

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

6:00 P.M. – 7:25 P.M.

REMOTE AND IN PERSON

To hear Council's full discussion of a specific topic, or the complete meeting, watch the recorded meeting available on the City of Lacey's Public Meeting Portal:

<https://laceywa.portal.civiclerk.com>

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR MILLER, COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN, COX, STEADMAN, KUNKEL, AND VAZQUEZ

STAFF PRESENT: R. WALK, S. KELLEY-FONG, D. SCHNEIDER, R. ANDREWS, J. ADAMS,
AND E. FONTAINE

ACTION: APPROVE WORKSESSION AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN AND
DEPUTY MAYOR MILLER.

POTENTIAL CONTRACT WITH DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

STAFF: RYAN ANDREWS, PLANNING MANAGER
JENNIFER ADAMS, HOUSING COORDINATOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Ryan Andrews, Planning Manager, introduced Jennifer Adams, Housing Coordinator.

Staff presented the Washington Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP). The ERPP was established by the state legislature as a mandatory pilot operating statewide from November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. Since the program ended, the City of Lacey has an opportunity to continue DRC services for the remainder of 2023. Funding of \$50,000 is being requested to initially launch a Lacey-based eviction resolution program. Funds would be re-evaluated in 2024 based on an assessment of services used and anticipated service needs.

Council expressed support with the program being voluntary from all parties and recommended gaining feedback from organizations representing tenants, in addition to hearing from property management sources.

Next steps include drafting a professional services agreement and presenting to the full Council at a future meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT POLICY

STAFF: SHANNON KELLEY-FONG, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Land Acknowledgments are formal statements that recognize, pay tribute to, express gratitude and respect for, affirm the ongoing relationship between indigenous people and the land, and help raise awareness of the Indigenous histories, perspectives, and experiences – past, present, and future.

The City of Lacey is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, specifically the people of the Medicine Creek treaty (1854), including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Squaxin Island Tribe. The City works with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe in government-to-government partnerships.

Staff reviewed the draft Land Acknowledgement Policy. The purpose of the Land Acknowledgment Policy is to establish a City of Lacey Land Acknowledgment and provide guidance for City of Lacey employees, volunteers, appointed officials, and elected officials on its use.

The draft Land Acknowledgement Policy will be presented to the full Council at a future meeting for action.

ADVISORY BOARD STIPEND PROGRAM

STAFF: SHANNON KELLEY-FONG, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Staff provided an overview of the advisory board compensation programs that are intended to reduce barriers for participation. The overview included:

- Potential Direct Costs
- Stipend Amounts
- Liability and the Volunteer Protection Act
- Tax Requirements
- Advisory Board Feedback
- City of Lacey Draft Advisory Board Stipend Program

The program was presented to the Community Relations and Public Affairs Committee at the June 5, 2023, meeting. It was forwarded to the full City Council without a recommendation. Staff detailed four (4) options for the Lacey City Council to consider.

Council expressed support for Option 1, with the following adjustments:

- Increase proposed stipend for Youth Council
- Increase pay frequency

Staff will proceed with Council direction and the program will be presented for adoption at a future Council meeting.

Prior to concluding the meeting, Councilmember Vazquez made a motion to censure Councilmembers Kunkel and Greenstein for recent violation of RCW 29A.84.040, dealing with removing or defacing campaign advertising, including political signs. Councilmember Cox seconded.

Councilmembers Vazquez and Cox voted in favor.

Mayor Ryder, Deputy Mayor Miller, Councilmembers Kunkel and Greenstein voted against.

Councilmember Steadman abstained.

Motion failed.