

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 1**

CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff: City Administrator John Doan, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Community Development Director Michael Matlock, Fire Chief Scott LaVielle, Public Works Director Jay Eaton, Police Chief John Stines, Assistant City Administrator Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, and Recording Secretary Valerie Gow.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

GRUB VICTORY FARMERS PROGRAM: Mark Oravsky, South Sound Coordinator, GRuB Victory Farmers Program, reported the program affords a non-confrontational place for veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families to experience farming to the table techniques and learning about propagation, cultivation, irrigation, harvesting, washing, and prepping harvested food. It's an opportunity for veterans to work in a non-confrontational environment where they can share experiences with other members of the community through a safe venue to help veterans create roots in the community by connecting them with other people. Many veterans experience a great deal of disconnect and tumultuous rides while transitioning from active duty to civilian life.

Thurston County Commissioner Bud Blake reported Mr. Oravsky is the Executive Director for GruB Victory Farmers, which assists veterans returning from combat by farming and growing food, which is very therapeutic for those who have experienced combat.

SPECIAL GUEST: Santa Claus made a surprise visit and shared how the community has donated food to the food bank during his neighborhood visits on the fire truck.

KIDS CLOSET UPDATE BY ALISA GRIMM, KIDS CLOSET COORDINATOR: Alisa Grimm, Kids Closet Coordinator, shared information on the clothing bank where kids help other kids through donation of their clothes they have outgrown. The Kids Closet Clothing Bank is operated through the Tumwater School District. The school district accepts used items, cash, and new items. Any donations can be made to Tumwater schools or to the school district office. Items are delivered to Black Hills High School with students in the Life Skills program cleaning and sorting the clothes into plastic totes that are delivered to local schools.

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 2**

**PUBLIC
COMMENT:**

Pamela Hanson (address undisclosed) displayed a stack of court documents and explained how court documents can be changed.

Shawna Stewart, Executive Director, Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB), introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the VCB. She shared information on the many exciting opportunities moving forward for the region focusing on three strategic priorities of operational excellence, brand explosion to ensure a clear and compelling story about Thurston County, and strengthening strategic alliances by building mutually beneficial relationships and seeking creative ways of partnering with non-tourism businesses to drive economic development throughout the region.

Councilmember Hildreth reported the VCB Board conducted a national recruitment for replacing the former director. Ms. Stewart was interviewed several times and selected. Ms. Stewart is leading the VCB in a good direction.

John Wilson spoke to his frustration about existing issues surrounding the planned improvements on Capitol Boulevard that he believes will impede US Highway 99. He complained about the lack of public signs along Capitol Boulevard during the planning process to inform commuters of the proposed changes. Old Highway 99 is of countywide interest and most community members attending the meetings were from Tumwater not commuters using the highway. He mentioned issues with the configuration of Bonniewood Drive and his previous notices to the City about the problem. He believes reconfiguration of Bonniewood Drive is a priority.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, December 1, 2015, Worksession, November 24, 2015
- b. Payment of Vouchers
- c. Acceptance of Work – Somerset Hill Drive and Cleveland Avenue Outfall Project
- d. Acceptance of Work – E Street Outfall Improvement Project
- e. Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County for Plan Review Services
- f. Deschutes Way Land Purchase

MOTION:

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

Mayor Kmet reviewed the items approved on the consent calendar.

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 3**

**COUNCIL
CONSIDERATIONS:**

**COMMUNITY ARTS
PRESENTATION:**

Lisa Smith, Executive Director, Enterprise for Equity, reported the organization is a nonprofit entity and is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the City of Tumwater. The organization recently held a workshop at South Sound Manor for farmers and buyers of local food. She introduced Christine Mallock, owner and manager of Gallery Boom, the City's first and only local art gallery.

