



# City of Olympia

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360-753-8447

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### 1. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Steve Langer, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Karen Rogers

**Excused:** 1 - Councilmember Jim Cooper

### 1.A ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

### 1.B APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**Aye:** 6 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

**Excused:** 1 - Councilmember Cooper

### 2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION - None

### 3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Mr. Gurinda Sodhi, 420 Sherman St SW Apt. 419, spoke on the need for cleanliness and beautification of downtown Olympia.

Mr. Lu Carlson, 3002 Impala Dr SE, Lacey, representing the Olympia Capital City Lions Club, spoke against the high permit fees required to sell their club's Christmas trees.

Mr. Jeffrey Trinin, 1011 Wilson St NE, spoke on the downtown project to enhance downtown and the problem with camping downtown. He supports the ordinance prohibiting camping near City Hall on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Darryl Bullington, 610 Milroy St SW, spoke of the needs of homeless people and the need to support them.

Mr. Doug Goslin, 315 Phoenix St NE, spoke in support of helping the homeless and use of public space for art by individual artists.

Mr. TJ Johnson, 319 Sawyer St, spoke in favor of the upcoming urban agriculture ordinance and safe food storage. He commented on recommendations by the Planning Commission and shared their concerns and preferences.

Mr. Laurian Weisser, 1721 18th Ct, spoke against the ordinance prohibiting camping on property near City Hall.

Mr. Robert Whitlock, 502 Tullis St NE, spoke in favor of the urban agriculture ordinance. He also spoke of global warming and sea level rise and resulting flooding in downtown.

Mr. Blue Peetz, 1625 Lorne St SE, Youth Program Director of the GRuB program, said they are hoping to expand the GRuB program throughout the State. Two students of GRuB, Shannon McCabe-Goule and Joe Candelaria, provided testimony in favor of this program.

Mr. Krag Unsoeld, spoke in support of the urban agriculture ordinance and the GRuB program. He said the camping ordinance is an overreaction and suggested members of the Ambassador Program should work with the homeless to correct behaviors.

Mr. Charles Adler, 502 Tullis St NE, spoke in support of the urban agriculture ordinance.

Mr. Jefferson Doyle spoke on the no camping ordinance and said many of the homeless are unaware of issues the Council plans to discuss due to lack of the internet.

### **COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (Optional)**

Mayor Buxbaum thanked the students who testified on behalf of GRuB. He also commented on the testimony provided on the urban agriculture ordinance.

Councilmember Roe asked staff to look into rescinding the permit fees for selling Christmas Trees since Lacey and Tumwater do not charge for this.

Councilmember Langer said the urban agriculture ordinance item will come before the Council as soon as possible.

## **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 4.A**     [12-0761](#)            Approval of Minutes of the September 15, 2012 City Council  
Mid-Year Retreat

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.B**     [12-0803](#)            Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2012 City Council  
Meeting

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.C**     [12-0700](#)            Approval of Final Construction Costs for 18th Avenue

Improvements Project

The decision was adopted.

- 4.D [12-0790](#) Authorization of a Facility Use Agreement for the Mark Noble Regional Fire Training Center

The decision was adopted.

**SECOND READINGS - None**

**FIRST READINGS**

- 4.E [12-0758](#) Amendment to 2012 Capital Budget Ordinance

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

- 4.F [12-0759](#) Amendment to 2012 Special Funds Budget Ordinance

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

- 4.G [12-0760](#) Amendment to 2012 Operating Budget Ordinance

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

- 4.H [12-0764](#) Ordinance Adopting the 2012 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket

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

- 4.I [12-0777](#) Ordinance Increasing Sales Tax by One Tenth of One Percent

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

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Cooper

**5. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**6.A**     [12-0799](#)     Ordinance to Prohibit Camping on the Public Area Surrounding Olympia City Hall

City Manager Steve Hall introduced this item and stated the intent of the ordinance is not targeted against the homeless but to help keep the area safe for employees, members of the public, and customers. He reviewed the many ways the City has supported the homeless over the past twenty years. He presented numerous pictures of the campers and trash left behind on the City Hall steps. He said if passed tonight on first and final reading, the ordinance will become effective immediately.

Councilmember Hankins said this is not about criminalization of the homeless. There are many agencies that provide services. This is about unacceptable behaviors and safety.

Council Discussion:

- There is an important distinction between private property and public spaces. Private property owners can trespass individuals.
- Violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor offense.
- Staff will educate people about this prior to issuing citations.
- This ordinance singles out City Hall.
- Need a different ordinance to address the problem throughout the downtown.
- The Land Use and Environment Committee will meet on Thursday and could also look at public spaces.

Mayor Buxbaum stated he appreciates the work City staff and police do. Unfortunately, we call upon the police to work out social service issues. He said this is a national issue and is a problem not of homelessness, but of public health and safety. He asked if we could find ways to couple social service attention and additional enforcement to deal with what is happening now without taking this first step.

Mayor Buxbaum asked for a referral to the Land Use and Environment Committee this Thursday to look at a more comprehensive way to address homeless, criminal, and behavior problems. Then bring back a recommendation to the full Council next week. He also suggested a work session on homeless issues with the County in January to see how we can be more strategic on homeless issues.

Councilmember Roe said she is not sure what can be accomplished at Land Use & Environment Committee in one week. She asked for input from citizens.

Councilmember Langer invited citizens to attend the Land Use & Environment Committee meeting on Thursday. He said the issue is health and safety and individuals need to take responsibility for their own actions.

Mayor Buxbaum suggested the faith-based organizations should meet with the Parking and Business Improvement Area Committee.

Councilmember Rogers noted there are liability issues and asked the campers if they can

self-patrol so there are no fights or clean-up requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked the Land Use & Environment Committee to bring forward a real timeframe.

Mayor Buxbaum stated Councilmember Cooper is out of town and acknowledged comments received from Councilmember Cooper via email stating he is not in favor of this ordinance.

Councilmembers agreed to a future Work Session, and the referral to the Land Use & Environment Committee. They also agreed to use up to \$10,000 of the \$45,000 from the social service fund to compensate for police overtime or other creative solutions.

Mr. Hall said staff will work on this.

**The issue was referred to the December 6 meeting of the Land Use & Environment Committee with a report back to Council on December 11.**

**6.B**      [12-0552](#)      Approval of 2013 Legislative Agenda

Communications Manager Cathie Butler noted the Council will meet with legislators this Friday to discuss this agenda. She reported the two top priorities include the Isthmus land acquisition of the "Tri Way" parcels and the renovation of The Washington Center's exterior. She said Councilmember Cooper requested we include two additional items: Support for the removal of the 1 percent annual lid on property tax increases, and share liquor and marijuana tax collections with local governments.

Councilmember Rogers asked for tighter laws on animal abuse.

Councilmembers agreed to include Councilmember Cooper's recommendations.

The decision was approved as amended.

**7. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

**8. REPORTS AND REFERRALS**

**8.A COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL/COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS**

Councilmember Rogers provided highlights from the Economic Development Council board meeting. She referred to the recent budget discussion regarding the Percival Landing moorage. She said this was referred to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and we should wait to hear from them. She suggested we send letters to our partners such as the Yacht Club to see if they want to contribute to this since they will benefit. She also asked for a referral to General Government Committee to review a Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. Mayor Buxbaum said the budget discussion is closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones suggested the Council discuss a Citizen Budget Advisory Committee at

its upcoming retreat.

Councilmember Roe reported the Human Services Review Council (HSRC) met where funding request applications were distributed. She shared the proposed distribution of funds and said the HSRC recommendations will be included in next week's packet. Councilmember Rogers said she will attend the Joint Animal Services Committee this Thursday for Councilmember Roe, who will be attending the Land Use & Environment Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported the County has commented on the plastic bag issue. He asked that this item be referred to the Utility Advisory Committee for comments in advance of discussion by the Council in January. Council agreed. He also reported he participated in the annual Toy Run on Saturday.

Mayor Buxbaum suggested connecting the AWC \$1,000 scholarship program with GRuB. Council agreed.

Councilmember Rogers stated the \$10,000 allocated for the Economic Development Council for service in 2012 was not spent. She suggested we combine this year's contribution with funds for 2013. The scope of work in 2013 would include assistance from EDC on the Department of Fish and Wildlife Building, the Community Renewal Area project, and work with Enterprise for Equity job creation program. City Manager Hall indicated that staff was working on a scope of work consistent with Councilmember Rogers' comments and would share that with the entire Council.

## **8.B CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND REFERRALS**

Mr. Hall said Councilmember Cooper has requested the City provide a welcome banner for Governor Inslee. He said this will cost \$700. Council stated in these hard economic times they did not want to spend the money on this suggestion.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.