

MINUTES OF GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 9, 2012

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ekberg, Young, Guernsey, Perrow, Malich, Payne, and Kadzik and Mayor Hunter.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

WELCOME: Mayor Hunter introduced the new City Administrator, Dennis Richards.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of City Council Minutes March 26, 2012.
2. Correspondence / Proclamations: a) Parks Appreciation Day; b) Earth Day 2012.
3. Liquor License Action: a) Special Occasion - Greater Gig Harbor Foundation; b) Application – Discovery Village.
4. Receive and File: a) Boards and Candidate Review Committee Minutes March 26, 2012; b) Salary Commission Minutes March 21, 2012; c) Gig Harbor Boatyard Annual Report.
5. Appointment to the Arts Commission.
6. Appointment to Building Code Advisory Board.
7. Appointment to the Design Review Board.
8. Appointments to the Parks Commission.
9. Reappointments to Salary Commission.
10. Resolution No. 897 – Surplus Appliances.
11. Austin Estuary Restoration Project – Construction Testing Services / Construction Testing Laboratories.
12. Tides Tavern Shed License Agreement Amendment.
13. Skansie Netshed Lease Agreement – Coastal Heritage Alliance.
14. Approval of Payment of Bills Apr. 9, 2012: Checks #69362 through #69466 in the amount of \$605,791.51.
15. Approval of Payroll for March: Checks #6455 through #6472 and direct deposits in the total amount of \$318,209.05.

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

Councilmember Kadzik recognized the re-appointed and newly appointed volunteers to the city's boards and commissions: Nick Tarabochia, Art Commission; Brett Desantis, Building Code Advisory Board; and Neil Sampson, Arts Commission.

PRESENTATIONS:

Parks Appreciation Day – Gig Harbor Parks Commission. Chair of the Parks Commission, Nick Tarabochia, accepted the proclamation and spoke briefly about the importance of the Parks Appreciation Day which he characterized as a “feel-good event” for all.

OLD BUSINESS: None scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance – Side Yard Setbacks in the Historic District. Senior Planner Jennifer Kester presented the background information on this ordinance that would provide more flexibility on the placement of side setbacks / view corridors on wide lots.

Mayor Hunter opened the public hearing at 5:40 p.m. No one came forward to speak and the hearing closed.

Ms. Kester addressed Council questions. This will return at the next meeting on the Consent Agenda at Council's direction.

2. Proposed Amendment to 2012 Marketing Budget. Marketing Director Laureen Lund presented this request by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to use money set aside in the Reserve Fund for increased advertising in an effort to increase hotel stays. She and Councilmember Young, Council liaison on the LTAC, addressed Council questions regarding the proposal.

Sue Braaten, 8802 Randall Drive. Ms. Braaten, owner of the Best Western Wesley Inn and member of the LTAC, voiced her strong support of the proposed budget amendment. She explained that the purpose of the proposed billboard advertisement is to make people aware that they are in Gig Harbor when they cross the Narrows Bridge. She said that the increased advertising will help get more people to spend the night which will benefit restaurants, the museum, and shops.

When asked how they determine where visitors find out about the hotel, Ms. Braaten explained that tracking is difficult, and that 60% of the bookings come online. She stressed that the exposure has to be there in order for people to be aware of the facilities. She said they would like to continue to market Gig Harbor for meetings and conferences.

Mona Sorensen – 305 34th Ave NW. Ms. Sorensen, Manager at Inn at Gig Harbor, also said that any media advertisement is beneficial, emphasizing the need to get people to come and stay in the hotels. She too addressed the question of tracking by explaining that they market particular groups and so they know the results of that effort. Ms. Sorensen said that staff members ask the question "*What brought you to Gig Harbor?*" but since most bookings nowadays are made through mobile devices, it makes it difficult to track. She said that she is hoping that the budget amendment will produce trackable results; it will show in an increase in stays that they themselves did not market.

MOTION: Move to approve and authorize the use of funds in the amount of \$73,000. **Kadzik / Malich** – unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORT:

City Administrator Rob Karlinsey said that he had spent several hours with the new City Administrator, Denny Richards, to help indoctrinate him to the position.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT / COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Farewell to Rob Karlinsey. Mayor Hunter praised Rob Karlinsey for all he had accomplished over the past five years. He described Rob as a knowledgeable, conscientious, high energy person who gives 100% and is good at completing projects. Mayor Hunter said that the job in Kenmore is a great career move for Rob and wished him the best of luck.

