

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
May 2, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The meeting was held in hybrid format with in-person attendance at the Snohomish Carnegie, 105 Cedar Avenue, Snohomish, and remote online access via Zoom.

- a. Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Lea Anne Burke (*remote*), David Flynn, Karen Guzak, Judith Kuleta (*remote*), Felix Neals, Tom Merrill, and Donna Ray; Mayor Linda Redmon

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Fred Gaitan commented on laws on illegal drug use and distribution in the City.

An anonymous caller commented on event safety.

Denise Cornwell did not support the Pride Parade event.

Bonny Headley commented on Earth Day events and trees.

3. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

MOTION by Guzak, second by Merrill to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. SET Public Hearing Date for the National Guard Armory Facility Street Vacation Request - PASS Resolution 1450
 - b. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Professional Services Agreement with BHC for the WWTP Effluent Filtration System Upgrade Project
 - c. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with BHC for the WWTP Motor Control Center and Generator Project
 - d. AUTHORIZE Mayor to Sign Special Event Contract for the 2023 Pride Parade
 - e. APPROVE minutes of the April 18, 2023 regular meeting
 - f. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #78691 through 78781 in the amount of \$1,212,365.56, issued since the last regular meeting; and payroll warrants #1003-1004 and #5783-5892 in the amount of \$414,308.27, issued April 5, 2023 through April 20, 2023.

MOTION by Ray, second by Merrill to PASS the Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

5. **ACTION ITEM:** CONFIRM Mayor's Appointment of Police Chief

Mayor Redmon introduced Lt. Mike Martin and provided a brief overview of the interview and selection process. If Council approved the appointment, Lt. Martin would be sworn in as Chief of Police at the June 20, 2023 Council meeting.

Lt. Martin thanked all for the opportunity, and was looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Public Comment:

An anonymous caller supported the selection of Lt. Martin.

Public Comment Closed.

MOTION by Guzak second by Flynn to CONFIRM the Mayor's appointment of Lt. Mike Martin as Police Chief. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a. Middle Housing Analysis Project Update

Planning Director Brooke Eidem introduced Clay White, Director of Planning at LDC, and briefly explained the project. Mr. White presented slides to share an overview of the project and schedule, connection with the Comprehensive Plan, and project deliverables:

- Housing was a big issue at the state level.
- Lots of focus on accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
- Policies for middle housing.
- Addressing displacement and racial equity.
- Menu of strategies.
- Lack of starter homes; home may be more affordable, but may not be affordable to all.
- Modified requirements for housing elements in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Implementing regional policies.
- Goals of community engagement; development of project website, surveys.
- Staff attending community events to engage with the public and community-based organizations.
- An equity and displacement analysis would be completed soon.
- Using state guidelines to review City policies, which were generally in a good place.
- Providing a menu of options and facts for Council to use later while determining policy.

Council asked several questions and discussed topics with Mr. White and staff, including:

- Banking and funding limitations for housing; developers build what the market wants.
- Conversations with developers indicate correct incentives could help define housing opportunities.
- Racially disparate impacts; proactive policies to solve equity issues.
- Reviewing policies and regulations to provide options to mitigate displacement.
- Building smaller houses does not increase density; lots cost the same regardless of the size of the house.
- Parking and setback requirements could be modified to encourage middle housing.

- Incentives can be flexible; the housing market was always changing.
- Incentives related to density or reduced fees for ADUs were popular with developers.
- New homes, regardless of size or whether attached or detached, were more expensive than existing housing stock.
- The vision of the City, new state regulations, what housing types fit where, and regulations for ADUs were all topics to consider.

b. FY2022 Final Financial Update

Financial Consultant Tara Dunford provided an overview of the City's revenues and expenditures for fiscal year end 2022, including comparisons between 2022 to 2021. Strong tax revenues, coupled with conservative spending, have the City's financials overall in good shape, though quite a bit of spending was expected for projects in 2023-2024, which would bring the overall fund balance down closer to 40%.

The Council and staff discussed the City's financials, including noting automotive sales were down. Council President Merrill inquired about other cities' dependence on sales tax, indicating Snohomish's need to explore other revenue options. Ms. Dunford stated results were all over the board, with many small cities 50/50 reliant on sales and property taxes.

c. Averill Field Phase I and Playground Equipment Update

Project Manager Brennan Collins provided an update on Phase 1 of the Averill Field Improvement Project. The phase included upgrading the playground and sports court areas. Staff researched and view onsite examples of various playground equipment and manufacturers, and discussed the options with the Snohomish Kiwanis, who, with others, have solicited donations they would like to see specifically used for the playground. Staff felt GameTime, represented by Great Western Recreation, was the preferred equipment. Project Manager Collins also explained work would not commence until after Pilchuck Park was reopened, being closed for its road relocation project. Staff did elect for a poured-in-place surface, rather than wood chips or bark, which was more expensive, but was more ADA accessible, and overall less work and cost to maintain over time. A bid package was being finalized to go out later this spring for the rest of the Phase 1 work. Budget considerations would be brought back to Council in June.

