

**Snohomish City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

**COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT**

Lea Anne Burke  
David Flynn  
Karen Guzak  
Judith Kuleta  
Tom Merrill  
Felix Neals  
Donna Ray  
Linda Redmon, Mayor

**STAFF PRESENT**

Brennan Collins, Project Manager  
Emily Guildner, City Attorney  
Scott James, Finance Director  
Yosh Monzaki, City Engineer  
Rob Palmer, Police Chief  
Rebekah Park, HR Manager/Clerk  
Glen Pickus, Planning Director  
Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development and  
Communications Manager  
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and Utility  
General Manager  
Brandi Whitson, City Clerk

***NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 declared federal, state and local emergency, and pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamations 20-05 and 20-28, the Snohomish City Council held its meeting via remote participation.***

2. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order.

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

3. **APPROVE MINUTES** of the January 4, 2022 regular meeting.

**MOTION** by Kuleta, second by Burke to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Brian Mills, in writing**, commented on population growth options for Snohomish.

**Jesse Podoll, in writing**, commented on sidewalks on Terrace Avenue.

**Peter Messinger** inquired about a gun buy-back program.

**Elle C.** supported a tree policy and preserving trees on First Street.

**Morgan Davis** commented on lack of garbage pick-up services and building heights in Midtown.

**Susan Sellers** commented on pedestrian safety issues on Terrace Avenue.

**John Lorenz** commented on vaccine side effects and inappropriateness of Council liaisons to non-profit organizations.

**Jeff Judy, Snohomish Kiwanis**, reported the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs have raised \$120,000 for teen playground equipment at Averill Field.

**Sara Sage** advocated for sidewalks and other pedestrian safety measures on Terrace Avenue.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **SUPPORT** Snohomish School District Ballot Measures Proposition 1 Replacement Levy for Educational Programs and Operations, and Proposition 2 Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements - **PASS** Resolution 1429

Mr. Schuller provided a short explanation of the Resolution and the propositions proposed by the Snohomish School District on the February 8 ballot.

Council President Merrill noted Snohomish School District Superintendent Dr. Kent Kultgen was in attendance, and inquired if he was willing to answer questions.

Councilmember Kuleta requested specifics related to safety and technology. Dr. Kultgen responded security cameras in the schools needed upgrading, technology needed safety and maintenance upgrades, and security improvements could be utilized with student pickup and drop-off. Systems and software needed updating to continue moving forward with remote-based learning, educational strategies, and curriculum.

Councilmember Neals inquired about the need for bonds if the levy passes. Dr. Kultgen explained the bonds would provide for the buildings, the levies for learning. The levy identified some maintenance and facility measures, and was intended to provide some revenue to maintain buildings until the next bond was pursued.

### Citizen Comments:

**Morgan Davis** commented a multifamily tax exemption affected all taxpayers.

**Terry Lippincott** supported the levy to supplement state funding for increased school services for students.

**John Lorenz** did not support the Resolution, or the financial burden the tax could impose.

**Johnny** appreciated supporting the schools and teachers.

**Ival Salyer** inquired if tax rates would change and what the final amount targeted to collect was.

**Alice Armstrong** stated this was not a new tax and schools and education were essential to quality of life.

**Jeff Judy** shared the website *YesSnohomish.org* as a resource to help answer questions regarding the levy.

### Citizen Comments: Closed

Dr. Kultgen explained the ballot reflected an estimated rate and the amount the School District could raise each of the four years and could not go over. He invited people to view more information on the School District's website or to contact him directly.

Councilmember Guzak reiterated the ballot was to replace a tax already being paid for. The state provided some financial support, but not enough.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Burke to PASS Resolution 1429 providing the City Council's recommendation to voters in support of the School District's proposition 1 "Replacement Levy for Educational Programs and Operations" and proposition 2

“Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements” on the February 8, 2022 ballot.

Councilmember Neals was interested to hear what’s next; bonds built the Aquatic Center and funded the High School refurbishment. He encouraged the School District help people understand the infrastructure, and mentioned how this all helps makes Snohomish a destination due to investments in the community.

Councilmember Kuleta remarked on the needs seen in the schools, and the support that can be provided. She was impressed by what teachers, administrators, and parents have accomplished during a difficult time with the pandemic and they deserved the support.

