

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
March 1, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Emily Guildner, City Attorney
Scott James, Finance Director
Yosh Monzaki, City Engineer
Rob Palmer, Police Chief
Rebekah Park, HR Manager
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development and
Communications Director
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. Amending the standard order of business was approved at the February 15, 2022 meeting.

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. RESCIND Resolution 1409 Waiving Utility Late Fees - PASS Resolution 1430
- b. APPROVE Minutes of the February 4, 2022 regular meeting, and the February 15, 2022 workshop and regular meetings
- c. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #76297 through #76444 in the amount of \$784,283.31, issued since the last regular meeting.

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jan Lengenfelder, Carol Meagher and Lanni Johnson, each in writing, supported the Mayor's responsibilities and decisions regarding personnel.

Morgan Davis supported relocating the City Shop to a different site.

John Kartak and John Lorenz voiced opposition to other public remarks.

5. **ACTION ITEM:** AUTHORIZE Mayor to Execute Special Event Contract with Snohomish Farmers Market for 2022.

Ms. Poischbeg provided background for the Farmers Market, detailing its 30 year history in the City. She explained the Market's growth since its inception, and the Market's request to find options to accommodate that growth. Some businesses had expressed concern over expansion of the Market in its current location on Cedar Avenue. Staff proposed two alternative locations: 1) Union and Glen Avenues, or 2) Averill Field. Benefits and detriments were identified for either location, with a third option of leaving the Market on Cedar Avenue, limiting the number of Market vendors.

Councilmember Ray questioned the number of business impacted by Option 1 compared to the current location. Ms. Poischbeg responded more business would be impacted, and parking would be an issue regardless of location, but Option 1 provided room for more vendors.

Mayor Redmon inquired about the grass at Averill Field impacting ADA accessibility. Ms. Poischbeg confirmed, but explained much of the Market would be on Third Street, from Pine Avenue to Lincoln. Other concerns about locating booths and foot traffic on grass, especially in inclement weather, were raised.

Councilmember Merrill asked about a comment received about closing First Street west of Avenue D for the market. Ms. Poischbeg also received and appreciated the suggestion, but explained she did not have enough time to vet the location under the timeframe the Market needed to meet certain deadlines.

Councilmember Ray queried timing of Averill Field improvements potentially impacting the Market.

Councilmember Neals expressed a larger question of what downtown businesses felt, and what other venues would be appropriate, voicing concerns with foot traffic and access to businesses. Councilmember Kuleta considered regardless of tonight's decision, the City should work with the Market's board and local community to review pros and cons, and long term viability of options.

Councilmember Burke confirmed Option 1 was the suggested location, and recapped the common dissatisfaction of transportation and access. She queried actually finding an ideal location to meet all needs, stating someone will always be unhappy.

Councilmember Flynn questioned the future look of the Market, and more immediate, what considerations for the businesses near the proposed location could be done to lessen accessibility impacts for them.

Public Comment:

Ken Holden, Brava's Pizza and Pasta, in writing, opposed relocating to Union and Glen citing impacts to business.

Morgan Davis suggested relocating the market to First Street west of Avenue D.

Andrew Urie, Kla Ha Ya Days Festival President, shared similar concerns faced by other events, suggested discussions with all involved parties and events, and addressed mobility concerns if held on grass.

Kim opposed relocating the Market to Union and Glen, citing smaller footprint and impacts to appointment-based businesses.

Sarah Dylan Jensen, Snohomish Farmers Market, voiced supported of keeping the Market downtown as an economic benefit to the City.

James Berntson, supported the Market remaining downtown, on asphalt, and shared partnering with and cross-promoting businesses.

Rhonda Watts commented change made it difficult for customers to find vendors' booths, and supported the Market remain downtown.

Shannon Dey was not opposed to moving but wished there was more time to discuss the matter.

Marsha agreed that moving made it difficult for customers to find vendors.

Jenn Hayes commented on difficulty finding booths, mobility issues on grass, and supported remaining downtown.

Erik Newquist, Snohomish Farmers Market Board President, shared a history of the Market working with businesses and willingness to do the same with those by the new location.

John Hager supported hosting events downtown and suggested First Street west of Avenue D as an alternate location.

Public Comment Closed:

MOTION by Guzak, second by Burke to APPROVE the Special Event Permit Application for the Snohomish Farmers Market and AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute a contract with conditions as noted.

Councilmember Neals voiced concerns about conversations were still needed with local businesses. Ms. Poischbeg remarked some adjustments had been made without shrinking the Market's footprint too much. She tried to be thoughtful about concerns and perceptions of problems and balancing the two groups--local business and the benefits the Market brings to the community. Parking was always an issue, and expressed difficulty in prophesizing what issues businesses may experience. Councilmember Neals reiterated keeping the conversations open.

Councilmember Kuleta supported the Market but felt cornered in making a decision in such a short timeframe. Councilmember Ray concurred, and expressed need for more time to consider the options, even if they arrived at the same conclusion. Ms. Poischbeg replied the timeline can be adjusted, and explained factors leading to the decision, including marketing deadlines for the Market.

Council Present Merrill stated he heard some possible suggestions to explore going forward, and heard concerns from businesses for this year. He suggested going forward, but towards the end of the Market's season start investigating impacts businesses experience. At the same time, pre-explore alternatives, such as First Street west of Avenue D. Discussions should be held towards the end of this year in preparation of next season.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed (6-1) with Councilmembers Burke, Flynn, Guzak, Kuleta, Merrill, and Ray voting in favor, Councilmember Neals voting against.

~~6. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS~~

~~7. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS~~

~~8. COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS~~

~~9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS~~

~~10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS~~

11. **ADJOURN** to **RECONVENE** the Workshop. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m., to a five minute recess before reconvening the budget workshop at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED this 15th day of March 2022.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk