



**City Council Regular Minutes – Draft  
REMOTE MEETING  
Monday, April 20, 2020, 7:00 PM  
City Hall, 616 NE 4th AVE**

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**SPECIAL MEETING**

*NOTE: Please see the published Agenda Packet for all item file attachments*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McDonnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members Ellen Burton, Greg Anderson, Bonnie Carter, Don Chaney, Steve Hogan, Shannon Roberts and Melissa Smith

Staff: Bernie Bacon, Phil Bourquin, Jennifer Gorsuch, Cathy Huber Nickerson, Shawn MacPherson, Heather Rowley and Steve Wall

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Randal Friedman, 1187 NW 10th Avenue, Camas, commented about North Shore planning, and Downtown Camas.

Phil Williams, 936 NE 41st, Camas, commented about form of government, Legacy Lands, and communication.

Scott McElhaney, 4227 NW Sage Loop, Camas, commented about construction and Legacy Lands.

Additional public comments received via [publiccomments@cityofcamas.us](mailto:publiccomments@cityofcamas.us) are attached to these minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. April 6, 2020 Camas City Council Special Meeting Minutes - Draft
2. \$2,041,967.13 Automated Clearing House and Claim Checks Numbered 144052 to 144184

**It was moved by Council Member Smith, and seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

## MAYOR

Mayor announced that last week was National Telecommunicators Week. He stated that it was Jack Harrington's, the first Mayor of Camas, birthday. He thanked the citizens of Camas for their commitment and efforts regarding the stay-at-home order.

## MEETING ITEMS

3. Reaffirmation of the April 6, 2020, Motion Confirming the City of Camas Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 18, 2020  
Presenter: Jennifer Gorsuch, Administrative Services Director

**It was moved by Council Member Carter, and seconded, that the April 6, 2020, motion confirming the City of Camas Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 18, 2020 be reaffirmed. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Supplement to the City of Camas Proclamation of Civil Emergency Issued March 18, 2020  
Presenter: Jennifer Gorsuch, Administrative Services Director

**It was moved by Council Member Smith, and seconded, that the April 15, 2020 Supplement to the City of Camas Proclamation of Civil Emergency issued March 18, 2020 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Resolution No. 20-004 Adoption of the 'Support Local and Save' Program  
Presenter: Cathy Huber Nickerson, Finance Director

**It was moved by Council Member Carter, and seconded, that Resolution No. 20-004, with the end date correction to reflect May 31, in exhibit A, be read by title only. The motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Council Member Carter, and seconded, that Resolution No. 20-004, with the end date correction to reflect May 31, in exhibit A, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Randal Friedman, 1187 NW 10th Avenue, Camas, commented about Downtown Camas and Georgia Pacific.

Scott McElhaney, 4227 NW Sage Loop, Camas, commented about the 'Shop and Save' program and Legacy Lands.

Phil Williams, 936 NE 41st, Camas, commented about remote meeting format and Legacy Lands.

Alicia King, 3457 NW Endicott Street, Camas, commented about an urban forestry commission.

Additional public comments received via [publiccomments@cityofcamas.us](mailto:publiccomments@cityofcamas.us) are attached to these minutes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

**From:** [Douglas Strabel](#)  
**To:** [Public Comments](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting - Monday 4/20/2020  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 5:53:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS- 04202020.docx](#)

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Attached are my comments that will be reviewed during the public comments portion of the City Council meeting scheduled for Monday 04/20/2020.

The topic is:  
EXPENSE REDUCTION FOR THE CURRENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL WELL BEING OF CAMAS

thank you.....

Douglas Strabel

**On Friday 4/03/2020 I sent a PROPOSAL to the Mayor and CC. Initially a response was received from CC Ellen Burton. Subsequent to that I exchanged emails with CC Shannon Roberts 2 weeks ago and elaborated on the topic of helping the City with specifics on the actions to be undertaken.**

**Camas needs to get ahead of the REVENUE shortfalls that are coming in the years ahead.**

***One of the key elements to address is EXPENSE REDUCTION. Make the plan for deep cuts now:***

- Redo the balance of the remaining 2020 budget with an 18% target reduction in TOTAL spending***
- Take the same approach with the upcoming 2021/2022 budget process***
- Start with a hiring freeze – including City Administrator and any other replacement positions***
- Stop OT now – Right now it is running at 6% of payroll for the last 2.5 years***
- Stop Incentive Payouts – 3% of payroll for the last 2.5 years - Does anybody know what that really is?***
- No COLA in 2020/2021***
- Take a hard look at reassignment of idled staff for better utilization of available time***
- Consultants and Outside Contractors – have these been reviewed and only allowed to work on City Critical items. Has the WSP Contract been reviewed?***

**And most importantly!!!**

***Nobody buys anything discretionary or any capital items even though it is in the budget***

**Additionally has the City addressed the following??**

- *Renegotiation of Service Contracts*
- *Maximization of P-Card usage by readdressing spending limits and usage in place of PO's.*

**Last week I sent an email to get an update:**

"Just wanted to check-in and see how well the City of Camas is doing in taking the necessary actions and making the cuts in spending that we reviewed last week.