Council President Merrill stated a measure of a community is how well it supports its children and quality of education.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. **APPROVE** Averill Field Park Master Plan

Mr. Collins presented a background of the plan as developed by Otak after input received from the community through the City’s Park and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Ray appreciated the work invested and questioned not seeing the Park Board’s suggestions shown on the plan. Mr. Collins explained there was time to review those suggestions in the next step of the process which was to develop more detailed construction drawings. Details would be presented to the Park Board and Council for review, feedback, and public input throughout the process. He mentioned working with the Snohomish Kiwanis on playground equipment as perhaps the first step.

Councilmembers asked questions regarding benches, locations of other seating, light pollution considerations, and maintenance of the facilities. Mr. Collins responded much of that would be addressed during the next step in the process, provided the overall master plan was approved enabling staff to move forward on those design elements.

Councilmember Burke asked Council and staff to remember park impact fees were meant to develop parks in areas that were underserved by parks. There were quadrants of the City lacking parks, and cautioned using an entire budget on Averill Field when determining phasing and details of the project.

Citizen Comments:

**Jesse Podoll, in writing**, supported approval of the plan.

**Morgan Davis** commented on the need for parks west of Avenue D.

**Beth Buckley, Snohomish Lions**, remarked on the history of Lions Club/Kiwanis Club ventures, and looked forward to the improvements.

**John Lorenz** supported locating parks in more areas, providing a place where kids could be kids.

Citizen Comments: Closed

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Merrill to APPROVE the proposed Averill Field Master Plan taking into account the Park Board recommendations, and staging the project, starting with the play area.

Councilmember Burke requested more information on what would be covered in each phase. Mr. Collins replied the phases were flexible, but suggested the playground be the first priority considering the community's involvement already exhibited towards it.

Council President Merrill looked to City staff to make proposals for the phases, while being mindful of securing funding to complete a phase and not leaving projects unfinished.

Councilmember Burke suggested the first phase include vegetation considerations, providing time for it to establish.

Councilmember Neals supported moving forward with the master plan, and leaving the more fluid details for future discussions. Councilmembers Flynn and Kuleta concurred.

**VOTE ON MOTION.** Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. **AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Execute Contract for the Senior Center Roof Improvements Project

Mr. Monzaki provided background on the issues facing the Senior Center roof, explaining leaks and necessary HVAC improvements. He also reported a budget adjustment will be requested at a future meeting.

Council President Merrill and Councilmember Neals questioned bids for the HVAC improvements and the relationship between the work involved. Mr. Monzaki explained staff was still obtaining estimates from HVAC vendors, but would like to proceed with retaining the contractor for the roof so the work can be scheduled and long-leadtime materials ordered. The HVAC needs to be moved from the roof before repairs can begin, and staff will coordinate the work between the contractors.

Councilmember Ray inquired about the floor replacement. Mr. Monzaki replied the City was not responsible for interior features, per the lease agreement, but the Senior Center did invite the City to share a portion of the cost expended to replace damaged floors. Mr. Schuller added Council can decide if they would like to contribute, and if so, how much, when the budget amendments are brought back.

Citizen Comments:

**Peter Messinger** inquired on liability of the designer or contractor.

**Morgan Davis** described the situation as a "cautionary tale" when partnering with organizations.

**John Lorenz** supported fixing the roof as soon as possible for those that use the center.

Citizen Comments: Closed

Councilmember Guzak provided some background on the design and construction of the Senior Center building.

Councilmember Burke asked if the permits, fees and inspections were included for the project. Mr. Monzaki replied the City paid for the permit fees and the work would be inspected.

Councilmember Ray supported moving forward with the roof repair and avoiding delays.

**MOTION** by Guzak, second by Flynn to AUTHORIZE the Mayor to sign and execute a contract with Vitan Construction LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$91,182.00 for the construction of the Snohomish Senior Center Roof Retrofit Project.

Councilmember Neals urged moving forward quickly with the HVAC portion to avoid delays when the roof contractor was ready to proceed.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

At 7:53 p.m., **MOTION** by Ray, second by Burke, to recess for five minutes, returning at 7:58 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

7. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Pedestrian Infrastructure

Mr. Schuller provided background on the topic and reviewed the information provided in the staff report. City ordinances placed responsibility of sidewalks on the adjacent property owner, and failing infrastructure was an issue nationwide. Mr. Monzaki then shared a slideshow with specific details regarding sidewalk projects, funding, and potential solutions for Terrace Avenue. Ms. Guildner explained gifting of public funds related to improvements, as well as liabilities and risk assessments regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance.

Mr. Schuller recapped the points made. He stated pedestrian safety could be improved by increasing funds spent on infrastructure, focusing on crossings rather than sidewalks, and reducing the speed limit to 20 mph. He proposed a pilot program for Council consideration, which could help neighborhoods throughout the City investigate potential pedestrian improvement projects.

At 8:52 p.m., **MOTION** by Neals, second by Burke, to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Councilmember Guzak inquired on estimated costs of proposed solutions on Terrace Avenue. Mr. Monzaki described the difficulty to estimating costs until a detailed investigation and scope of work could be performed. Utilities would need to be relocated as well, which would also affect the overall costs.

Mr. Schuller asked Council for direction regarding the proposed pilot program. Councilmember Ray requested more time to consider the information, perhaps in a workshop, before making any decisions.

Councilmember Burke agreed, but also agreed that the matter should continue moving forward. She questioned gifting of public funds if sidewalks were provided for public use, increased enforcement and consequences of speeding in 20 mph zones, and whether moving the sidewalk on Terrace to the west side of the street would create crossings, which were identified as danger points. She stated these were not casual decisions to make.

Council President Merrill remarked on the need for a workshop and time to consider all the moving parts. Moving forward with a century of backlog of decisions will not be made in an hour, and he expected a lot of feedback from the public.

The Council questioned and debated benefits of holding a workshop to allow them to delve into and better understand the details before soliciting public input at another meeting, versus a town hall format in which public comment would be a part of the discussion. They also considered two facets to the discussion: 1) Terrace Avenue specifically, and 2) the broader issues of pedestrian safety City-wide.

Councilmember Neals suggested starting with a broader focus, and hold a special meeting to take time to talk through all the considerations and then see how it relates or applies to Terrace Avenue and potentially other areas throughout the City.

Citizen Comments:

**Brian Mills, in writing**, remarked the City should be responsible for infrastructure improvements.

**Morgan Davis** did not support changing the ordinance and mentioned other places in the City needed sidewalks.

**Ival Salyer** commented on considering impacts now before residents move in to the new development, and pedestrian safety as a factor of public health.

**Sara Sage** spoke to increased liability and risk with additional traffic from the new development, and appreciated the Council wanting to understand the options.

**David Andrews** stated the City's growth process was flawed and developers should be responsible to mitigate impacts of their developments.

**Milt Grover** suggested the Council meet with staff first to review options and then seek public input.

Citizen Comments: Closed

Mr. Schuller stated he would work with Mayor Redmon and Council President Merrill to schedule a workshop. Mayor Redmon requested more information on the legal issues Ms. Guildner touched on be included in the future discussions.

8. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. **AMEND** SMC 3.16.030 Telephone Business Tax - **ADOPT** Ordinance 2435
- b. **ADOPT** New/Revised Council Rules & Regulations - **PASS** Resolution 1428
- c. **AMEND** Financial Management Policy - **PASS** Resolution 1426
- d. **CONFIRM** Mayor's Reappointment to the Design Review Board
- e. **AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #76124 through #76239 in the amount of \$812,980.43, and payroll claim warrants # 70191 through #76157 in the amount of \$466,298.90, issued since the last regular meeting.

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

9. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:** None

10. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Guzak announced a government website *covidtest.gov* was newly opened, from which the public could order COVID tests. Also, the Health District was opening an immunization site at the Everett Mall.

Councilmember Flynn thanked staff for the thorough presentations.

Councilmember Burke echoed Councilmember Flynn's comment. She attended the Planning Commission public hearing on the Midtown District, which was well-attended with lots of input.

Councilmember Kuleta reported the next *Coffee with a Councilmember* event was January 27 at 7 p.m., online. Council President Merrill would be joining her for an informal back and forth discussion with members of the public.

11. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill will be attending several meetings in the coming weeks. He was adjusting to his role as Council President and finding it fulfilling. He invited people to forward their thoughts to him prior to the *Coffee with a Councilmember* event.

12. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schuller stated the next Council meeting would include a public hearing on the Midtown District, with potential action by Council.

13. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Redmon addressed complaints regarding lack of garbage collection and advised the City was working on the issue. She thanked City street crews for keeping the streets clear and filling potholes. She connected recently with other mayors from Snohomish County and County Executive Dave Somers, focusing on housing issues with efforts to spread the burden of growth across the region in a thoughtful, comprehensive approach. She recorded remarks for the upcoming Groundfrog Day online events, indicating more information would be available soon from the Chamber of Commerce.

14. **ADJOURN:** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

APPROVED this 1st day of February, 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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Linda Redmon, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, City Clerk