

**Snohomish City Council Minutes
June 20, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Redmon called the Snohomish City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, 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 Karen Guzak, Judith Kuleta, Felix Neals, Tom Merrill, and Donna Ray; Mayor Linda Redmon

Absent: Councilmembers Lea Anne Burke, David Flynn

MOTION by Guzak, second by Kuleta to excuse Councilmembers Burke and Flynn. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

- a. Youth Planning Presentations

Planning Director Brooke Eidem introduced students who participated in the Kids Design Snohomish program. Each student presented their map and a short description of their thoughts for the future look of Snohomish.

Mayor Redmon called for a short **RECESS** at 6:23 p.m. to allow time for students and their guests to depart.

- b. Swearing-In of New Police Chief

Mayor Redmon provided the oath of office to Lt. Mike Martin.

- c. Proclamation Recognizing Police Chief Rob Palmer

Mayor Redmon read a proclamation recognizing retiring Police Chief Rob Palmer's service to the City of Snohomish.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were received from six people related to Pride Month events.

At 6:54 p.m. Mayor Redmon called for a five-minute **RECESS** to allow time for several meeting attendees to exit the room.

An **Anonymous** caller commented on hate crimes in the City.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA** contents and order

Mayor Redmon explained Snohomish County representatives were not available to provide the Density Fringe Update as scheduled on the agenda.

MOTION by Guzak, second by Kuleta to remove Discussion Item 7 and approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. CONFIRM Mayor's Appointment to the Park and Recreation Board
- b. APPROVE minutes of the May 30, 2023, special workshop meeting and the June 6, 2023 regular meeting.
- c. AUTHORIZE payment of claim warrants #78936 through #79029 in the amount of \$1,563,471.73, issued since the last regular meeting

MOTION by Ray, second by Merrill to PASS the Consent Items. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

6. **PUBLIC HEARING** - National Guard Armory Facility Street Vacation Request

- a) Announce purpose and open public hearing. Mayor Redmon opened the public hearing.
- b) Staff presentation. City Engineer Yosh Monzaki provided background of the request by the National Guard Armory to vacate a portion of the Elm Street and alley rights-of-way in the vicinity of the current Armory. He described the appraisal process and determined value of \$230,000. Council would take final action at a later meeting if it chose to move forward with the vacation and set appropriate compensation.
- c) Council's questions of staff. None.
- d) Public testimony. Mayor Redmon opened public testimony. No testimony was received.
- e) Close public testimony. Mayor Redmon closed public testimony.
- f) Council deliberation.

Councilmember Guzak stated she saw no downside to vacating the identified property, and felt the appraised value was fair. Councilmember Kuleta agreed.

Councilmember Neals expressed the vacation and planned improvements would provide access benefits for equipment, and was in favor of the vacation. Council President Merrill concurred, indicating the land to be vacated was well contained within what was already there.

- g) Close public hearing. Mayor Redmon closed the public hearing.

h) Council deliberation and action.

MOTION by Guzak, second by Neals, to proceed, with the full compensation value of \$230,000 identified in the appraisal. Motion passed unanimously, (5-0).

7. **DISCUSSION ITEM** - Density Fringe Overview - *Item removed at beginning of meeting.*

8. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Councilmember Kuleta requested an update on the incident mentioned during public comment. Chief Palmer described random disbursement of material in Snohomish and throughout the county. Reports were taken but no further investigations made; the material was protected as free speech, and no threats of violence or targets were identified.

On behalf of constituents, Councilmember Kuleta inquired about yard waste pickup in commercial areas. Administrator Thomas would contact Republic Services and report back.

Council President Merrill visited the City's Farmers Market booth and felt it was a good venue for Councilmembers to connect with the public. He urged Council to contact staff to schedule available times. Councilmember Kuleta suggested if known ahead of time, staff could also advertise when Councilmembers would be in attendance.

9. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Guzak reported on Green Snohomish's recent activities.

Councilmember Kuleta attended an affordable housing conference last week and shared some information learned on intentional design. Design could help connect people, demonstrated by the students identifying the importance of parks in their maps. More art was collected for the upcoming Art Showcase.

10. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ITEMS/REPORTS**

Council President Merrill expressed appreciation for the junior planners and concurred with the general need for areas to congregate and the ease of transportation to get to those spaces.

11. **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Director Eidem provided the final middle housing analysis report from LDC in the agenda packet.

12. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Administrator Thomas shared updates on several construction and improvement projects around the City.

13. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Redmon reported on staff recruitment fulfillment, and exclaimed she did not want to provide attention to the material referenced by others. She stated there was no room for

bigotry or hate in Snohomish, and encouraged members of the community to reach out to and learn from each other.

14. **ADJOURN.** There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED this 5th day of July, 2023.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

Linda Redmon, Mayor

Brandi Whitson, City Clerk