

MINUTES OF GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - JANUARY 11, 2010

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ekberg, Young, Franich, Malich, Payne, Kadzik and Mayor Hunter. Councilmember Conan joined the meeting later.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SWEARING IN CEREMONIES:

1. Mayor Hunter. Judge Michael Dunn performed the ceremony for Chuck Hunter to serve another four-year term as Gig Harbor Mayor.

2. Councilmembers Steven Ekberg, Derek Young, Tim Payne, and Paul Kadzik. Mayor Hunter performed the ceremony to swear in the four City Councilmembers to serve another four year term.

3. Reserve Officer Adam Blodgett. Chief Mike Davis gave a brief introduction for Adam Blodgett who started as an Explorer Scout with the Gig Harbor Police Department. Mayor Hunter performed the ceremony to swear in Reserve Officer Blodgett.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mayor Hunter asked for a brief moment of silence in recognition of Dennis Kuntz, former City of Gig Harbor Building Inspector who passed away on January 1st.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the Minutes of City Council Meeting of December 14, 2009.
2. Correspondence / Proclamations: National Mentoring Month.
3. Liquor License Action: a) New Application – Blue Cannon Pizza; b) Change in LLC – Water to Wine; c) New Application – Walgreens; d) Corrected – Sip Wine Bar.
4. Receive and File: a) Application for the Nat'l Historic Preservation – Skansie Net Shed Grant.
5. Recovery of Officer Position – COPS Hiring Recovery Program.
6. Resolution Adopting Findings and Conclusions for Denial of Appeal of Encroachment Permit – Lisa Clark.
7. Well No. 11 Evaluation – Consultant Services Contract/Carollo Engineers.
8. Water Rights Assistance/Amendment to Agreement for Attorney Services.
9. US Fish and Wildlife Restoration of Donkey Creek Agreement.
10. Approval of first Payment of Bills for January 11, 2010: Checks #62536 through #62618 in the amount of \$254,104.81.
11. Approval of Payment of Bills for January 11, 2010: Checks #62619 through #62709 in the amount of \$1,296,487.52.

12. Approval of Payroll for the month of December: Checks #5607 through #5634 in the amount of \$536,977.15.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation for National Mentoring Month. Mayor Hunter presented the proclamation to Kevin Millard, Senior at Gig Harbor High School who mentors student Chad Stark, 3rd grader at Minter Creek Elementary. Kevin came forward and spoke briefly about the positive aspect of mentoring younger students.

2. Officer Chet Dennis – K-9 Program Awards. Chief Davis gave a brief overview of the K-9 program and introduced Officer Dennis. Officer Dennis described how each of those being presented with an award participated in the program. Those receiving awards: Lisa Freeman and family, Alexa and Dan; Gregg May and family, Margo and Kee; Dr. Robert Ries, DVM Purdy Veterinary Hospital; Marilyn Clapper and the South Sound DUI Victim's Panel; and Sonny Carlson and the Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy. Mr. Carlson spoke briefly about his wife who passed away suddenly and how he was touched that the Gig Harbor Police Chief wrote a beautiful letter which was personally delivered by Officer Dennis. He said he would continue to support this worthwhile program as long as he could.

OLD BUSINESS: None scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution Adopting Facts & Findings – 2009 Comprehensive Plan. Senior Planner Jennifer Kester explained that Council voted to deny COMP 09-0005 and COMP 09-0012 and this resolution adopts the facts and findings for the denials; a requirement of city code.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution No. 819 denying Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications COMP 09-0005 and COMP 09-0012.
Ekberg / Franich - unanimously approved.

2. First Reading of Ordinance – Amending Term Limits for Planning Commission. Ms. Kester presented this ordinance that changes the Planning Commission terms from six to four years. She explained that six years is a deterrent to applying for the position. Four years is more reasonable and still long enough to provide consistency in land use regulation and policy development. This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

3. Appointment of 2010 Council Committees, Mayor Pro Tem and Pierce County Regional Council Representatives. Mayor Hunter proposed splitting the Operations &

Public Projects into two separate committees; one to address utility project and the other to address parks and roads. He explained that splitting the committee would address both the lengthy agendas and to accommodate the four Councilmembers that have chosen this committee as their top priority. He said that splitting the committee would require two readings of an ordinance and so in the interim, he would recommend that the existing committee appointments continue. Council discussed the issues involved with splitting the committee or leaving it as is.

MOTION: Move to direct staff to move forward with the ordinance to split the committee.

Malich / Ekberg - a roll call vote was taken.

Ekberg - yes; Young - no; Franich - no; Conan - no; Malich - yes; Payne - no; Kadzik - yes. The motion failed four to three and Mayor Hunter said he would come back with the recommended Committee appointments at the next meeting.

MOTION: Move to appoint Councilmember Tim Payne as Mayor Pro Tem for 2010.

Conan / Kadzik - unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to appoint Councilmember Derek Young to continue to represent the city on the Pierce County Regional Council and Puget Sound Regional Council.

Ekberg / Kadzik -

AMENDMENT: Move to add that Mayor Hunter will act as the Alternate City Representative on both these Councils.

Young / Payne - unanimously approved.

AMENDED MOTION: Move to appoint Councilmember Derek Young to continue to represent the city on the Pierce County Regional Council and Puget Sound Regional Council with Mayor Hunter acting as the Alternate City Representative on both.

