



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Buxbaum noted Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Hankins are excused from this evening's meeting.

Present: 5 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Steve Langer, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Karen Rogers

Excused: 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones and Councilmember Julie Hankins

1.A ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Buxbaum announced the Council met in Executive Session earlier in the evening to discuss a real estate matter, litigation, and potential litigation. No decisions were made and the City Attorney was present.

1.B APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Buxbaum, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

Excused: 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Hankins

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION - None

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ron Nesbitt, no address provided, discussed black and white racial relations.

Mr. Jim Reeves, no address provided, discussed public safety.

Mr. Gurinder Sodhi, 420 Sherman St SW, thanked the City for placing dog waste bags for citizen use and said it's everyone's responsibility to keep Olympia clean. He also spoke in appreciation of roadway striping and crosswalk repainting.

Mr. Nathan Allan, 1431 11th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood. He said catering to the homeless

population is hurting his business and Olympia is becoming known as the destination spot for homeless people.

Ms. Jennifer Fellingner, 1409 10th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood. She noted safety concerns with the close proximity to several schools.

Ms. Jeanne Koenings, 1619 10th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood. She highlighted other homeless services embraced by the neighborhood, but indicated this one is not a good fit.

Mr. Luke Bowerman, 1515 10th Ave SE, Eastside Neighborhood Association President, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at this location.

Ms. Casey Allen, 1431 11th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Brian Diveley, 1333 7th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Jess Archer, 1316 Central St SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Cecilia Mikler, 609 Capitol Way S, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood. She noted downtown businesses would support "no panhandling" and "no loitering" ordinances.

Mr. Steven Wellierer, 1316 Central St SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Lydia Groseclose, 1234 10th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Chris Rall, Pacific Northwest Transportation for America representative, discussed demographic impacts on transportation infrastructure and funding.

Ms. Aimee Pecan, 1003 Lybarger St SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Bob Kackley, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Tim Minarchi, 1205 8th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Amy Solomon-Minarchi, 8th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Nona White, 7th Ave SE, spoke in support of the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Gus Guethlein, 3222 Wiggins Rd SE, discussed alley ways. He showed a picture of an alley in Fort Collins, Colorado which shows the alley has been paved and turned into a pedestrian walkway with amenities such as planters and lights.

Ms. Zena Hartung, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Beth Naccarato, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Kari Gonzalez, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Jim Hutchinson, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Ms. Beverly Coi, no address given, spoke in opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Mr. Bill Funk, no address given, spoke about downtown being a mess in general. He asked what the Council's intent is for downtown and for cleaning it up.

Ms. Heather Moore, Capital Recovery Center Executive Director, invited the public to the next public forum regarding placement of the People's Choice low barrier shelter. She noted a second opportunity to come to a future neighborhood association meeting on this topic.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (Optional)

Councilmember Rogers thanked Eastside neighbors for coming to speak tonight. She showed a map of downtown shelters and transitional housing which she had prepared. She asked staff to confirm the proposed low barrier shelter location and distance from nearby schools. She agreed the City should create a plan for shelter locations and ensure no one specific area is over saturated.

Councilmember Roe thanked people who spoke tonight. She asked the City Manager to report some background leading up to tonight's meeting.

City Manager Steve Hall discussed the likely shortage of homeless shelters this winter and noted Thurston County is the lead agency for homeless services. He provided background on the People's Choice proposal and said that while the City is not directly involved with the project, at some point a shelter proponent may come to the

City of Olympia for consideration and possible conditional use permit approval.

City Attorney Tom Morrill noted any future consideration of a shelter project will come before the City's Hearings Examiner, not the City Council or a Council Committee.

Councilmember Langer thanked those who spoke tonight. He indicated he is the Chair of the Land Use & Environment Committee and highlighted a recent discussion of that meeting body on this topic.

Councilmember Cooper commented on Mr. Guethlein's comments and thanked everyone who spoke tonight. He shared information based on his research regarding the homeless need and work in progress to reduce homelessness. He asked the Council to direct the City Manager to reach out to the People's Choice group regarding next steps with their project work.

Councilmember Rogers asked whether the People's Choice project will need a conditional use permit. She asked the City Attorney to provide information to the Eastside Neighborhood Association President regarding a conditional use permit process. She also requested a report on the Intake Center in the near future.

Mayor Buxbaum thanked people for turning out to speak this evening. He discussed the need for a homeless service system and the importance of public participation in the process.

Councilmember Cooper asked whether a motion was needed to get the contract going for the \$35,000 allocation. Mayor Buxbaum indicated he believed the Council has already provided criteria for the City Manager to use to apply resources toward solving the homeless service system problem relative to shelter provision as quickly as possible. Mr. Hall confirmed he has enough direction to work with Interfaith Works to help them develop a clear management plan designed for this or other shelter sites. Mayor Buxbaum clarified the Council's interest in getting people off the streets, making neighborhoods and the community safer, and adding to a homeless service shelter system in a productive way, not with negative consequences.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 4.A** [13-0613](#) Approval of the June 22, 2013 Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting to Hold a Mid-Year Retreat

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.B** [13-0612](#) Approval of July 23, 2013 Special Study Session Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.C** [13-0614](#) Approval of the July 23, 2013 City Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.D [13-0617](#) Approval to Apply for Transportation Improvement Board Grant Opportunities

The decision was adopted.

- 4.E [13-0581](#) Approval of Property Acquisitions and Utility Easements as Part of the Boulevard Road and 22nd Avenue Roundabout Project

The contract was adopted.

