

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
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CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Pete Kmet and Councilmembers Joan Cathey, Eileen Swarthout, Ed Hildreth, Nicole Hill, Tom Oliva, and Neil McClanahan.

Excused: Councilmember Debbie Sullivan.

Staff: Public Works Director Jay Eaton, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Community Development Director Michael Matlock, Fire Chief Scott LaVielles, Police Chief John Stines, Water Resources Program Manager Dan Smith, Maintenance Worker Michael Erickson, and Recording Secretary Tom Gow.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

A REALLY BIG SHOE UPDATE, ENTERTAINMENT EXPLOSION:

Scott Schoengarth, Entertainment Explosion, shared information on the recent benefit concert for homeless and needy children of Thurston and Mason Counties in partnership with Community Youth Services and eight local school districts of Shelton, Olympia, Rainier, Yelm, North Thurston, Rochester, Tenino, and Tumwater. The proceeds provide shoes, medicine, food, transportation, and housing for children. The organization is comprised of seniors ranging in age from 55 to 85 who are singers, dancers, and backstage professionals. The group formed in 2006 as Entertainment Explosion. In nine years, the organization has raised over \$211,000. This year's event was held on Sunday, March 8 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

The Really Big Show event in 2016 is scheduled on Sunday, February 21 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. Next year's theme is the "EE Folk Music Festival."

Mr. Schoengarth thanked the City of Tumwater for its partnership by providing the City's free night at the Washington Center, saving approximately \$9,000 over the last nine years.

GARDEN-RAISED BOUNTY (GRuB) COMMUNITY IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE TUMWATER SCHOOL

Katie Rains, Executive Director, GRuB, provided an update on recent activities of GRuB. GRuB is a nonprofit organization serving all of Thurston County. The organization partners with youth and people with low incomes to help build backyard gardens. Last year, 80 gardens were built throughout Thurston County and Mason County. One garden was in Tumwater in partnership with the Catholic Housing Authority serving multiple households. This year, GRuB received three garden applications from Tumwater.

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DISTRICT:

GRuB also hosts workshops and provides support, training, and resources for gardeners, as well as being actively involved in Thurston Thrives. GRuB serves on the Food System Council to preserve farmland and engage more people in growing food. GRuB also has initiated a veterans program. Approximately 14,000 pounds of food was grown on GRuB's one-acre farm last year.

Over the last four years, GRuB, in partnership with the Olympia School District, has provided opportunities for students to enroll in GRuB's youth and employment training program. This year, GRuB is seeking to partner with the Tumwater School District to offer a comparable program for students.

Ms. Rains invited the Council to attend a Local Government Open House on Wednesday, May 30 at the GRuB Farmhouse and the GRuBUATION on June 3 at 5 p.m. at GRuB.

Elaina, a 17-year old student, shared how GRuB has changed her life.

Mayor Kmet and the Council acknowledged the comments of Elaina and the importance of the organization's role in helping youth. Mayor Kmet added that the partnership between GRuB and the Tumwater School District involves utilizing some City property off Linwood Avenue for gardens. The City looks forward with working with the school district and GRuB on the project.

**PROCLAMATION:
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
WEEK, MAY 3-9,
2015:**

Councilmember Hildreth read a proclamation declaring the week of May 3-9, 2015 as "Emergency Preparedness Week." The proclamation encouraged all citizens to recognize and prepare for a safer more resilient community, to increase their knowledge and awareness of proper safety measures to follow before, during, and after a natural or man-made disaster, and to take the necessary steps in developing an emergency plan with their loved ones before a disaster strikes.

Fire Chief LaVielle briefed the Council and the community on efforts by the Tumwater Fire Department to implement safety initiatives in the City by affording training to City employees on proper safety measures for themselves and their families. The event culminated in an emergency disaster evacuation. The Fire Department provided feedback to local schools on emergency evacuation measures, as well as providing classroom training on the importance of participating in emergency evacuation drills. Fire Department personnel attended and participated in a Safety Fair at the Department of Labor and Industries. The Fire Department also provided feedback and observed drills at the Department of Health buildings, as well as participating in the active shooter drill at South Puget Sound Community

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College.

