

GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2001

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ekberg, Young, Pasin, Owel, Dick, Picinich, Ruffo and Mayor Wilbert.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Petition for Annexation - 62nd Street Court NW. Mayor Wilbert opened the public hearing on this agenda item and asked John Vodopich, Planning Director, to present the background information. John explained that on February 12th, Council authorized the circulation of a petition for the annexation of four lots along 62nd St. Ct. NW provided that the pre-annexation zoning for the property be designated as R-1 and that the owners assume their proportionate share of the city's indebtedness. He added that the packet contained a resolution accepting the petition and showing the city's intent to forward the request to Pierce County Boundary Review Board to annex the four parcels. He described minor corrections to the resolution.

Joe Mancuso - 2819 62nd St. Ct. NW. Mr. Mancuso thanked Council and Planning Department for their efforts. He asked if there might be a way to inform the surrounding neighbors to the annexation that their properties would not be impacted by the annexation.

John Vodopich said that he would send out notice to the adjacent property owners to clarify that the annexation was only for four parcels.

The Mayor closed the public hearing on the 62nd Street Annexation and opened the public hearing on the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

2. Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. David Skinner, Public Works Director, presented the annual update to the Six-Year TIP outlining the city's goals for the upcoming six years for transportation related improvements and capital projects associated with that. He added that the update is a state requirement and gave an overview of the changes from last year, which were coordinated with the help of the Public Works Committee.

Wade Perrow - 9119 North Harborview Drive. Mr. Perrow handed out background information from his records dating back to 1993 relating to the East/West road connection between SR-16 and Crescent Valley Drive NW. He asked Councilmembers to give the connector from Peacock Hill Avenue to Crescent Valley Drive a higher priority on the list to complete the necessary purchase of right-of-way and design of the connector. He added that completion of this roadway would mitigate traffic impact on city streets from continuing development in Pierce County.

Councilmember Dick talked about the status of this project on Pierce County's Six-Year TIP. Mr. Perrow explained that Pierce County had not given this high priority, and was expecting Gig

Harbor to take the lead on the project. Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, explained that the road in the city's TIP was not as expensive as the one in the handouts that Mr. Perrow had provided, adding that Pierce County anticipated a more northeastern connection. He continued to explain that the northerly connector would not lessen the impact on city streets to the same extent that the proposal in the city's TIP.

Janice Denton - North Harborview Drive. Ms. Denton talked about the lack of parking along North Harborview Drive. She suggested that one bike lane be removed and the road remarked for parking.

David Skinner explained that funding to complete the North Harborview Drive project came from the Federal Government, and that two bikes lanes and sidewalk were required and cannot be removed without repercussion.

Bruce Gair - 9301 North Harborview Drive. Mr. Gair agreed with the previous comments, but explained that he was not speaking about parking, but wanted to point out an error in priority number 18 of the TIP.

Mike Sherman - 9021 North Harborview Drive. Mr. Sherman addressed the parking issue on North Harborview Drive. He explained that the improvements to the road through the residential area resulted in an increase in the speed of vehicles. He said that the lack of parking has made it difficult for the residents to have visitors. He suggested one-way traffic if the bike lanes cannot be removed, making the stretch of North Harborview Drive from the corner of Peacock Hill to Vernhardson Street one-way, and the stretch of Vernhardson from the corner of North Harborview Drive up to Peacock Hill one-way for traffic to return. One lane of North Harborview Drive could be made into parking, allowing the bike lanes and sidewalks to remain, and slowing the traffic through the residential neighborhood. He said that when street improvements are planned, the residents should be given high priority, not just the visitors or others that want a faster way to travel.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed at 7:30 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 Meetings of August 13, 2001.
2. Correspondence/Proclamations:
3. Change Order #3 - East/West Roadway Project.
4. Liquor License Renewals:
5. Approval of Payment of Bills for August 27, 2001.
Checks #33729 through #33822 in the amount of \$418,199.29.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Picinich/Young - unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution - Petition for Annexation - 62nd Street Court NW. This was presented during the public hearing, and no further discussion occurred.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution No. 571 with the amendments as described by Mr. Vodopich.
Dick/Ekberg - unanimously approved.

2. Traffic Concerns - Councilmember Pasin. Mayor Wilbert said that because the items of concern had not been included in the Council Packet, she asked that this item be moved to the Council Comments portion of the meeting. Councilmember Pasin concurred.