- 4.F [13-0602](#) Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County Solid Waste for Waste Stream Characterization and Analysis

The contract was adopted.

- 4.G [13-0517](#) Approval of Arts Commission Recommendation Regarding Art at City Hall

Councilmember Langer highlighted this item and said he looks forward to seeing public art in front of City Hall.

The decision was adopted.

- 4.H [12-0129](#) Approval of National Development Council Contract to Administer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Section 108 Loan Fund

The contract was adopted. Councilmember Rogers registered a nay vote.

SECOND READINGS - None

FIRST READINGS

- 4.I [13-0605](#) Approval of Appropriation Ordinance in the Amount of \$425,312 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan and CDBG Revolving Loan Program

The ordinance was approved on first reading and moved to second reading.

- 4.J [13-0620](#) Approval of Ordinance Amending OMC 18.76010 - Design Review Board Membership

The ordinance was approved on first reading and moved to second reading.

- 4.K [13-0603](#) Approval of Appropriation Ordinance in the Amount of \$2,263,880 for Transportation Projects

The ordinance was approved on first reading and moved to second reading.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Buxbaum, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

Excused: 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Hankins

5. PUBLIC HEARING - None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.A [13-0619](#) Briefing on Downtown Alleys

Public Works Director Rich Hoey introduced Ron Thomas with Thomas Architecture Studio in Olympia as a partner to provide design work on transforming Olympia's alleys from blights to amenities.

Mr. Thomas discussed a pilot project for the concept design of two alleys downtown. He reviewed challenges and showed examples of how alleys in other communities have been improved. He spoke about the alley naming project underway in Olympia and showed proposed designs for two Olympia alleys.

Mr. Hoey discussed outreach to date and potential funding partnerships, since there is currently no funding for this project. He outlined next steps and asked for Council interest in having a sign made in time for the Library event August 28.

Mayor Buxbaum noted Roger Easton passed away last year and recognized his previous work on this idea.

Council Discussion:

- The smaller signs are made and ready for installation. The cost for one of the large signs to be made and installed is approximately \$5,800, which would be paid from Community Planning & Development heritage funds.
- Appreciate the concept but have concerns about a cost of \$400,000 to \$450,000 per alley for this improvement.
- The most expensive components would be the surfacing and bulbouts; would like to see a more conservative cost approach.
- Support the idea of having more to do in a smaller space in order to promote density and draw more pedestrian-oriented interest to the area.
- Implement the project on a smaller scale, such as when the alley needs to be resurfaced anyway; add bulbouts at the same time and do the surface more in line with the concept design.
- Don't just put a sign up; other amenities need to be added at the same time, such as a green wall.
- Natural partners would be adjacent property owners. Ask them to invest in exchange for use of the space.

- Really like the concept, particularly the surfacing and bulbouts. Agree that placement of the alley width signs should wait until more amenities can be added at the same time.
- The concepts being discussed would not be limited to the two alleys in the pilot project. These were just the two focused on for tonight's presentation.
- Thanks to Ron Thomas for the design concepts of this project.
- Porous pavers work well with service trucks as long as the below surface work is done well.
- An important element is naming the alleys, looking forward to reclaiming the alleys as a public space.
- The retail core can benefit from good lighting.
- Agree that a nice way to kick off this process would be to install one of the large signs.

Councilmember Langer asked staff to approach the Olympia Downtown Association to see if they would work on painting a mural of the SS TJ Potter. Councilmember Rogers and Roe voiced opposition for the sign expenditure.

Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to make the SS TJ Potter alley sign for approximately \$5,800 and install it in time for the August 28 Library event.

Aye: 3 - Mayor Buxbaum, Councilmember Cooper and Councilmember Langer

Nay: 2 - Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

Excused: 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Hankins

7. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

8. REPORTS AND REFERRALS

8.A COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL/COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Councilmember Rogers reported highlights from the Economic Development Council (EDC) Business Resource Center meeting she attended and noted several upcoming training opportunities.

Councilmember Rogers asked staff to look into a public records request put in by Jeff Jaksich and Phil Schulte and noted their request to publish the requested records online. Mr. Morrill and Mr. Hall agreed to look into the matter but said they could not commit to providing the records tomorrow or publishing them on the website.

Councilmember Cooper asked about getting a report on draft ordinances to ban plastic bags. Mr. Hall agreed to talk to Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Solid Waste staff about bringing an ordinance forward parallel to the County's similar action.

Councilmember Roe noted the General Government Committee will meet tomorrow night to interview advisory committee applicants for various committee vacancies. She also highlighted the upcoming Joint Animal Services Committee (JASCOM) annual Bow Wow event August 30.

Councilmember Langer reported highlights from the Land Use & Environment Committee meeting he attended. He noted the next meeting will be Thursday, August 29.

Mayor Buxbaum noted the upcoming Bon Odori celebration August 17 and creation of a Sister Marina August 18. Councilmember Roe agreed to represent the Council at the Sister Marina event. Mayor Buxbaum reported highlights from a Sustainable Thurston meeting he attended and noted a briefing by Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) on the Sustainable Thurston Task Force on the Council's August 20 agenda. Following discussion, Councilmembers agreed to hear a background presentation and schedule a future Study Session for a more in depth discussion. Mayor Buxbaum reported highlights from the Community Renewal Area (CRA) meeting he attended.

8.B CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND REFERRALS

Mr. Hall noted the Pet Parade will be held Saturday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Hall reported he and Assistant City Manager Jay Burney will be out of the office the rest of the week attending the Washington City/County Managers meeting. Communications Manager Cathie Butler will be Acting City Manager while they are gone.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.