

GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2002

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ekberg, Franich, Owel, Dick, Picinich, and Ruffo.
Councilmember Young acted as Mayor Pro Tem in Mayor Wilbert's absence.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Boy Scout Troop 244.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Ordinance – Concurrency Management Code Amendments.** This public hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. John Vodopich, Community Development Director, explained that these code amendments that address recent changes to the Tacoma- Pierce County Health District rules governing how long water capacity reservations were effective and the lack of an expiration date in the city municipal code for water concurrency reservation certificates tied to site-specific rezones. This amendment would impose a three-year deadline on those reservations. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

2. **Ordinance - Adopting Wastewater and Water Facilities Charge Analyses.** This public hearing was opened at 7:03 p.m. John Vodopich explained that this ordinance was to adopt two recently completed studies for the water facilities and wastewater facilities as a budget objective. He explained that the numbers in the Executive Summary are the correct numbers, and would be corrected in the two following ordinances. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

3. **Ordinance –Wastewater Facilities Charge Rate Change.** This public hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m. John Vodopich presented this ordinance in response to the general facilities study for the wastewater system connection fee. He reminded Council that the numbers in the ordinance would be corrected at the second reading. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

4. **Ordinance – Water Facilities Charge Rate Change.** This public hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m. John Vodopich presented this ordinance in response to the general facilities study for the water system and addresses the connection fee, not the rate fee. He added that the numbers would be amended to reflect the Executive Summary. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

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 April 8, 2002.
2. Proclamations/Correspondence: Pierce County Terrorism Summit.
3. Consultant Services Contract – Pump Station 2 – Earth Tech.
4. Liquor License Renewals: Albertson's, Inc.; Mad Anthony's Inc.
5. Approval of Payment of Bills for April 22, 2002.
Checks #35870 through #36007 in the amount of \$1,181,720.23.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ekberg/Ruffo - unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Latecomers Agreement for Reimbursement of Municipal Water and Sewer – Burnham Drive Waterline Project. Steve Misiurak, City Engineer, explained that this Latecomers Agreement was tabled from the last meeting. He clarified that the proposed fees are voluntary, and would only be incurred if the applicant chose to connect to the watermain. He said that staff had checked with other agencies and found that several used the same formula base. He then recommended approval of the latecomers agreement.

MOTION: Move to approve the latecomers agreement as presented.
Picinich/Ruffo – unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Ordinance – Allowing Septic Tanks in City Limits. John Vodopich explained that several citizens had approached the city asking to install a private septic tank to serve single-family residence within city limits in areas where it is unrealistic to connect to the sewer system. He said that this proposed ordinance would amend the municipal code and allow the City Engineer to approve these systems on a very limited basis. He said one option would be to refer this proposed ordinance to the Public Works Committee; the second, to bring back for a first reading.

Bruce Gair - 9301 North Harborview Drive. Mr. Gair explained that he owns property on 38th Avenue that would be positively affected by this amendment. He discussed the extension of the sewer line to Goodman Middle School without the ability for others to hook into. He thanked staff for bringing this forward.

Art Riebli – Puyallup. Mr. Riebli explained that he owned a lot on 53rd Street, and also thanked Council for the proposed ordinance that would allow for a septic systems in city limits.

MOTION: Move to bring back this ordinance for a first reading at the next meeting.
Owel/Ruffo – unanimously approved.

2. Final Project and Estimate Completion – Borgen Boulevard Project. Steve Misiurak presented the project completion information. He gave an overview of the construction costs, which came in approximately \$147,000 under the authorized budget, due to strong project management and retail participation. He thanked fellow staff members for their hard work in making this project a success.

Mark Hoppen credited Steve for the job he performed as Project Manager in bringing this project in under budget. Councilmembers also recognized Steve's contribution to this quality project.

MOTION: Move to approve the project completion as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Completion on behalf of the City of Gig Harbor.
Owel/Picinich – unanimously approved.

3. First Reading of Ordinance – Concurrency Management Code Amendments. John Vodopich presented this ordinance, which was introduced during the public hearing, and offered to answer questions. This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

4. First Reading of Ordinance - Adopting Wastewater and Water Facilities Charge Analyses. John Vodopich presented this ordinance, which was introduced during the public hearing. He explained that an Executive Summary was included in the packet, adding that a complete copy of the document was available for review. Ashley Emery, Gray and Osborne, gave an explanation of the components used to determine the rates. This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

Jack Bujacich – 3607 Ross Avenue. Mr. Bujacich explained that he was involved in the sewer system years ago, and that many stubs had been sold for \$150.00. He asked what the charge would be for these properties to hook up now in light of recent court cases.

Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, explained that hook-up fees were in addition to the stub charge and that the rate study was predicated upon the court cases discussed.