Rob introduced three members of his Scout Troop 244 present in the audience, as well as his wife Michelle, sons Ben, Ethan and Seth, and daughter Grace. He continued to say that Gig Harbor is an amazing community; the people here are engaged; they know what have and take care of it. He said that the city has "texture" which has made the job fun.

Rob thanked Mayor Hunter for the opportunity to serve, saying that the Mayor, essentially a volunteer, puts in many hours and truly cares for the community. Rob then thanked the City Council for caring for the health and morale of the community. He described them as engaged, sophisticated, and caring.

Recognizing his co-workers, Rob said that we have a great, professional group working for the city who all wants to make a contribution. He finalized by thanking his wife Michelle and his family for their support over the years.

Councilmember Kadzik remembered Rob's energy during the interview process, adding that he fulfilled the duties of the position and made a difference.

Peter Stanley spoke up saying that the Council and Rob have worked together with a performance and respect that he hasn't seen in the past which has made a difference in the town. He praised Rob for his sense of perspective and humor, saying he would be missed.

Councilmember Ekberg also spoke of the enthusiasm and energy that Rob brought to the city and to the many projects that needed direction. He said that quality people often move on and wished him well in his new position.

Councilmember Malich said how much he appreciated how Rob kept the Council informed, his kindness and concern for the community, and the good work he has done. He wished Rob good luck in Kenmore.

Councilmember Payne says one phrase sums it up: "BB16," the term that Rob coined for the complicated Burnham/Borgen/Highway 16 project. He spoke of Rob's energy, enthusiasm,

perspective, and fairness. The legacy that Rob leaves for his boys and for the city is of a good, decent, and professional man.

Councilmember Perrow commented that Rob's enjoyment for the work he does shines through. He then recognized Ben Karlinsey (Rob's son) for the work on the bridge at Wilkinson Park.

Councilmember Young echoed these comments and then thanked Rob for the times that they disagreed and how he managed the difficult times. He said that Rob's flexibility, give and take, and ability to make his case was a positive trait that has earned him respect.

Councilmember Guernsey said that Kenmore is very lucky, and Rob will be a tough act to follow. She thanked him for the opportunity to work together albeit such a short time.

Councilmember Perrow talked about the upcoming Parks Appreciation Day. He said that they expect more than 300 people and invited others to come and participate. He then announced that John Oldham, Peninsula Communities of Faith, is holding a joint meeting on Wednesday from 9-11 at the Sehmel Homestead Park to discuss derelict homes. He said he planned to attend the meeting and hoped that change will come about as a result of this partnering.

Councilmember Payne invited everyone to take a look at the greenhouse currently being built at Wilkinson Park. He said that the park is in beautiful shape and offers spectacular views of greenery and the pond. He then recognized the volunteer committee for the city park play structure that recently received a \$20,000 grant from PenMet Parks. He said the amount of support is now a little more than \$180,000.

Councilmember Young reported that the PCRC approved their transportation budget cycle and will implement it with a cap so that no jurisdiction can receive \$175,000 until all applicants have the basic effectiveness in combination with the required level of maintenance. Everyone should be able to obtain some funding for preservation of roads which would help the city with road maintenance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Operations Committee: Thu. Apr. 19th at 3:00 p.m.
2. Boards and Candidate Review Committee: Mon. Apr 23rd at 4:30 p.m.
3. Council Retreat: Fri. May 11th at 8:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of discussing pending litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). In attendance: Mayor Hunter and Councilmembers, City Attorney Angela Belbeck, City Administrator Rob Karlinsey, and City Administrator Dennis Richards. No action expected to be taken after the session.

MOTION: Move to adjourn to Executive Session 6:37 p.m. for approximately twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing pending litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and guild negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(a).
Payne / Kadzik – unanimously approved.

MOTION: Move to return to regular session at 6:56 p.m.
Kadzik / Perrow – unanimously approved.

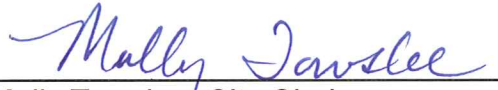
ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.
Kadzik / Perrow – unanimously approved.

CD recorder utilized: Tracks 1002 – 1030



Charles L. Hunter, Mayor



Molly Towslee, City Clerk