We could have done a lot in the last week. I'm interested in seeing how successful the City staff has been comparatively."

**Last I have heard from the city is as follows:**

"To answer your below questions, staff are working to determine the size of the economic impact in the 2020 budget as we speak.

City Council and the management team built in a mild recession into the city's 6 year forecast. As a result we entered the COVID-19 crisis with a higher fund balance to weather that projected recession.

However, due to reduced revenues from many areas and considering remaining reserves, the Mayor laid the groundwork concerning limitations on hiring, overtime, travel and training, and spoke about furloughs, reduced hours and possible layoffs.

City council members are elected by the citizens and we are interested in being good stewards. We are made aware of the cutbacks and efforts to save money. Staff is doing a stellar job in all areas."

There is no reason to believe that we are not doing our best to be fiscally responsible."

**From:** [MARGARET TWEET](#)  
**To:** [Public Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Please Make Parks and playgrounds accessible  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 6:59:21 PM

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This is posted at the Clark County website,  
“Our parks are vital resources to our communities, especially during this time. I encourage people to take advantage of the free public space our parks provide in a responsible way, following the recommendations outlined by the National Recreation and Park Association statement.”

NRPA recommends the following guidelines for social distancing in public parks and trails:

Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms

Follow CDC’s guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails

Follow CDC guidance on the recommended size of social gatherings including outdoor picnicking, pick-up sports and other group hangouts, and maintain proper physical distance at all times

Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains

Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence as you pass

Observe CDC’s minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other persons at all times

<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-public-works-city-vancouver-sign-joint-agreement-national-recreation-and>

I would like the city to consider the benefits of outdoor activities on health and well being, and make the parks more accessible, including the parking lots, sports courts, play equipment, and restrooms.

In the same way grocery stores offer wet wipes in the cart area, perhaps a measure like this would help near the play equipment or picnic areas.

Basketball and tennis courts are enjoyed by kids, teens, and adults, and it is a pity to see these resources kept from those who would use them.

The Port seems to have open parking areas so that residents can access the trails and outdoor spaces.

<https://portcw.com/news/port-of-camas-washougal-closes-natural-play-area/>

Thank you for considering how to make the parks and open areas available.

Sincerely, Margaret Tweet

**Randal Friedman**  
**1187 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**April 20, 2020 Public Comment**

Mayor McDonnell, Council, Randal Friedman.

Thank-you for the wonderful Support Local and Save program. It's recognition of Downtown's importance and worth significant public investment.

Thanks also for the Public Comment Follow-up. It's less than two months since I suggested it and it is off to a good start.

I raised a question about the "inevitability" of North Shore Development. The public answer was one word: "No."

Contrast an email from the City's Planning Manager: "Northshore area [owners] can develop their land if they choose to since those lands are within the city limits and have zoning designations assigned to them." That shows inevitability.

Pivot to three-months ago and after the Guest Column I wrote. I asked reconsideration of your decision deferring Downtown Planning to the North Shore. There has been no response.

Silence means City resources continue to North Shore planning. With 9 owners controlling 97% the land, free to do as they wish; why are we paying for planners, consultants, etc.? Let these owners pay for our review of what they want like everyone else does.

My Guest Column never said the North Shore shouldn't develop. It said "Development scale needs coordination with a future downtown Camas that considers a repurposed mill property. A plan keeping Camas centered on a vibrant downtown "

Camas residents seem to agree, saying Downtown planning, if not first, be concurrent and in full sync to planning the North Shore.

My ask from two months ago remains: this council reconsiders the decision to put our planning resources on the North Shore. A different North Shore process can continue, but some form of Downtown planning start to recognize Downtown Camas is our past, present and future. It is our ultimate Legacy Land.

The overwhelming majority will agree. We await an answer.

**Randal Friedman**  
**1187 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**April 20, 2020 Second Public Comment**

Thank you Mayor McDonnell for starting the Public Comment Follow Up. This is a major step forward in making Camas more transparent.

Thank you for your action to protect our Downtown. The last couple of months show it needs help for its long-term survival.

Now to a larger picture.

Georgia Pacifica recently surveyed the 27 acre lab site. Consider the flip-side of the wonderful news of their \$15 million package boiler investment. Georgia Pacific closes an extremely inefficient old boiler at the mill's periphery. The replacement is a small boiler next to the remaining line. This allows shut-down of their 6th Ave property. It reduces impacts on the 27 acres making it even more valuable.

Closure of the old boilers and surrounding buildings opens the door to consider appropriate cleanup consistent with ongoing operations.

Now imagine our Downtown with several thousand more people living in it. Imagine a corporate campus overlooking Downtown from the old lab property. Imagine a new medical clinic. Imagine a vibrancy that can survive a pandemic.

This vision provides Downtown's long-term survival. This is why we must immediately start Downtown planning

Please review what I have submitted in the past. Please ask your constituents. I think most will agree. They did at the visioning workshop.

Please make a decision.