5. First Reading of Ordinance –Wastewater Facilities Charge Rate Change. John Vodopich presented this ordinance, which was introduced during the public hearing. He reminded Council that the numbers would be amended at the next reading to reflect the Executive Summary.

6. First Reading of Ordinance – Water Facilities Charge Rate Change. John Vodopich presented this ordinance, which was introduced during the public hearing. He reminded Council that the numbers also would be amended at the next reading to reflect the Executive Summary.

7. Resolution – District Court Consolidation. Mark Hoppen explained that Councilmember Young had submitted this resolution for consideration that would make the County Council aware of the City's views on consolidation. He gave an overview of what could occur as a result of the consolidation and subsequent relocation of the District Court II to Tacoma or reduction of hours in the local court.

Jack Bujacich – 3607 Ross Avenue. Mr. Bujacich said that twenty years ago Pierce County tried to move the Court to Pierce County, but due to his efforts, was unsuccessful. He said that this would be a serious loss for Gig Harbor and the Peninsula. He said that the citizen's tax base is increasing, but the level of service is declining. He said if Court was to relocate to downtown Tacoma, there are parking problems and our officers would be out of the area if needed to testify. He said that there are several places that the budget could be cut without relocating the Court. He encouraged everyone to attend the hearing at 10:00 Monday morning to testify.

Doug Butcher – Gig Harbor. Mr. Butcher voiced his concerns over the confusion over this issue. He explained that he is an employee of District Court II, and he agreed that Pierce County is rushing this decision. He praised Council for recognizing the need to consider the future effect on the community. He encouraged everyone to attend a community meeting to be held at the Inn at Gig Harbor on the 25th of April at 7:00 p.m. to further discuss the issues.

Councilmember Owel said that she would like to amend the resolution to add another section to the Resolution.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution No. 587 with addition of language to read: Section 3. The Gig Harbor City Council hereby requests that the decision of consolidation of District Court II be deferred until such time as the City of Gig Harbor and our County Council Representative can provide full and complete information.
Owel/Picinich –

Councilmembers spoke strongly in support of this resolution and the motion for the additional language. Councilmember Dick recommended taking an even stronger stance by recommending that additional language be added to the resolution to the effect that the City will approach the County to discuss ways that both courts could share in the cost. Council discussed whether to keep the two issues separate.

MOTION: Call for the question.
Picinich/Ruffo – six voted in favor. Councilmember Dick voted no.

ORIGINAL MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution No. 587 with addition of language to read: Section 3. The Gig Harbor City Council hereby requests that the decision of consolidation of District Court II be deferred until such time as the City of Gig Harbor and our County Council Representative can provide full and complete information.
Owel/Picinich – unanimously approved.

Doug Butcher – Mr. Butcher said that the Pierce County Council has not come out with a definite plan of action, but that once consolidation has been approved, there are no guarantees to what direction will be taken. He said that the first plan of action is to stop the consolidation.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. GHPD – March Stats. No verbal report given.
2. David Rodenbach, Finance Department – First Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Rodenbach explained that there were no significant issues to discuss. He added that the percentages are within a fraction of prior years.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Joint Session – Land Use. Tuesday, April 30th, 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers.
2. Second Council Meeting May: Tuesday, May 28th (due to Holiday on Monday)
3. Pierce County Council – Court Consolidation April 25th, Inn at Gig Harbor – 7:00 p.m.
4. Dedication of Fisherman’s Memorial – Jerisich Park, April 27th 11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS / MAYOR'S REPORT:

Councilmember Owel asked to be able to make a motion for reconsideration for adoption of Resolution No. 587.

MOTION: Move for reconsideration of adoption of Resolution No. 587 as amended for purposed of further discussion on the basis that fellow Councilmember Dick may have additional language that calls for consideration.
Owel/Dick – unanimously approved.

Councilmember Dick voiced his concerns that finances being the number one concern, that unless the City of Gig Harbor stresses the willingness to discuss other options, the opportunity may be lost.

Jack Bujacich – 3607 Ross Avenue. Mr. Bujacich said that he thought that adding more language to the resolution would cause confusion. He added that the County’s budget is already made up for the year and that there should be no rush to consolidate. He said that if they voted to do so, it would cause a great deal of negative publicity.

Councilmembers further discussed whether or not to include additional language.
Councilmember Dick made the following motion.

MOTION: Move to add language to Resolution No. 587 asking Pierce County Council to delete District Court No. 2 from consolidation and consider the cost savings of the negotiation of co-locating and/or consolidating Municipal Court and District Court 2 to save this valuable community asset.
Dick/


There was no second to this motion, so it was not voted upon.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.
Ruffo/Picinich - unanimously approved.

Cassette recorder utilized.
Tape 650 – Side B 190 - end.

Tape 651 – both sides.
Tape 652 – Side A 000 – end.



Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor



City Clerk