

MINUTES OF GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 27, 2014

PRESENT: Councilmembers Malich, Arbenz, Ekberg, Perrow, Lovrovich, Payne, Kadzik and Mayor Guernsey.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of City Council Minutes May 12, 2014.
2. Receive and File: IGA Minutes May 12, 2014.
3. Liquor License Action: a) Change of Corporate Officers – Shell Food Mart.
4. Resolution No. 964 – Amending the Public Works Committee and the Gig Harbor Arts Commission Meeting Dates and Times.
5. Tourism Promotional Video Production Contract.
6. Cushman Trail Project Phase 3 & 4 - WSDOT Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement Supplement No. 2.
7. Approval of Payment of Bills May 27, 2014: Checks #75473 through #75580 in the amount of \$414,265.41.

MOTION: Move to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ekberg / Lovrovich - unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. PenMet Parks. Executive Director Terry Lee provided a brief history of the formation of the Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District in 2004. Nine years later, they possess 22 park properties with over 700 acres, and 36 million in assessed value. He talked about current projects including a second off-leash dog park, the taking over of the indoor soccer facility at the Gig Harbor Athletic Club, the Farmers' Market at the Peninsula Garden Property, and a master plan for a Family Park near the entrance to Fox Island. Mr. Lee said there are 26 goals that he plans to present to the Board of Directors.

When asked about community support, Mr. Lee talked described their PEG Grant program that budgets \$65,000 per year for community projects. He said that future activities that he would like to partner with the city is the extension of the Cushman Trail, Harbor Hill Park, and a possible Performing Arts Center. He stressed that parks and recreation programs know no boundaries, and he is an advocate for projects Peninsula-wide. He said that he is open to any ideas. He was asked to share information about plans for an indoor tennis facility, Mr. Lee responded that there is a large faction of citizens that thinks this should move forward, and PenMet Parks is working on a possible location for this use, along with an indoor soccer facility.

The Mayor and Council voiced appreciation for the partnership opportunities, the spirit of cooperation, and the commitment of PenMet employees such as Eric Gunther.

2. Gig Harbor Model Project Presentation. Mayor Guernsey introduced Rick Gagliano and Darrin Filand, members of the Design Review Board.

Rick Gagliano explained that this project started at the beginning of the revitalization and visioning effort as a tool to help make decisions. They engaged high school students to get the project off the ground and to teach them architecture. He said there is concern of how the revitalization effort will mesh with preservation of the history of the harbor, and explained that a building becomes historic not just because of its age or style, but because it represents the era it was built, and the prosperity and attitudes of those who built it. He added that they feel it's our time to do the same, and a lot of what will happen in the harbor over the next 10 years or so is infill and renovation; existing buildings will still be here if they have the potential to adapt. The Planning Commission will be reviewing regulations for the Harbor Vision policy, and the model will be a useful tool to look at the relationship and comparison of zones and sections of the city. Buildings are still missing from the model, and so Peninsula School District architectural drafting classes are going to make this part of their curriculum over the next five semesters. They have identified 150 buildings in the historic district that will be drafted by the students and formed on a 3-D printer. At the end of each semester, the students will present the buildings and their history during a community event. The model town will develop through historic progression to become an even more valuable tool. Mr. Gagliano said that tonight, they are dedicating the model to the city.

Darrin Filand commented that this project was a lot of work, took quite a bit of volunteer time, and a few dollars to complete. He said he wanted to thank several people, beginning with the student team: Zach Becken, Lizzie Brinkman, Walker Carlson, Allie Cosmos, Connor Cox, Kait Dawson, Annie DeClements, Steve Fischer, Curtis Herrieux, Noah Johnson, Grant Larson, Evelyn Lundeen, Alex Meacham, Nikayla Newberg, Jonathan Nilsen, Charles Paganelli, Jake Quincey, Andrew Rose, Conor Scanlan, Lilly Shaffer, Raven Shipley, Claire Summa, Jacob Willenbrock, and Kelsea Willenbrock. Mr. Filand gave a brief description of the process, saying that this team laid the foundation for the next phase. Mr. Filand thanked First Western Properties, Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, Peninsula School District, and Heritage Bank for their financial support, and gave a special thanks to Murdock's Cabinets for constructing the base cabinet that stores the model in when not in use. Rouda Scale Models from Seattle were commissioned to build the base using the data the group put together. Mr. Filand then said that the group would like to dedicate the model to the memory of Michael Fisher.

The Mayor and Council were very complimentary and appreciative of the efforts to bring this unique model project to fruition.