Ekberg / Kadzik - unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORT:

Water / Sewer Financing Update. City Administrator Rob Karlinsey explained that one-half the necessary funding for the improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure has been secured through low-interest state loans and grants; the other half must be funded through debt. He said that two sources for the remaining 14 million are being considered: 1) low-interest federal or state loans; and 2) tax-exempt revenue bonds. He said staff is confident of receiving money from the two loans that have been applied for and recommended moving forward with the revenue bonds by directing the city's Bond Counsel to begin the process adding that if we are unsuccessful in obtaining the low-interest loans, a second bond-issue for 7 million will be necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roy Rutherford - Process Server, Tacoma said he had been tasked by the Palace Law Firm to deliver a lawsuit filed against the city to each of the City Councilmembers. He then passed them out.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COUNCIL COMMENTS:

1. Port of Tacoma Grant Application. Mayor Hunter announced that the city submitted a grant application to the Port of Tacoma for the extension of the Jerisich Dock float. He gave the background information that led to the decision to apply.

Councilmember Franich voiced his disappointment saying the application is premature considering the Ad Hoc Committee's work to find a location for a pier that could serve more than one interest. He said it could jeopardize future funding from the port.

Councilmember Young spoke in favor of the extension of the Jerisich Dock saying he is skeptical that there are any other funds to apply for. Councilmember Ekberg agreed with many comments made by Councilmember Franich then pointed out that Council always has the final say if other plans are made.

Mayor Hunter thanked the City Council for their support over his first term in office. He talked about all that was accomplished: BB16, St. Anthony Hospital, Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, KLM Park, Eddon Boat, and soon to begin Outfall Extension. He said that these projects are a benefit to the citizens. He then thanked staff for all their hard work, some that was accomplished through very difficult situations.

Councilmember Conan addressed the elimination of funding for fire inspections in the 2010 Budget which he described as a life-safety issue. He said he met with Fire Commissioners who are also concerned with losing the current fire rating which could affect insurance rates. Councilmembers discussed the issues and whether it would be practical to charge businesses for the service or to continue along the line of voluntary compliance. It was recommended that all these issues be discussed in the upcoming meeting with Chief Bob Black. Another recommendation was made to talk to the business community to educate them about the consequences.

2. Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Update. Councilmember Young reported on what was discussed in the meeting this afternoon. He gave an overview of the bill redirecting tideland lease money directly to the jurisdiction rather than being funneled through the state. The Department of Natural Resources is resistant to the idea, but it will be discussed again in the upcoming year. He continued to say that with Council's approval, there will be three requests being forwarded to Washington D.C.: 1) continued support for the Transportation Reauthorization; 2) the appropriations request to finish off the Cushman Trail; and 3) the Vernhardson Fish-Friendly Culvert.

Councilmember Payne added that the final portion of the Cushman Trail project is designed and permitted, and has the benefit of four agencies' participation and so it's a good candidate to move forward. He added that it was unbelievable how many people were out on the trail on Sunday, saying the city may need to consider continuing the sidewalk up Rosedale much sooner than expected. He addressed the Vernhardson Culvert, saying that the city has made a significant investment to preserve the habitat in that area and the culvert would be the final piece. His final comment was that they will be reporting to the congressional team that the projected cost for the BB16 project has gone down, showing that the city is being fiscally responsible.

Councilmember Ekberg said he visited the Wilkinson Barn Open House and commented on the great job done by Gary Williamson and his group to lay out the farm implements. He said that they continued on down Eddon Boat to watch what was going on there, saying that the city has some neat things going on. He voiced concern with the Cushman Trail crosswalk on Rosedale and the number of cars parked along the roadway. He suggested additional signage to direct people to the parking lot on Grandview.

Councilmember Young gave a report on the meeting he attended with the state delegation. He said that the recommendation by the Transportation Commission to raise our toll rates to address concerns that the state didn't have a high enough debt coverage ratio for a good bond rating for the future 520 Bridge didn't go over well with our state delegation who has since registered complaints. He said that he has offered the Civic Center for meetings of the Transportation Commission and the Citizens' Toll Advisory. He recommended that when this is sorted out, that Council send a letter that says our tolls shouldn't be for anything other than covering the Narrows Bridge debt.

Councilmember Malich said he counted 75 people walking along Harborview on Christmas Day. He said it's unfortunate that the project to widen the sidewalks wasn't included in the request for funding as well as the Maritime Pier. Councilmember Young responded that it is because there are no other funds for these projects that would show participation. Councilmember Payne added that the sidewalk is only 30% designed and based upon past experience, that isn't enough to gain the necessary support.

Councilmember Malich then said that in the 70's the Port of Tacoma gave the city a stipend of around \$5000 to build a pier, but was used for the dock. He asked if Council would be interested in developing Gig Harbor as a Port Authority. Councilmember Young explained that you can only have one per county; the places where there are more than one were in existence before the law changed and are grandfathered. Rob Karlinsey said he also thought it was one per county but offered to have the city attorney do a quick check and let Council know.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS: None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of discussing Guild Negotiations per RCW 42.30.130(4)(a) and Property Acquisition per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Guild Negotiations per RCW 42.30.130(4)(a) and Property Acquisition per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for approximately 30 minutes:

Payne / Conan - unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

Conan / Malich - unanimously approved.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Payne / Conan - unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized: Tracks 1001 – 1022



Charles L. Hunter, Mayor



Molly Towslee, City Clerk