Mayor Kmet presented the proclamation to Fire Chief LaVielle.

**PROCLAMATION:
NATIONAL PUBLIC
WORKS WEEK,
MAY 17-23, 2015:**

Councilmember McClanahan read a proclamation declaring May 17-23, 2015 as “Public Works Week.” The proclamation encourages all citizen to acquaint themselves with the challenges involved in providing public works services and to recognize the contribution that public works staff make every day toward health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

Manager Smith described services provided by the City’s Public Works Department. He identified and described the responsibilities of all public works staff members. The Public Works Department is celebrating “Public Works Week” on May 21 at Tumwater Historical Park. He invited the Council to attend the event.

Public works maintains over 100 miles of roadway, and all the associated signage, sidewalks, lighting, traffic signals and bike lanes. The City has over 91 miles of sewer pipe and 29 pump stations, ultimately sending approximately 1.6 million gallons of waste water to LOTT for treatment every day.

Maintenance Worker Mike Erickson shared information on the City’s GIS capabilities.

Mayor Kmet presented the proclamation to Manager Smith and thanked Public Works staff for their efforts to ensure the efficient operation and maintenance of the City’s infrastructure. He also presented a poster of a conceptual diagram of public works infrastructure.

Councilmember Hildreth mentioned the important work completed by public works personnel during inclement weather and emergencies.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT:**

Chester Gill, 410 Hazelhurst Drive, referred to his deed of ownership to the middle of east “W” Street. The City built a street over property that he has been paying taxes on for many years. Mr. Gill said he doesn’t anticipate receiving any refund of tax money, but would like the City to address the City’s use of his property. As a 97-year old man, he would like to resolve the issue quickly. His property runs to the middle of “W” Street and the City has been using the property as a City street for several years. He asked the City to look into the matter immediately.

Councilmember McClanahan offered to contact the Public Works Director and follow-up with Mr. Gill.

Director Eaton affirmed that the appropriate records would be reviewed by

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staff to determine if any future action is necessary.

Pamela Hanson commented on her job as a municipal enforcement agent in Juneau, Alaska, and the direction she received by the City of Juneau to issue illegal tickets. One gentleman visited City Hall and confronted her about why she had written a ticket. She was directed by Juneau city officials to issue tickets if the permit was not hanging properly from the mirror even though the permit was placed on the dash. The gentleman was a recipient of one of those tickets. She noted on the ticket that the permit was valid and placed on the dash. The problem with Mr. Gill's property should have been addressed by the county, as the county is responsible for appraising the value of the property. It appears to be an error by the county, which would entail contacting the county to correct the value of the property. She urged the City to resolve Mr. Gill's issue as soon as possible. Ms. Hanson added that she also participated as a security guard in Alaska for emergency preparedness for parking garages. She volunteered with CERT and attended a FEMA presentation on lessons learned from previous disasters. Part of the failure of Hurricane Katrina was the lack of fire and police response to serve the public. Ensuring employees are trained, as well as having families prepared enables the City to have the necessary personnel available to respond during an emergency.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 14, 2015
- b. Payment of Vouchers
- c. Resolution No. R2015-006; Adopting Council Rules and Procedures and Repealing Resolution Nos. R2011-003 and R2011-016.

MOTION:

Councilmember Hill moved, seconded by Councilmember McClanahan, to approve the consent calendar as published. Motion carried.

Mayor Kmet reviewed the items approved on the consent calendar.

**COUNCIL
CONSIDERATIONS:**

**ASSOCIATION OF
WASHINGTON
CITIES (AWC)
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
VOTING
DELEGATES:**

Mayor Kmet reported Councilmember Hildreth is scheduled to attend the AWC Annual Conference, June 23-26, 2015. One of the duties of the City's representative is to vote on issues or resolutions. The request designates Councilmember Hildreth as the City's representative during the AWC Annual Conference.

MOTION:

Councilmember McClanahan moved, seconded by Councilmember Hill, to confirm Councilmember Hildreth as a voting delegate for the

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City of Tumwater at the AWC Annual Conference, June 23-26, 2015, in Wenatchee, Washington.