OLD BUSINESS: None scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Reading of Ordinance – City Participation in State LOCAL Borrowing Program. Finance Director David Rodenbach presented this ordinance authorizing city participation in the Local Option Capital Asset Lending Program. He explained that the city has utilized this program in the past to purchase police vehicles in 2007-08. He noted that there was an error in the agenda bill, and that the total annual debt service

will be about \$56,500; not \$75,000 as was listed. He addressed Council questions and asked if this could return for second reading on the Consent Agenda. Council concurred.

2. City Administrator Employment Contract. Human Resource Analyst Mary Ann McCool introduced the contract for the new City Administrator, Ron Williams.

Mayor Guernsey explained that per Gig Harbor Municipal Code the Mayor appoints this position with the Council approving the contract. She said that she has known Mr. Williams for approximately 30 years and they were colleagues. He is an incredible individual, she said, adding that he served on the first University Place City Council and was the second Mayor. He is, in her opinion she said, very qualified and a good fit for the city. We have a phenomenal staff here and having someone who will fit in will help to make us even better. She asked Council to approve his contract.

Councilmember Arbenz asked for clarification on whether this contract is for the lowest end of the salary range for City Administrator. Ms. McCool responded that it is. She also responded that the \$70,000 in the agenda bill is for the remaining seven months of 2014.

MOTION: Move to authorize the Mayor to sign the Employment contract with Ronald L. Williams.

Ekberg / Kadzik –

Councilmember Ekberg commented that the process may be confusing to the public. He continued to explain that the Mayor indicated that she was not going to extend the City Administrator Richards' contract when it expired at the end of the year and was looking for an administrator with more focus on economic development. We then, through a process, created a position for economic development with the intent to have Mr. Williams in that position and work with Mr. Richards until the end of the year so there would be a smooth transition. With Mr. Richards leaving, this isn't going to happen, and so we are faced with this contract. He continued to say that Mr. Williams resume overall is lacking in economic development and city administration experience; his contract is starting at the bottom of the pay scale which is reasonable to start. He said he met with Mr. Williams and find him to be a very intelligent, nice person who will be a good fit with our quality city staff. He continued to say that as the Mayor stated, she was elected by the community and it's her task to appoint whatever administrator she feels comfortable working with; she has known and worked with him for many years, and knows his work ethic and demeanor. That weighs heavily if she is willing to put her appointment in his hands, and he will support that decision. He said he hopes the rest of council agrees and welcome Mr. Williams as our new City Administrator.

Councilmember Payne said he agrees whole-heartedly with that summation. He said he too had a chance to meet with Mr. Williams and believe that his demeanor will fit well with the staff. His greatest concern is the abrupt departure of City Administrator Richards and the quite interim status of the Chief of Police. He said he wants to make

sure we have continuity and although there are not direct, applicable titles or jobs played out by Mr. Williams, there are transferable skills. That is something he looks for in his own company. It is going to be a little rough, and he has already expressed his displeasure with the process. He said we need to stand behind the Mayor and Mr. Williams has a fair amount of competence in many area, and he looks forward to that being played out here in the City of Gig Harbor.

MOTION: Move to authorize the Mayor to sign the Employment contract with Ronald L. Williams.
Ekberg / Kadzik – unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT / COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Guernsey reported that the first Open House for the Gig Harbor 2030 beginning of our comprehensive plan amendment process was well attended. She said there will be plenty of follow-up moving forward on the 2015 amendments.

Councilmember Ekberg referred to the photo of City Engineer Steven Misiurak accepting the Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association for the Donkey Creek Project on behalf of the city. Councilmember Ekberg stressed that the city keeps winning these, and they are not just a normal, average award. He said that for a city our size, the projects we undertake that come in on time and under budget is a tribute to the fine crew we have working for us.

Councilmember Kadzik announced that the flower baskets around town are back up and the group is short of volunteers to keep them watered. He challenged the other councilmembers to volunteer on the crew.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Skansie Netshed Ribbon Cutting – Sat. Jun 7th at 2:30 p.m.
2. Boards and Candidate Review: Mon. June 16th at 4:00 p.m.
3. Finance / Safety Committee: Mon. Jun 16th at 4:00 p.m.
4. Public Works Committee: Thur. June 19th at 3:00 p.m.
5. Reception for Chief Mike Davis: Mon. June 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Guernsey said she hopes to see everyone at the reception for Chief Mike Davis.


ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.
Ekberg / Malich – unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized: Tracks 1002 – 1016



Jill Guernsey, Mayor



Molly Towslee, City Clerk