Ms. Mallock shared statistical data on the arts community from the 2002 Economic Development Vitality Index. The region has the same percentage of creative class occupants as many larger metropolitan cities. The gallery is featuring 30 local artists at its small shop in the Capital Mall during December in addition to the 30 artists featured at the gallery in Tumwater. Many local artists have expressed interest in promoting art within local communities. In January in cooperation with Enterprise for Equity, the first art workshop is scheduled on *Selling Your Art – Where to Start* for beginning artists interested in learning how they can sell their art. The workshop on January 23 at the new La Quinta Hotel will feature information on the local art market and tips for selling. Event hours are from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration is \$30 per person.

Ms. Mallock offered to assist the City in creating an Arts Council.

Ms. Smith added that Ms. Mallock is a graduate from one of the programs sponsored by Enterprise for Equity and is responsible for driving the arts effort in the City. There are enormous opportunities for the City of Tumwater to accent, augment, and support the incredible beauty of the City through art.

Mayor Kmet commented that the City hasn't typically allocated funds for the inclusion of art within capital projects. With so much focus on other efforts, the question is whether the City is at a point in its development to pursue establishing an Arts Council. He suggested the Council consider the request during its retreat in the spring. Ms. Smith offered to provide additional information for the Council's review and consideration.

Ms. Mallock said the hours of the gallery during December are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. During the regular season, the gallery is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Ms. Smith offered to support the City and its Arts Council in securing federal grants to augment art investments in the community.

Councilmember Cathey recommended connecting with the VCB. She

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 4**

referred to existing arts within the City and how the effort could help promote and enhance Tumwater's history. She asked about the benefits an arts council could bring to the City. Ms. Mallock advised that the community's artists are supportive of promoting arts through information sharing and serving as a bridge to the community and visitors.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

PUBLIC SAFETY: There was no meeting and no report. The next meeting is scheduled on
Ed Hildreth Tuesday, January 12 at 9 a.m.

GENERAL There was no meeting and no report.
GOVERNMENT:
Joan Cathey

PUBLIC WORKS: The committee forwarded recommendations to the Council on several
Neil McClanahan projects included on the consent calendar.

BUDGET AND There was no meeting and no report.
FINANCE:
Pete Kmet

MAYOR/CITY Mayor Kmet reported on the status of street sweeping within the City.
ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT: City Administrator Doan shared several notes and letters from citizens thanking and commending City employees for their efforts.

City Administrator Doan recognized the Lions Club and the community for efforts on the Holiday Assistance Program to provide toys for children. City Hall is hosting two barrels for collections for the Thurston County Food Bank and YWCA's Other Bank. The community is encouraged to visit and contribute food and supplies.

The Eastside Annexation will be effective January 1, 2016 adding approximately 3,000 citizens to the City.

City Administrator Doan thanked the Council for their efforts and support this year. He thanked Thurston County, Fire Districts 6 and 15, and the community for their partnerships and willingness to work with the City during the annexation transition. He thanked staff for their support and work during the last year.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORTS:**

Debbie Sullivan At its last meeting, the Intercity Transit Authority recognized Yelm

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 5**

Councilmember Joe Baker for his 10 years of service on the Authority. Members received briefings on several pending projects and finalized some agreements. The City of Tumwater received compliments on its efforts to improve the new bus transfer area near the Safeway store.

Councilmember Sullivan attended the December 9 Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties meeting. She also participated in the event featuring Astro, the court dog, in a picture taking event with Santa. Thurston County may also have an opportunity to acquire another court dog. The Council prepared for the annual audit in January and spent some time on budgeting, finalizing information from the retreat, and beginning efforts on the strategic plan and new vision statement.

Tom Oliva:

Thurston Regional Planning Council met on December 4. The agenda included a briefing on 2016 legislative priorities for the region, a presentation by Thurston Climate Action Team summarizing the results of a climate change survey, and completion of the Executive Director's evaluation. The next meeting is on January 8.

The LOTT Clean Water Alliance Board considered a proposal for biennial budgeting and the timeline for reorganizing under a different legal structure. The Board approved creating a part-time position for an office assistant and filling the position with an applicant from Morningside. Olympia Councilmember Steve Langer was recognized for his service to the Board. LOTT will transmit its first meeting broadcast in January on TCTV channels 3 and 26 and the internet.