Council discussed the options with staff. Selecting the playground equipment was time sensitive to ensure delivery in time for installation and next phase work--the sports courts--which Council would be asked to discuss and decide on next month. Council will be asked to discuss and decide on the direction of the sports court next month. The project for Phase 1 could run \$200-\$300,000 over budget, based on final playground costs and depending on final bids for site work, which were comparable to all three vendors.

Administrator Thomas remarked the Park Board was briefed on the situation recently, and staff was working with the Boys & Girls Club and Kiwanis to fine-tune their suggestions. Some items were just finalized this morning. Project Manager Collins will work with GameTime for site plans and information and will continue to brief the Park Board and Council as the process moves forward.

d. First Street Temporary Improvements

City Engineer Yosh Monzaki provided a brief history of the tree removal on First Street, and provided visuals of proposed pots and curb improvements for the affected areas. A contractor would be hired to remove the stumps and roots, and staff would install new curbs and the pots. Appropriate trees would be selected to plant in the pots, which could be reused at other locations after completion of the First Street Master Plan. In addition, staff considered opening a call to artists to submit proposals to decorate the pots.

Council discussed the project with staff:

- Working with PUD to reduce damage to trees near powerlines.
- Fifteen trees would be planted to replace the five removed--five in the pots and ten elsewhere in locations yet to be selected.
- Suggested locating new trees near asphalt to reduce urban heat islands.
- Parks staff was reviewing appropriate species of trees to utilize.
- New curbs would include bulb-outs for pedestrian safety.
- Moving overhead cables underground.
- Damage potentially done by tree roots underground.
- The current project would remove the minimum needed to install the pots and smooth the surface; majority of the work would be deferred to during and after the Master Plan was developed.
- Trees from the pots could be planted in the City later.
- Intersection corners would look similar to the one at Union and First.

Council concurred that staff should proceed with purchasing the pots and performing curb improvements.

7. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:

In response to public comments, Councilmember Guzak requested insight on City drug policies. Administrator Thomas responded staff was reviewing options and anticipated to discuss the topic with Council next month. Police Chief Rob Palmer added the legislature was called back to a special session to address the issue. City Attorney Emily Guildner remarked it was hoped the state would pass laws to allow for consistency across jurisdictions, but if the state did not, staff would have drafts and options for Council to consider.

Council President Merrill stated he was reviewing the code related to nuisance properties. He also referenced a written comment he received from Brian Mills detailing concerns with Pine Avenue. Administrator Thomas said staff was compiling information with which to respond, but shared radar signs had been purchased and were being installed throughout the City, with Pine Avenue a priority for installation. City Engineer Monzaki explained Pine Avenue was on the Capital Improvement Project list for paving in 2025 or 2026.

Councilmember Burke heard from several residents who questioned garbage service reductions based on mailings they received from Republic Services. Administrator Thomas replied staff reached out to Republic Services who indicated information included in the mailing was done in error--there were no changes to City services. Councilmember Ray learned from Republic Services that seniors could qualify for reduced rates, but needed to do so with the City. Administrator Thomas stated she would inquire further.

8. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Neals stated May was Mental Health Awareness Month, commented on graffiti, and encouraged thinking about inclusivity and supporting all perspectives to provide a sense to all of belonging in the community.

Councilmember Burke reported the start of the Farmers Market on Thursday, and that May was Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Councilmember Guzak commented on successful Earth Day events, the upcoming Historic Tree Tour, and a Snohomish County Tomorrow report on housing.

9. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill thanked the Snohomish Conservation District and Green Snohomish for their planting efforts at Pilchuck Julia Landing.

10. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** None.

11. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Administrator Thomas remarked graffiti and vandalism were a growing problem in City parks. Public restrooms were opened and immediately closed due to vandalism. The City's Parks crew would paint along the riverfront trail when weather improved. She shared City staff would participate in FEMA G-191 incident command training next week, and was still seeking days to schedule the Council workshop to discuss boards and commissions.

12. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon shared the following:
- National Small Business Week April 30 - May 6. Snohomish County was offering courses on starting and running small businesses.
 - The concrete path and plinth were in place for the Veterans Memorial obelisk to return to the Snohomish Carnegie grounds.
 - The Snohomish Boys & Girls Club celebrated twenty years at its current location, and was still seeking community donations to construct its Teen Center.

13. **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED this 16th day of May, 2023.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk