbert, Mayor

Molly Towslee, City Clerk