

GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2007

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ekberg, Young, Franich, Dick, Conan, Payne, Kadzik and Mayor Hunter.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: 2007 GH-KP Community Health Collaborative Summit – Dr. Paul Schneider.

Councilmember Ekberg introduced Dr. Schneider, who has been working with a group of physicians and community health leaders about a collaborative health summit coming up in November.

Dr. Schneider described the declining health of our community and the resulting negative impacts. He described the collaborative effort of organizations such as the Pierce County Medical Society, the Pierce County Health Department, MultiCare Health System, Franciscan Health System, the City of Gig Harbor, and YMCA. He recognized the efforts of Laureen Lund, Marketing Director, for her participation in the Healthy Harbor Program. Dr. Schneider proposed a two-day summit the first weekend in November designed to bring together people wanting to make a change, and to formulate and implement a pilot program in the Gig Harbor Community. He extended an invitation to everyone to participate.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the Minutes of City Council Meeting of Sept. 24, 2007.
2. Proclamation: Domestic Violence Prevention Month.
3. Receive and File: a) Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Minutes 09/10/07; b) Joint Meeting of City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board Minutes 09/17/0.
4. Wetlands Review Consultant Services.
5. Eddon Boat Final Sediment Cleanup Design and Construction Documents Contract Amendment #1 – Anchor Environmental.
6. Sanitary Sewer Facilities Easement & Maintenance Agreement – Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society.
7. Liquor License Application for Added Privilege: Half Time Sports.
8. Special Occasion Liquor License: Knights of Columbus.
9. Approval of Payment of Bills for Oct. 8, 2007:
Checks #55491 through #55616 in the amount of \$277,928.37.
10. Approval of Payment of Payroll for September:
Checks #4851 through #4887 and direct deposits in the amount of \$311,740.12.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ekberg / Franich – unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION: Susan Adams, Director of the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, described their program that is designed to recognize and then provide services and programs to meet the needs of those suffering from domestic violence. She encouraged everyone to continue in the discussion and to take the necessary steps to end domestic violence.

Mayor Hunter presented Ms. Adams with the signed Proclamation for Domestic Violence Prevention Month and thanked her for these worthwhile efforts.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance – Amendment to Public Works Standards – Decorative Traffic Poles and Street Lights. Jeff Langhelm, Associate Engineer, presented this ordinance to adopt standards for decorative traffic signal poles and street lights that would help to define the character of the city.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 1104 as presented.
Ekberg / Payne - unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance - Minimum Lot Size Amendments. Tom Dolan, Planning Director, presented the background for this amendment to the code that relates to two exceptions to the minimum lot size standards as a result of a Washington State Court action that invalidates a provision adopted by Council last year.

Mr. Dolan addressed the question about a requirement of a minimum of 3,000 square feet in the second exception that isn't required in the first.

Mayor Hunter opened the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. No one came forward to speak and he closed the hearing.

Carol Morris, City Attorney, addressed Council questions regarding city right-of-way requirements creating non-conforming lots, and street vacations.

Councilmember Franich said that he doesn't think it's a good idea to create lots smaller than what is required in the zoning code.

Councilmember Payne praised staff and the City Attorney for the solution being presented.

2. Austin Estuary Park Aquatic Lease Survey – Consultant Services Contract. Rob Karlinsey, City Administrator, explained that the city has an opportunity to lease state-owned aquatic lands adjacent to the Austin Estuary Park and recommended approval of the contract to perform the required survey. He addressed questions on the location of the tidelands and whether adjacent property owners had been informed of the intent to

lease. He responded that he hasn't communicated the information to the adjacent property owners.

MOTION: Move to authorize the execution of the Consultant Services Contract with PriZm Surveying, Inc. for survey work in the amount not to exceed nineteen thousand seven hundred fifty dollars and no cents (\$19,750.00).

Payne / Conan – unanimously approved.

3. First Reading of Ordinance – Mayor and City Council Compensation. Rob Karlinsey explained that salaries for Mayor and City Council have not been adjusted since 1998 and are low in comparison to comparable jurisdictions. He described the two options outlined in the ordinance. One is to adjust the salary itself, and the other is to also adjust benefits. The proposal is to increase Council's salary from \$254 to \$700 per month, and increase the Mayor's salary from \$923 to \$1600 a month.