Councilmember Cathey questioned the types of votes that might be necessary. Councilmember Hildreth reported that voting is often necessary for AWC policy changes or legislative positions. Delegates receive the agenda and the information prior to the meeting for rendering an informed vote.

Mayor Kmet advised interested Councilmembers to contact AWC to receive information on proposed resolutions and policy changes delegates are scheduled to consider during the conference.

MOTION: **Motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

PUBLIC SAFETY:
Ed Hildreth

The committee received a briefing from Fire Chief LaVielle on the strategic plan. The committee provided input on Fire Department strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Fire Chief LaVielle has outreached to a City planning group, a Fire Department planning group, a Fire Department volunteer planning group, and a community planning group to seek input on the strategic plan for the next five years. The strategic plan is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Updates on the planning process will be provided to the committee. One plan outcome is lowering the City's fire rating from 4 to 3 to help decrease home and business insurance rates. Another potential outcome is accreditation of the Fire Department. Fire Chief LaVielle reported that the Fire Department would complete a process through the Center for Public Safety Excellence to obtain accreditation covering staffing, equipment, mutual aid response agreements, and training necessary to receive accreditation. Fire Chief LaVielle is attending the National Fire Academy to receive training during a two-week period in Maryland.

**GENERAL
GOVERNMENT:**
Joan Cathey

The next meeting is scheduled on May 12 at 11 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS:
Neil McClanahan

There was no report. Councilmember McClanahan thanked citizens for their support in the passage of the sales tax increase for street maintenance.

**BUDGET AND
FINANCE:**
Pete Kmet

The next meeting is scheduled on May 12 at 3:30 p.m.

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**MAYOR/CITY
ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:**

Mayor Kmet shared information on several planned community events. Tumwater Farmers Market opens on Wednesday, May 6.

Mayor Kmet thanked Tumwater voters for approving Proposition 1 with over 68% voter approval. Proposition 1 approves a .2% sales tax increase for sidewalk and street maintenance for 10 years. The Washington State Department of Revenue will begin collecting the tax on October 1, 2015.

Public Works staff rated the condition of City streets and identified those in greatest need of repair and those that would benefit from preventive maintenance. Over the next several months, the Council will work with Public Works Committee and the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Board to prioritize projects for the next construction season. The next meeting of the TBD is in July.

Mayor Kmet recognized City Attorney Kirkpatrick, Director Eaton, City Administrator Doan, and Assistant City Administrator Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey for their efforts in preparing the information and materials.

Director Eaton, acting on behalf of City Administrator Doan, shared information on community acknowledgements received by the City.

City of Lacey Police Chief Dusty Pierpoint sent a letter to Police Detective Jennifer Kolb and School Resource Officer Chuck Liska thanking them for their assistance during the recent shooting at North Thurston High School.

A Tumwater water customer complimented the assistance of maintenance employee Mark Teigen in identifying the source of a water leak.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORTS:**

Joan Cathey:

One of the Community Investment Partnership's (CIP) panels met and finalized the review of grant proposals. Three citizen panels of the CIP reviewed and ranked the grant applications/presentations and recommended funding proposals to the CIP. The CIP is scheduled to consider the funding recommendations on Monday, May 11.

Eileen Swarthout:

Several members of the Tumwater United for Families (TUFF) are involved in a transition event for incoming seventh grade students and their parents to visit their new school and teachers. Tumwater's Park and Recreation Department is also participating in the event. A future TUFF event will offer free immunizations and sports physicals for Tumwater families.

Mayor Kmet reported TUFF is also sponsoring another school transition day in June.

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Ed Hildreth:

The Olympia Lacey Tumwater Visitor Convention Bureau (VCB) Board is scheduled to meet on Friday, May 8. The City's Administrative Services Department is assisting the VCB in the search for an executive director. All local cities are also assisting in the process.

The TCOMM Board is scheduled to attend its three-day strategic planning process beginning on Wednesday, May 6. The Board is also meeting on May 6.