Councilmember Oliva attended the Thurston Economic Development Council conference featuring the economic forecast update for the Thurston region. The forecast for the economy is optimistic for 2016. He also attended the second meeting of the Black Alliance in conjunction with Councilmember Sullivan and Police Chief Stines at South Sound Manor. The meeting exercise focused on improving race relations in the community.

Councilmember Oliva reported he and Councilmembers Cathey and McClanahan participated in the City's annual audit exit interview with the State Auditor's Office. No findings were determined for the City's financial reporting.

Neil McClanahan:

The Thurston County Housing Task Force has reorganized as the Homeless Housing Hub because of the recent consolidation of the HOME Consortium and the Community Investment Partnership (CIP). Recent conversations with representatives from south county jurisdictions revealed some concerns about the loss of representation from south county jurisdictions within the new organization.

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 6**

Councilmember McClanahan shared that he assured south county representatives that ongoing discussions are continuing about south county representation within the new organization. He plans to attend the Homeless Housing Hub (HHH) meetings as a representative of the City.

Councilmember Hill clarified that the HHHH is a subcommittee of Thurston Thrives. Anyone is welcome to attend the subcommittee meetings. Thurston County Commissioner Bud Blake is chairing the subcommittee.

Joan Cathey:

The CIP met as a newly combined organization. Every two years, the group had revisited representation on the Human Services Review Committee (HSRC). The initial goal for consolidating the HOME Consortium and the CIP was to combine funds and grant funding awards through a centralized process. Essentially, HSRC transitioned and consolidated CIP, United Way, and the HOME Consortium. The south county issue remains under the umbrella of Thurston County Health and Human Services Council (HHSC). South county is currently represented on the HHSC. However, to continue participating in the HHSC, all jurisdictions must pay ½ of 1% of sales tax for the previous year. South county jurisdictions elected not to participate. As a member of the HOME Consortium, all members participated to include south county jurisdictions, which speak to the concerns addressed by Councilmember McClanahan. Thurston County Commissioner Romero contacted all four south county jurisdictions except for the City of Rainier to discuss the provisions for participating under the organization. Currently, the CIP is revising its internal operating procedures to account for the new organization. February 22 is the deadline for releasing the grant application request for proposals.

Councilmember Cathey reported on her participation to officiate at the December 29 Thurston County electeds swearing-in ceremony at South Puget Sound Community College at the Performing Arts Center.

Eileen Swarthout:

At the December 1 Tumwater United for Families meeting, Christie Upton and her team were recognized for their work on the Holiday Assistance Program. Donations afforded gifts to over 400 children.

The Tumwater Notables, a local school choir, are performing during intermission at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

Councilmember Swarthout recently attended a first grade class at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School on writing computer code. She also participated in a tour of the school's new construction area.

Ed Hildreth:

Councilmember Hildreth is planning to attend the Nisqually Tribe

**TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 15, 2015 Page 7**

Benefit Banquet on Wednesday, December 16 as a representative of the TCOMM 9-1-1 Administration Board.

With the City's recent annexation and increase in population, the City is no longer a member of the Thurston County LEOFF Disability Board. The City may consider forming a new board.

The Nominating Committee of the VCB met and considered how to fill vacant positions on the Board. The committee recommends replacing three positions from Thurston County, Nisqually Indian Tribe, and an advisory member. The next Board retreat is planned in February. Members discussed expanding membership to hoteliers located outside Thurston County. The issue was referred to a subcommittee for additional review and discussion.

A large basketball event is planned for the area in March 2016 consuming approximately 1,000 hotel rooms.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor Kmet recapped some of the many accomplishments during the year and thanked the community for its support. He expressed appreciation to staff for their support and to the Council for their efforts and for representing the City on interjurisdictional committees. He wished everyone a great holiday season.

Councilmember Cathey acknowledged and thanked Mayor Kmet for his leadership and availability to provide guidance to the Council.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Kmet recessed the meeting at 8:30 p.m. to an executive session on real estate acquisition pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for approximately 20 minutes. No action was planned following the executive session.

RECONVENE AND ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Kmet reconvened and adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.