

TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING
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CONVENE: 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Debbie Sullivan and Councilmembers Peter Agabi, Michael Althausen, Joan Cathey, Leatta Dahlhoff, Angela Jefferson, Charlie Schneider, and Eileen Swarthout.

Staff: City Administrator John Doan, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, and City Clerk Melody Valiant.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Patricia Riley, Roberts Road, Tumwater,** said she has learned that the location of the E Street Extension has changed. She is concerned about the plans to use a different route for the extension between Capitol Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue. The original plan depicted a straight route located south of the Department of Fish and Wildlife warehouse. She and her neighbors did not have a problem with the original route; however, the new route is located less than 100 feet from her neighbor's backyard. The original proposal retained most of the existing trees and a buffer for wildlife. The proposed route would disrupt lives every day. The neighborhood will have to deal with the disruption of the roadway. The selection of Option 2B would include a new access road to the LOTT property near the water tower. It appears no one has considered the wildlife, trees, or the constant noise and disruption it will cause to those who own homes in the area. The four-lane road would include bike lanes on both sides of the road, sidewalks, and curbs and would be routed between backyards and the old brewery million-gallon water tank. The distance from the backyards and the water tank is less than 300 feet. Because of the width of the road, the road would be close to property lines. A new roundabout will likely require a portion of a neighbor's property. Additionally, residents would be unable to turn left onto Cleveland Avenue. At least 10 deer live in the area behind the homes along with a variety of other wildlife. She asked when the City stopped considering the lives of animals that would most likely be killed by removing all the trees. She questioned the importance of the project over the lives of wildlife that have lived in the area much longer than the residents. The neighborhood would suffer from constant noise and property devaluation. Larger areas of timber removed is heartbreaking for two reasons – the destruction of trees and wildlife displaced from existing habitat with most dying in the process. All new development in the City includes removal of forests. She was informed that it would entail another two years before the City receives funding for the project and then the public would be notified. However, the proposals for funding were completed in 2015. If there is a delay, it would not be possible for neighbors to wait until funding is approved to have their voices heard. She understands the need for another road to connect Capitol Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue; however, there must be a better idea. The neighborhood has some ideas but communication is necessary with staff involved in the project. She is seeking more information concerning the project in order to schedule a meeting to share information on the impacts to the neighborhood.

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Lisa Gillotti, 110 Copper Wood Lane, Lacey, advised that Build the Bus Home is transitioning to Nurture Hope. Under Nurture Hope, two programs will continue of building bus homes and showers for unhoused people. She is seeking locations at this time and would like to discuss the possibility of using the Fire Department parking lot as a potential site.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: City Council Worksession, March 28, 2023
- b. Approval of Minutes: City Council, April 4, 2023
- c. Payment of Vouchers
- d. Agreement with Clearcreek Contractors for the 2023 Palermo Lagoon Dredging & Maintenance Project
- e. Service Provider Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the Old Highway 99 and 79th Avenue Roundabout Project
- f. Fire Engine Purchase Agreement
- g. Authority to Solicit Bids and Award Contract for the 2023 Pavement Maintenance Project

MOTION:

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

Mayor Sullivan advised of an abbreviated agenda due to a previous reception to meet City Administrator candidates.

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

City Administrator Doan acknowledged the meeting as the first in-person meeting of the entire Council since the start of the pandemic in 2019. He shared that the meeting would be his last Council meeting prior to his retirement and wanted to share some final thoughts. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the community. Although he thoroughly enjoyed serving the City, some unsolved issues surrounding the brewery remain as both a challenge and an opportunity as there could be some amazing things that could occur on the property when the time is right. In the meantime, efforts on craft brewing, distilling, and cider making have been amazing and he is hopeful the Council continues to move forward. Over the past five years, the City has hired 50% of its workforce, which in itself is amazing. In his first year with the City, the City only hired one new employee. He acknowledged department directors who are subject matter experts and passionate about the community. Future projects include more park projects as well as a new community center. He thanked the Council for their support and their time devoted to the City.

Mayor Sullivan commented on the daunting task of filling his position. City Administrator Doan has been very important in ensuring her first year as the Mayor was successful, as well as supporting her through her recent personal loss. He leaves a legacy that everyone can see and appreciate.

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ADJOURNMENT: **With there being no further business, Mayor Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
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