3. Dept. of Ecology Coastal Zone Management Grant Agreement Acceptance. John Vodopich presented the Coastal Zone Management Grant from the Department of Ecology for assistance in the update of the Shoreline Master Program. He explained that this was a matching grant in the amount of \$26,500. He answered questions and asked for Council's approval of the agreement.

MOTION: Move to accept the Coastal Zone Management 306 Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign the Sworn Statement of Compliance.
Ruffo/Picinich - unanimously approved.

4. Resolution - Six-Year Transportation Improvement Project. David Skinner recommended approval of the resolution adopting the Six-Year TIP for the year 2002 through 2007 discussed in the public hearing. He explained that the TIP could be amended at any time throughout the year, and that the priority for funding projects is set during the budget process. Dave added that the document was a mechanism to make sure that transportation projects remain consistent with other jurisdictions in relation to the Urban Growth Boundary, and to allow the city to be eligible for federal funds. He addressed Council's questions on the ability to amend the TIP to include projects that had come forward during the public hearing.

Councilmember Owel asked that staff take the suggestions from the public comments and list them on a sheet to be presented at the next Council meeting, so that the concerns can be addressed. Councilmember Pasin voiced concerns with the priority listing of some of the projects and asked for clarification on grant funding. David Skinner explained that when the state or federal government considers grants, they do not look at the priority order on the TIP, but they consider such things as whether there are other funding sources, whether design has been completed, and whether right-of-way acquisition has been accomplished. He added that where the project is listed on the TIP makes a difference in when the city applies for the grant and cost projection.

Mark Hoppen added that if Council made a decision to include one of the projects discussed during the public hearing, the TIP will be adjusted to reflect that decision. Councilmember

Young voiced concerns with the collection of impact fees for a project that may never be completed. Mr. Skinner explained that the projects listed on the TIP are all from the Comprehensive Plan and recognized by the state, so they need to be listed.

MOTION: Move for adoption of Resolution No. 572 adopting the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and directing the same to be filed with the State Secretary of Transportation and the Transportation Board.
Owel/Picinich - unanimously approved.

5. Security Gate on Erickson Street. David Skinner explained that during the recent construction on Kimball Drive, there had been a request from the Fire Department that the gate on Erickson Street be opened to cut down on response time for emergency services. He added that attempts to keep the gate open were unsuccessful, and a second request came from the Fire Department. At that time the Public Works staff was directed to remove the gate, and the President of Spinnaker Ridge was informed that the gate would be replaced upon completion of construction, which has been done. At the last Council meeting, David was directed to respond to concerns from the public on the continued operation of the gate. Based upon review of the Comprehensive Plan, Public Works Standards, and the plat, he recommended two options for Council to consider; one, that the gate remain in place with an upgrade to an Opticon system for emergency vehicles, construction of a turn-around and vacating of the Erickson Street from public to private; and second, to remove the gate and opening Erickson Street from Soundview Drive to Kimball Drive.

David answered Council's questions regarding traffic studies, vacating the street and the recommendation to create a turn-around. Councilmember Young suggested a public hearing to justify any decision.

Councilmember Ruffo asked about the legality of approving the gate when the plat was originally brought before Council. Carol Morris explained that that the Council's actions stated that in the future, the road could be opened, making the condition legal. This condition allows for a decision to keep the gate open or closed. She referred to the information that had been given Council regarding a city's ability to keep a road closed for traffic circulation problems. She said that the issue that needs to be investigated is whether the opening of this road would create additional impacts more than any other public road.

Councilmember Ekberg agreed that a public hearing should be held before any definitive action was taken. Mayor Wilbert invited the President of Spinnaker Ridge Community Association to come and speak.

John Gorow - 6887 Main Sail Lane. Mr. Gorow passed out a letter and presented the reasons that the residents of Spinnaker Ridge were opposed to removal of the gate. He explained that the residents bought property in Spinnaker Ridge thinking it is a dead-end street. He described the configuration of the road and adjacent asphalt walkway, and the issue of safety for those who walk through the neighborhood. He talked about the increased traffic through the neighborhood

and onto Soundview Drive, and speeding issues. He continued to described the children's play area at the corner of McDonald and Erickson Streets, the other retirement facility in that area, and the safety concerns related to opening the street to through traffic. He said that there is currently adequate traffic circulation in the area, and that any convenience that would come from opening the street would not compare with the safety issues. He discussed the minimal maintenance on the street and that the street does not meet city standards. He concluded by urging Council not to make Erickson a through street.

George Hoopy - Spinnaker Ridge. Mr. Hoopy said that when Grandview Street is improved, it will add a main thoroughfare. He discussed problems at the Hunt Street and Soundview Drive intersection, adding that a traffic light is needed. He urged Council not to open the gate on Erickson Street.

