



# Meeting Minutes - Draft

## City Council

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

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**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

**5:30 PM**

**South Puget Sound Community  
College 2011 Mottman Road SW,  
Building 28 Room 111**

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### **Special Meeting to Discuss Homelessness & Housing**

#### **1. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Cheryl Selby, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones,  
Councilmember Jessica Bateman, Councilmember Jim Cooper,  
Councilmember Clark Gilman, Councilmember Lisa Parshley and  
Councilmember Renata Rollins

#### **2. BUSINESS ITEM**

##### **2.A [18-0437](#) Discussion Regarding Homelessness and Housing**

President of South Puget Sound Community College President Tim Stokes and Board  
Chair Leonor R. Fuller  
welcomed the City Council to campus.

The session began with Facilitator Nancy Campbell reviewing the Council's Guiding  
Principles and Ground Rules for behavior and a review of the four levels of listening.

Principles and ground rules as established at January Council retreat are:

Principles:

We are committed to:

Effective working relationships with each other, the public the body, and to the process  
Meeting people where they are and to sharing our process  
Civil engagement by engaging  
in healthy conflict and being comfortable when we disagree  
Behaving with integrity

Operating Norms:

Do not embarrass each other

No surprises  
Respond not react

Councilmembers broke into small groups to identify the problem they are trying to solve  
on this issue and why it is important to them.

**The issue of homelessness is important to members because:**

- All people deserve to feel safe
- Members want to help
- People want a solution
- We were raised to care for others
- If we don't address it, we perpetuate harm
- Our inaction erodes community
- We remember our country's history, i.e., the great depression
- More uncertainty in the future could make the problem worse
- We need to show our values
- "A harm to one is a harm to all"
- Frustrated that we are lagging in responding

After exploring the nature and importance of the problem, Council members identified strategies they believe or have seen work to address this issue.

**What the Council believes may work to address this issue includes:**

A coordinated entry that creates a continuum of care that includes case management services with a toolkit that includes needed services such as:

- Rapid rehousing
- Adequate shelter and day capacity
- Low barrier services
- Trauma informed and harm reduction strategies
- PIT (Prevention, Intervention and Treatment)
- Low barrier day center
- Safe places to camp
- Permanent supported housing

Regional Partnerships that distribute services

Building up the housing stock

A strategic plan that addresses emergent and long-term needs

A clear vision created with input from those affected, including the unhoused, front line workers and subject matter experts

Strong community partnerships

Strong leadership

Clear and transparent communication

A willingness to risk and to learn

Building more capacity and resources

**High Priority Action Items Include:**

- 1) Create a low barrier day center
- 2) Partner with the Community Care Center to:
  - Support strategies that have proven successful
  - Mitigate impact on businesses
  - Work to avoid scapegoating of the homeless
- 3) Create managed camping services that include cars and RVs that:
  - Are based on best practices for management
  - Include hygiene and storage services as well as trash cleanup

**Strategies to Address What we “Need to Know” include:**

Explore what the outcomes and metrics for the Community Care Center should be

Learn about issues that may help frame the principles for the strategic plan for homelessness and housing to include:

- Marginalization
- Anti-oppression
- Trauma informed care

Identify what we do not know to include:

- What is known not to work
- Review response plans of other cities
- Create a comprehensive list of current community services being provided to include capacity
- What other financial and community resources might exist

Explore options for how to most effectively engage homeless people on the streets

**Issues to be addressed in the Strategic Plan include:**

Convening a broad coalition of community members to advise the Council in the Strategic Planning process that include but is not limited to:

- Subject Matter Experts
- Front line workers
- Unhoused community members

Establish a vision and principles to guide the plan development

Develop a plan to establish a regional urban response plan to homelessness

Identify what can be done to remove barriers to creating more housing stock

Research the potential to create a detoxification center and respite beds for step down from hospitalization

Use the model of a Coordinated Entry approach to service delivery

Identify needed number and strategy for creating adequate overnight shelter beds

**Issues for Homelessness Coordinator to pursue:**

- Develop a rapid business plan to implement the high priority action items
- Establish a method for more direct reporting to the Council
- Create clear and transparent communication vehicles to keep the public informed of City efforts to address homelessness
- Arrange a joint meeting with the Community Care Center staff to discuss outcomes and metrics
- Arrange a meeting of the three adjoining cities and the county to discuss how to create a shared response to the issue of homelessness

**The study session was completed.**

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.