

**OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
September 6, 2011 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Mayor Doug Mah, Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Buxbaum, Councilmembers Jeannine Roe, Rhenda Iris Strub, Craig Ottavelli, Karen Rogers, and Steve Langer.

***Announcements***

Mayor Mah noted the Executive Session that was previously scheduled was cancelled.

***Approval of Agenda***

Mayor Pro Tem Buxbaum moved, seconded by Councilmember Roe, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

***SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

***Community Garden Update***

Program Specialist Louise Webb provided an update of the City's first Community Garden near Yauger Park which has 69 plots and many gardeners on the wait list.

***PUBLIC COMMUNICATION***

Mr. Jerry Kovic, 1311 Eastside Street, complained of speeding traffic in residential areas. He also stated he believes it should be easier for individuals to busk in the downtown areas.

Jacob, 147 Milroy, spoke in support of busking.

Joseph A, a busker, said busking is his livelihood and asked that it be made easier for him to do this.

Mr. Drew Hendricks, 816 Adams, spoke of police intimidation by standing in the foyer of City Hall tonight and said a culture of mistrust exists between the Police Department and individuals on the street.

Mr. Jason Leher, 224 Cushing St. NW, spoke in favor of a classless environment downtown.

Mr. Charlie Bishop, 555 West Bay Drive NW, said he plans to become involved and will be attending Council meetings.

Mr. Jack Gibbs, spoke of equality for everyone and said there is too much harassment of buskers.

Mr. Jeff Aggen came to the microphone but chose not to speak.

Mr. Stephen Hunt Ogden, 1425 Foxfire Dr. SE, spoke of the diversity of Olympia.

Ms. Annastehaa Curtis spoke of the virtues of providing music through busking.

Ms. Brittney Kakoe, spoke in favor of busking.

Mr. James Laird, spoke in favor of busking.

Ms. Brittney Jones said she believes buskers should be able to perform anywhere without harassment.

Mayor Mah said the remaining individuals who have signed up may speak at the end of the meeting.

### ***COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS***

Councilmember Strub thanked those who spoke tonight. She asked staff to provide a brief history of the busking restrictions. She noted many people have complained to her that they don't feel safe downtown but did not complain about the music.

City Manager Steve Hall said the current busking ordinance was passed in 2007 to provide a balance in the downtown, and to keep the sidewalk and business entrances clear. He stated staff is looking at providing more busking areas and will produce and provide a brochure to individuals, businesses, and police so everyone will be aware of what is allowed.

Councilmember Strub asked to refer the busking ordinance to the General Government Committee. Councilmember Ottavelli stated he believes this should be referred to Planning Commission. Councilmember Langer said the Land Use and Environment Committee strives to work together to make downtown very livable. He said he would accept the referral to the Land Use and Environment Committee to review the busking rules.

Mayor Mah said the item will be referred to the Land Use and Environment Committee.

### ***CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS***

Mr. Mike Coday, Chehalis, spoke of the right to free speech and expression. He said he is gathering signatures and asking the City to repeal the busking ordinance.

Mr. Charles Garret, 614 Pear St. NE, thanked the City for helping to clean up his neighborhood near the corner of Glass Ave. and East Bay Drive.

Mr. Scott Roberts, Property Rights Director for the Freedom Rights Organization, spoke on the community renewal law. He addressed the issue of blight and suggested the City use current staff to identify blight rather than hire a consultant.

Mr. Glen Morgan, Tenino, Project Manager for Stop Taking our Property Thurston County, spoke of the efforts by the City to use the eminent domain law to remove blight.

Ms. Maureen, an area artist who works with homeless youth, spoke of mistreatment of these youth and the lack of housing and facilities for them.

Councilmember Strub noted the City has not spent any money for a consultant.

Councilmember Rogers agreed that the City could identify its own blight.



City of  
OLYMPIA

***Citizen Topic Report***  
***Citizen Comments re: Busking***  
***Received in City Council/City Manager's Office***

**No. of Contacts 15**

**For 8**  
**Against 1**

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Correspondence Subject</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
9/17/2011	Dana	Walker	It is unacceptable that you 'allow' certain spaces for us to busk.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6/21/2011			Spoke against the busking ordinance.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6/21/2011	Democritus	Blantayne	Spoke about City ordinances being null and void because they violate constitutional rights and said he doesn't think the busking ordinance is valid.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6/21/2011	Scott	Askew	Spoke about being a musician and his belief it's unfair that he is required to have a permit to perform on the streets.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8/15/2011	Terry	Zander	Suggestion that citizens work to repeal laws that are not being enforced, especially the busking law.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Jerry	Kovis	Complained of speeding traffic in residential areas; also said it should be easier to busk in the downtown area.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011			Spoke in support of busking.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011			Said busking is his livelihood and asked that it be made easier for him to do it.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Jack	Gibbs	Spoke of equality for everyone and said there is too much harassment of buskers.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Annastezhaa	Curtis	Spoke of the virtues of providing music through busking.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Brittney	Kakoe	Spoke in favor of busking.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	James	Laird	Spoke in favor of busking.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Brittney	Jones	Buskers should be able to perform anywhere without harassment.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/6/2011	Michael	Coday	Spoke of the right to free speech and expression. He is gathering signatures and asking the City to repeal the busking ordinance.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/8/2011	Renee	Davis	I'm writing to chime in on the busking issue. I hope you keep the current busking ordinance as it is. I urge you not to expand the rights of these "buskers" or panhandlers.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>