Ruth Vasquez - 3444 Erickson. Ms. Vasquez said that her window faces the street and she often sees trucks trying to turn around at the west side of the gate, creating a safety problem for the neighborhood. She added that they had been told that the gate only had one lock on the gate, left unlocked. She said that she saw three locks chained on, all locked. She said that during construction, it was very difficult to get to appointments and such. She said that she thought this was an elitist ploy to keep poorer people from using the road, and she has no intention on harming her neighbors, as she doesn't drive. She asked Council to take this into consideration.

Edith Mogul - 3444 Erickson. Ms. Mogul said her company from Seattle came up Erickson Street from Soundview, came upon the gate, then had to turn around and find an alternative route, which was a nuisance. She then talked about the children on the playground, and how people turning around at the gate creating a safety issue. She said that Erickson is a crooked street, and most wouldn't use it and talked about the inconvenience of having the street blocked during construction on Kimball.

Mike Shipman - 6516 27th Street. Mr. Shipman said he walks through the Spinnaker Ridge neighborhood. He said that Council should not have a public hearing, but take action to give these people their neighborhood back tonight.

MOTION: Move to set a public hearing on October 8th.
Young/Ekberg -

Councilmembers discussed whether the gate would remain open or closed until the public hearing. David Skinner said that the gate was currently closed, and would remain so unless Council directed him to open it. Mayor Wilbert asked the representative from the Fire Department to come forward and speak on their concerns.

Eric Watson - Asst. Chief, Pierce County Fire District #5. Chief Watson recommended leaving the gate as is with a "knox padlock" until Council makes a determination. He added that the Fire Department is not in favor of gates. He said that with a gate comes the responsibility for increased emergency response time.

Mayor Wilbert asked Chief Barker if the police have access to the lock on the gate. Chief Barker explained that if the gate was locked, they do not have a key, but could get through by cutting the lock. Both Chief Barker and Chief Watson recommended no locks if the gate is to remain in the interim. This led to the following motion.

AMENDED MOTION: Move to keep the gate closed with no locks until the October 8th public hearing, with the understanding that the police and fire departments have the right to take the necessary action if found locked.
Ruffo/Picinich - unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Siplick - 6777 Port Lane. Mr. Siplick explained that his house was at the very top left of Erickson Street in Spinnaker Ridge, and that he wanted to set the record straight that the gate has never been locked. He added that there have been many mornings that the gate has been pushed open and left. He said that he is the one who has put two locks on the gate, which only appear that they are locked, but all you have to do is unlatch the gate.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Pasin talked about his concerns with traffic violations throughout the city. He asked for Council to have a discussion either this evening or at a future workshop to address an increase in traffic patrol and enforcement, traffic mechanisms to reduce traffic accidents, relocation of bus stops on Point Fosdick, and redesign of ingress/egress to the shopping centers to improve traffic flow and reduce accidents. Councilmembers supported the idea of a worksession to discuss traffic concerns.

Councilmember Dick suggested in addition to discussing traffic concerns, that the city address and take a proactive stance on the issue of County development adding to traffic on city streets.

STAFF REPORTS:

Gig Harbor Police Department - July Stats. Chief Barker announced that this would be the last Council meeting for David Skinner, adding that it had been a pleasure to work with him. Councilmembers also voiced their appreciation for the job he had done while working for the city.

Mr. Skinner thanked Councilmembers for being "adventuresome" in their vision on projects such as the Round A Bout and thanked his staff and fellow associates. He explained that his new job would move him closer to his family.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of discussing potential litigation per RCW 42.3 1.110(i).

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MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing potential litigation for approximately thirty minutes.
Ruffo/Young - unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 9:15 p.m.
Dick/Young - unanimously approved.

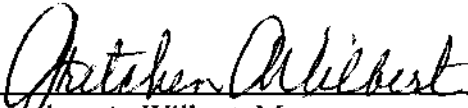
MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session for an additional ten minutes.
Dick/Young - unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 9:22 p.m.
Owel/Young - unanimously approved.

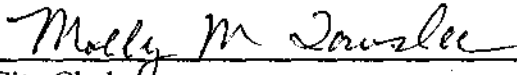
ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.
Picinich/Young - unanimously approved.

Cassette recorder utilized.
Tape 624 - Side B 250 - end.
Tape 625 - Both Sides.
Tape 626 - Side A 000 - 372.



Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor



City Clerk