

**Snohomish City Council Minutes**  
**April 18, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Merrill, as Mayor Pro Tem, called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, 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, David Flynn, Karen Guzak, Judith Kuleta, Felix Neals, Tom Merrill, and Donna Ray; Mayor Linda Redmon (*remote, arr. 6:08 p.m.*)

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. Proclamation Recognizing Sharon Pettit

City Administrator Heather Thomas and Planning Director Brooke Eidem read and presented a proclamation recognizing Sharon Pettit's 27 years with the City, and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

Councilmember Guzak thanked Ms. Pettit for her service, and Council President Merrill shared written comments submitted from Gordon Cole.

Mayor Redmon joined the meeting remotely, and asked Council President Merrill to continue as Chair. She was having connectivity issues and would also be leaving the meeting early.

- b. Sno-Isle Libraries Update - Lois Langer Thompson, Executive Director; Jude Anderson, Snohomish Library Manager; and Vanesa Gutierrez, Community Engagement Manager

Executive Director Lois Langer Thompson recognized many in attendance connected with the library through Friends of the Library and the Library Board, then shared a slideshow of library statistics and updates. Snohomish Library Manager Jude Anderson reported on services provided by the Snohomish branch, and mentioned a celebration on July 29, 2023, to celebrate 20 years at its current location.

Councilmembers thanked Sno-Isle for the presentation, expressing their appreciation for the library.

- c. Economic Alliance Snohomish County Update - Garry Clark, President & CEO

EASC President & CEO Garry Clark provided slides reviewing economic vitality in Snohomish County, described projects with private and public partners, and reviewed the numerous efforts EASC was undertaking around the county. Focuses on infrastructure; attracting, retaining and expanding businesses; quality of life; and workforce.

The Council asked questions and discussed:

- Technical workforce development; less reliance on four-year degrees.

- Processes to provide multiple pathways for youth and talent to enter the workforce pipeline; develop connections.
- Housing affordability and inventory for those employed in the county.
- Building partnerships with housing experts; developer incentives.
- Partnering with school districts and trade schools; building STEM pathways and incentives to connect the youth.
- In-house training and apprenticeships; developing a template for small businesses to follow.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ival Salyer, in writing**, commented on transportation responsibilities in the City.  
**Jeff Valetta** shared upcoming Earth Day activities in the City.  
**Terry Lippincott** commented on the library and thanked Sno-Isle for the update.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

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

5. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- ACCEPT** Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations
- AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Execute ILA with Snohomish County for Animal Transport Services
- AUTHORIZE** Mayor to Execute HUD Grant Agreement for the NE Sewer Trunkline Project
- ACCEPT** Senior Center Roof Retrofit Project Close Out
- APPROVE** minutes of the March 28, 2023 special meeting, and the April 4, 2023 special and regular meetings
- AUTHORIZE** payment of claim warrants #78621 through #78690 in the amount of \$321,909.96, issued since the last regular meeting.

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

6. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Youth Council 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Plan

Mayor Redmon, on behalf of the Youth Council, requested a moment of silence in memory of Khalea Thoeuk

Youth Councilmembers Andrew Seamons and Cassidy O'Neill presented information on its 2022 accomplishments, which included Looking Glass Youth Open Mic Night, Kla Ha Ya Days Ice Cream Eating, Art Walk Chalk Art Contest, Halloween Kids Fair and pet costume contest, and collaborations with other City and student groups. They hoped to participate in many of these same events in 2023.

Cassidy explained the Youth Council's long-term interest in exploring projects to reduce food waste. They proposed to establish relationships between distributors and those in need, identifying concerns and potential solutions. They were still developing a full plan and hoped to conduct surveys to gauge public opinion.

Councilmembers thanked the Youth Council for their efforts and offered several suggestions on addressing food waste and potential partnerships: Snohomish County Health Department, Sno-Isle, Snohomish Community Food Bank, Snohomish Garden Club, Republic Services and Cedar Grove.

In response to Councilmember Ray's question, Youth Council members were happy with the direction they were going to engage the youth in the community and work on ideas and changes bigger than themselves. The group was tight-knit and excited to see how capable the youth in the community were, and the impact they had when working together.