If Council adopts the ordinance to increase their salary, they have to wait for re-election to realize the increase. The proposed benefit increase will not take effect until 2010 because of minimum participation rates. There is another option to appoint a Salary Commission and adopt their recommendation, which would take effect immediately.

Councilmember Young said he appreciated staff bringing this forward, but he views serving on the Council as a volunteer effort. At some point, though, it would be responsible to consider an increase. He spoke in favor of the Salary Commission, as he doesn't think that politicians should not set their own salaries. There is no sense of urgency and so this would give people an opportunity to determine what is appropriate. He then commented that elected officials should not require health benefits, as fundamentally, this isn't their job.

Councilmember Ekberg agreed. He said that this proposal is an extreme measure, although some adjustment is needed on a regular basis to keep the salaries in line. He said he likes the idea of a Salary Commission, but disagreed that there should be no benefits. He suggested that we should table or continue discussion on this to explore other available options.

Councilmember Payne agreed, and said that he is inclined to appoint a Salary Commission as opposed to Councilmembers making the decision. He said that he would leave benefits up to the commission to decide. He too said that he would like to understand the impacts of a Salary Commission before the decision is made to appoint one.

Councilmember Kadzik agreed with the Salary Commission and the lack of need for a benefit package, as this is a part-time commitment. He said that this is similar to the issue of city fees earlier this year. The fees had not been addressed for many years, and so there was a large increase. It would be a good idea to have a Salary Commission and an automatic review on a regular basis.

Councilmember Dick agreed with the state law requiring that if Council adopts its own salary, it should be realized only after re-election. He said that a Salary Commission is the least effective tool to determine salaries and benefits. He continued to say that service to public life should be a contribution and if you are dependent upon the salary, you may hang around longer than your effectiveness.

Councilmember Conan said that he thinks the Salary Commission is the way to go as a group of reasonable people will not come back with an outrageous pay scale. He said that benefits are not a high priority for him, and he doesn't want to see people run for Council based on the pay and benefits. He agreed that a salary adjustment does need to be made, and talked about the time and effort devoted to serving. He said that the best way to accomplish this is to appoint a Salary Commission.

Councilmembers Franich asked how a Salary Commission is appointed. Rob Karlinsey responded that staff would do further research and come back with that information.

Councilmember Young said that the state sends out a random request, and whoever responds is appointed. There is no question about the affiliation of those appointed. He suggested looking at what other jurisdictions have done.

Councilmember Ekberg gave a history of how the current Council salary evolved, adding that he is content to keep it as is. He said that he is not in favor of the proposed ordinance but would like to hear other options. He commented that he would like to see an "auditor-proof" standard of living increase and be done with it.

Councilmember Franich voiced appreciation for staff bringing this forward. He said that if it's fair to use comparable cities for employee salaries then it's fair to use for Council. He said he supports the Salary Commission option, and agreed with comments about the amount of effort and travel involved in serving on Council. He said that we are due for a change.

Mayor Hunter explained that Council has mentioned salary adjustments. There are things in the city that haven't been attended to for a long time and the spirit that this was brought forward by staff is to correct something that hadn't been addressed since 1998. The ordinance should not have been a surprise.

MOTION: Move to table this for further discussion and more information.
Ekberg / Young – unanimously approved.

Councilmembers further discussed and clarified that the intent of this motion was to direct staff to bring back information on a Salary Commission and an option for automatic cost of living adjustment.

STAFF REPORT:

1. Green Building Update. Dick Bower, Building and Fire Safety Director, provided some general information on sustainable and low impact development. He explained that this is an issue on the forefront of construction and land use and asked if Council would support a resolution to partner with other jurisdictions to work with Master Builders to promote Green Building.

Councilmember Dick asked about partnering with other utility providers to agree upon ways to increase green standards through incentives. Mr. Bower responded that Puget Sound Energy, Pierce County Solid Waste, and Bonneville Power Administration have come together and worked on green building projects around the state and offer incentives at this time. We could work with Peninsula Light and other local water purveyors to come up with a program to encourage people to use this technology.

Mayor Hunter asked if this is proven technology or experimental. Mr. Bower responded that most methods involve recycled materials such as rainwater, bamboo, and concrete. These are proven and in use for quite some time. The program is geared toward bringing these methods into use in today's modern homes.

Councilmember Franich said that he is in favor of the concept, but many of these things are already being done. He said he would hate to see it being used as a trade-off for something.

Councilmember Young commented that most of the build green tools aren't allowed by our code. The idea is to begin moving toward changing land use regulations to allow this. He agreed that it shouldn't be subsidized, but it also shouldn't be discouraged.

Councilmember Payne said that he appreciated this information, stressing that the discussion needs to continue. He commented that the Critical Areas Ordinance passed a year ago has trade-offs such as low-impact lighting and more pervious coverage for buildings that might encroach into a buffer. If more green technology can be incorporated into the code, the ultimate payback is to the community. He used capturing stormwater runoff rather than letting overload the wastewater treatment plant as an example of one method that could benefit the city.

2. Neighborhood Design Areas Map. Tom Dolan gave an overview of the effort by the Planning Commission to look at ways to improve the design review process. He presented the draft neighborhood design areas map that has been developed and announced that the Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on all the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments on Thursday, October 18th for the public to come and comment. A recommendation should come before Council in November and December for adoption.

After discussion, Councilmembers asked staff to schedule a joint Council / Planning Commission worksession before the public hearing in order to ask questions and get a better idea of how the map was developed.

3. PenMet Youth Athletic Facilities Grant. Rob Karlinsey explained that PenMet Parks would like to apply for a Youth Athletic Facilities Grant, but they are unable because they do not qualify. They have asked the city to apply on their behalf for the Homestead Park. He said that it would benefit the city to partner with other agencies to develop ball fields that all citizens can enjoy. He said that PenMet is doing all the grant work, but before he went forward with an Interlocal for Council consideration, he wanted to know if there are any negative impacts. He said that there are no long-term staff or money commitments.

4. GHPD September Report. Chief Davis recognized his intern from Tacoma Community College, Max Chris, who will be spending 150 hours with the department to gain credits. He then gave a brief overview of the monthly report and offered to answer questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT / COUNCIL COMMENTS / COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Payne said that it is important to recognize that the Mayor and Staff are doing a good job of bringing forth issues that need to be addressed by Council. Rob Karlinsey apologized for the short notice on the compensation ordinance.

Mr. Karlinsey then said that he read in the Kitsap Business Journal about how the city is going to take formal action on the Ugandan Consulate. He asked if staff should be doing something about that. Councilmember Conan responded that he and the City Clerk are working together on a proclamation to be presented at the October 22nd meeting.

Councilmember Franich voiced concern that this happened without any type of city action and asked if they have diplomatic immunity. Ms. Morris said that she would have to look into that and get back with a report.

Councilmember Conan clarified that only Robert Goff was given the honorary consulate status, not the entire organization. Councilmember Young added that an honorary title does not negate the American Citizen status, and they are still subject to our laws.

Mayor Hunter announced that he saw a nice article in the San Franciscan Chronicle about the completion of the second Narrows Bridge and how Gig Harbor has been “re-discovered.” He offered to copy the article to Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. GH North Traffic Options Committee – Wednesday, October 24th, at 9:00 a.m. in Community Rooms A&B.
2. Special Council Meeting with State Legislators October 15, 2007, 6 p.m.
3. Open House re: Burnham/Borgen/SR16 Roundabouts October 17, 2007 5-7 p.m.
4. Regular Council Meeting October 22, 2007, 6 p.m.

5. Special Council Meeting October 29, 2007, 6 p.m., re: Mayor's Proposed 2008 Budget and Downtown Business Plan

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

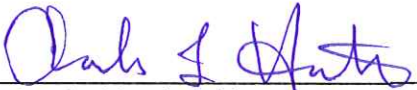
MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation for approximately twenty minutes.
Franich / Young – six voted in favor. Councilmember Ekberg voted no.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 7:40 p.m.
Franich / Young - unanimously approved.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.
Franich / Payne – unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized:
Disk #1 Tracks 1- 37
Disk #2 Tracks 1- 3



Charles L. Hunter, Mayor



Molly Towslee, City Clerk