

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JANUARY 14, 2021

4:00 P.M. – 5:36 P.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT, COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN, STEADMAN (AUDIO ONLY), COX, KUNKEL, MILLER

STAFF PRESENT: S. SPENCE, J. BURBIDGE S. EGGER, M. HARDIE, D. SCHNEIDER,
R. WALK, T. WOO, K. ADAMS, E. FONTAINE

Mayor Ryder amended the agenda to add *City Storm Response Update*

ACTION: APPROVE WORKSESSION AMENDED AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT

LACEY COMMISSION ON EQUITY PROPOSAL

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER
KELLY ADAMS, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

ACTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT AND
GREENSTEIN TO FORWARD THE PROPOSAL ON A SEVEN GENERAL MEMBER,
AND ONE YOUTH MEMBER, COMMISSION ON EQUITY IN THE FORM OF AN
ORDINANCE TO FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR FORMAL ADOPTION

Kelly Adams, Management Analyst presented a proposal for a Lacey Commission on Equity.

The City of Lacey is the most ethnically and racially diverse community in Thurston County. In 2019, the City formalized a series of exploratory meetings with civic leaders from underrepresented community groups to discover experiences and develop momentum forward on issues of racial inequity and inclusion. Progress on this effort temporarily paused due to the COVID-19 health pandemic in 2020.

Throughout 2020, Lacey elected officials and staff regularly received requests from the community to address issues of inequity for underrepresented groups locally in response to national, regional, and local events. Work previously initiated with civic

leaders advanced with a draft proposal and recommendation to create an advisory board to the Lacey City Council called the Commission on Equity.

The primary vision of the Commission on Equity will be to support a welcoming and inclusive City for all members of the Lacey community. To support this effort, the Commission will focus on the improvement of equity through inclusion, education, and policy initiatives. The Commission will address and examine the barriers and constraints that limit the full potential of Lacey community members.

Staff confirmed that \$25,000 is already included in the adopted budget for the proposal. Council inquired about incorporating a youth member. Dave Schneider, City Attorney confirmed that a youth member (1-year term) could be in addition to the seven general members.

LACEY COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS

STAFF: RICK WALK, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
PAUL HORTON, ATHENA GROUP

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Rick Walk, Community & Economic Development Director provided the following process overview for a 12-month timeline relating to the community-driven response to homelessness. Community engagement is strongly highlighted through each step.

Process Overview:

- Work with community to identify issues
- Examine options to assist homeless
- Refine options to assist homeless
- Finalize recommendations for City Council's consideration

Goals included:

- Not duplicating planning commission process
- Gauging community support for homelessness response strategies
- Not solving global issue of homelessness
- Providing community based direction to the City Council for response strategies in Lacey and the Region

Councilmember Greenstein advised that members of the committee have shared adverse experience and that he recommended they contact Rick Walk, Community & Economic Director directly.

Councilmember Kunkel recommended a few members of the committee share their experience and feedback directly to Council at an upcoming Worksession.

Council asked staff for an update if the June/July deadline is found to not be sustainable.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS – INTERGOVERNMENTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

STAFF: ANDY RYDER, MAYOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Mayor Ryder reviewed Council assignments for Intergovernmental Boards and Commissions and made the following updates:

- Councilmember Miller was recommended to Chair the Transportation Committee
- Councilmember Kunkel was recommended to Chair the Community Relations Committee
- Councilmember Kunkel was assigned to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, in place of Councilmember Steadman
- Councilmember Steadman was assigned to the Thurston County Law & Justice Council, in place of Councilmember Greenstein

Community Relations and the Transportation Committee will vote on a new Chair at a future meeting.

REVISE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Scott Spence, City Manager, reviewed the current City Council meeting schedule and following proposal:

Current Meeting Schedule:

- February through October
 - 1st and 3rd Thursdays – Worksession
 - 2nd and 4th Thursdays – Council Meetings
- November through January

- 1st and 3rd Thursday – Council Meetings
- 2nd and 4th Thursday - Worksession

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

- January through December
 - o 1st and 3rd Thursday – Council Meetings
 - o 2nd and 4th Thursday – Worksession

Council shared agreement with the proposal of revising the Council Meeting schedule to reflect the 1st and 3rd Thursdays for January through December. It was also agreed to maintain the 4:00pm meeting time until future assessment required by the pandemic.

CITY STORM RESPONSE UPDATE

STAFF: SCOTT EGGER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Scott Egger, Public Works Director presented an overview of the City's storm response for January 13, 2021.

Damage Included:

- Water
 - 4 wells without power
- Waste Water
 - 41/48 Lift Stations on generator power
- Transportation
 - 7 roads blocked
 - 10 traffic signals on generator power
- Parks
 - Branches & debris

Puget Sound Energy acknowledged that this was a 10-year storm, having the biggest impact since the ice storm in 2012.

Council shared their gratitude for Public Works employees in their response. Council also expressed interest in providing a public announcement for any

citizens left with damaged or hazardous trees within city limits, to contact the City.