Mayor Redmon thanked the Youth Council members and inquired if the City Council was happy with the direction they were going on their focus. The Council unanimously supported the Youth Council's efforts.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Councilmember Guzak inquired if staff could respond to Dr. Salyer's comments regarding transportation, stating the importance of communication. Administrator Thomas responded Public Works Director Nova Heaton would respond, and would also present updates to Council in May or June on transportation-related projects.

Councilmember Ray requested CESI Director Shari Ireton share her Coalition of Neighborhoods presentation--recently provided to the Public Safety Commission--with the City Council.

Councilmember Burke shared concerns she received from a number of residents regarding fireworks, especially those near parks and other public spaces. She questioned if increased patrols or signage closer to July 4 would help deter illegal fireworks. Councilmember Guzak remarked the Council could ban fireworks completely if it chose, but it needed to be done at least one year in advance. City Attorney Emily Guildner confirmed 366 days (one year plus one day); a ban would need to be in place before July 4 this year to be effective next year.

Council President Merrill added he had also heard concerns about fireworks and suggested the community may be ready to revisit the topic of banning fireworks completely. Attorney Guildner mentioned that if the Council chose, there was time to place an advisory vote on the November ballot, and outlined the steps for doing so. Police Chief Rob Palmer explained enforcing fireworks bans was difficult, and potentially dangerous for the responding officer in large areas with large gatherings; however, the department possessed the manpower and new equipment for extra patrols. Council President Merrill remarked it seemed a total ban was not immediately effective but worked overtime.

Council discussed its options and next steps, generally agreeing to add a discussion item to the July 5, 2023, meeting, potentially allowing public comment. Rather than place on the ballot, other forms of public outreach were available and successful, as evidenced by the housing surveys and outreach efforts. Additionally, staff may not have enough time to prepare the item for the November ballot. The topic could be added to a later ballot if other

forms of outreach were not sufficient. The Public Safety Commission could be asked for input and assistance as well. In the meantime, Administrator Thomas remarked staff would work with the Fire District and Police Department on options for this year.

## 8. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Guzak commented on Earth Day.

Councilmember Burke shared the Planning Commission was looking at code amendments for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and housing stock.

Councilmember Flynn commented on the art community coming together and seeing art displays around the City. Snohomish Arts Community, with HDSA, applied for and won a grant specific to arts and inclusion.

Councilmember Neals remarked on HB1110 and its unique approach to middle housing; trends towards vocational training; supporting Snohomish's Upper Base Books on Independent Bookstore Day, April 29; and potential collaboration with Black Student Unions at local high schools.

Councilmember Kuleta applauded the Youth Council's active engagement in the community and looked forward to helping bring their practical ideas to fruition.

Councilmember Ray reported the Public Safety Commission was examining a Coalition of Neighborhoods. She felt the Council should make good use of the workshop to review boards and commissions and not rush through it.

9. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS:** Council President Merrill shared Community Transit approved its transit plan for 2024-2026, explaining some changes and additions to Snohomish bus routes.

10. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** None

11. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:** Administrator Thomas commented on the following:

- Thank you to staff, Republic Services, and those that participated in last Saturday's Spring Clean-up--394 vehicles attended, with over 3 tons of organic material and 46 tons of solid waste collected, filling six garbage trucks.
- Closure of Pilchuck Park starts Monday.
- Work at the Carnegie for the Veterans Memorial to begin this week or next, weather permitting.
- Middle housing survey would remain open through May 6.
- Thank you to the Parks crew for landscaping around the gazebo.
- Public Works will soon present an update to Council on temporary First Street improvements to address trees and sidewalks.
- Council was encouraged to complete FEMA training before the May 10 G191 training.
- Staff continued to look for dates to schedule a Council workshop to review its boards and commissions.
- Staff was working with the State Department of Revenue to fix a glitch in its business licensing system that forced some unincorporated county residents to apply for a City business license.

12. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** None

13. **RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii), with potential action to follow.

At 7:52 p.m., Council recessed for five minutes, and withdrew to Executive Session to begin at 7:58 p.m., providing time to transition between meeting spaces. Session to last fifteen minutes, until 8:13 p.m.

At 8:13 p.m., Administrator Thomas announced extension of the Executive Session for five minutes, to 8:18 p.m.

14. **RECONVENE.** Council reconvened at 8:18 p.m. Councilmember Guzak did not return to the meeting. No action was taken.

15. **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

APPROVED this 2nd day of May, 2023.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

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Linda Redmon, Mayor

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Brandi Whitson, City Clerk