Nicole Hill:

Thurston Thrives selected a board of 25 individuals representing diverse interests in the community. Many of the members are new to the Thurston Thrives initiative. Thurston Thrives established nine action teams. The intent is consolidating the teams into five working groups or hubs. One example is the child and youth resiliency team combined with community resiliency to work on resiliency issues at the neighborhood and individual levels. The plan over the next five years is to move the action teams forward and assist them strategically with investment of time and in partnerships. Two local government representatives are members of the board. The Thurston County Board of Health appointed City of Rainier Councilmember Dennis McVey and a Councilmember from the City of Olympia. Councilmember Hill said she plans to attend meetings and provide updates to the Council.

Councilmember Cathey questioned the size of the board, as it appears to be too large to accomplish the objectives. Councilmember Hill said the initial intent of the board was determining its role. Approximately half of the original 13 members remain on the board for continuity. The objective of pursuing philanthropic opportunities to attract and leverage investment across the community attracted many individuals to serve on the board. The board includes representatives from United Way, Community Foundation, and others who can assist in advancing the objectives of the program financially. The board will focus on high level issues with the action teams responsible for implementing the programs.

Councilmember Cathey said during the CIP funding process, the panels were developed from the Thurston Thrives strategy maps as a way to move Thurston Thrives forward. She asked whether philanthropic members on the board are providing financial contributions. Councilmember Hill said those members are assisting in identifying funding resources. Councilmember Cathey noted one of the goals of the CIP was to consolidate a larger pool of funds into one process. Thurston Thrives has now established a 25-member board and is setting strategies and raising funds. She asked how that effort aligns with the goals of the CIP. Councilmember Hill advised that the action teams would be tasked with developing priorities and a budget for each of their assigned areas of focus.

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In some cases, it might include applying to the CIP, as the CIP is funding some elements of the program. The action teams would be responsible for ensuring the delivery of services.

Councilmember Cathey expressed concerns about the creation of yet another network and web of hoops service providers must maneuver to achieve their desired objectives. Councilmember Hill shared that the original board's major challenge was determining the placement of the organization and whether it was a county program funded with county money and administered by the county or whether it should be a United Way function. Half of the board preferred to create a separate entity, which entails determining operations and funding processes. The action teams will be a major element of the program. The long-term goal is to fund the strategies and strategy maps.

Councilmember Cathey expressed concerns with the creation of another entity with similar goals of existing organizations that compete for the same pool of money.

Mayor Kmet suggested affording an opportunity for the effort to evolve and schedule a check-in as the City isn't represented on the board.

Councilmember McClanahan added that the original concept of Thurston Thrives was consolidating all social service-funded agencies into one entity to administer the program. County Commissioner Cathey Wolfe was the original convener of the concept, which evolved into a life of its own. The timing might be right to stop and consider whether the effort is duplicative as the original intent wasn't to create another entity. For example, the HOME Consortium is very effective because each jurisdiction is represented ensuring all entities have a voice. If Thurston Thrives plans to be successful, it also needs to have all entities represented.

Tom Oliva:

LOTT Clean Water Alliance's Septic Summit was well attended by 16 elected officials including Mayor Kmet and Councilmembers Swarthout, Sullivan, and Oliva. The meeting focused on ways to convert 17,000 septic systems in the urban growth area to sewer. Many are at risk for leaks and contaminating groundwater. Approximately 400 septic systems are at high risk. The current rate of septic to sewer conversion would take the region 500 years to complete. Several scenarios were proposed to expedite the process and reduce the length of time to convert septic systems to sewer. A series of questions will be explored by each council during worksessions with another meeting planned in the fall to discuss an approach to protect the region's groundwater supply. Most of the septic issues reside in the eastern area of the county. Approximately 5,400 septic systems are considered high priority because of the risk to the environment or because of surrounding density. The report, Urban Septic Assessment Report, is

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available on LOTT's website.

Neil McClanahan: There was no report. All committee meetings are scheduled within the next several weeks.

ADJOURNMENT: **With there being no further business, Mayor Kmet adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.**

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
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