



# 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, March 12, 2013

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 1. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Steve Langer, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Karen Rogers

### 1.A CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor Buxbaum noted two requests for additions to tonight's agenda:

1. Add Other Business Item A - Discussion Regarding City-Funded Homeless Assistance
2. Add Other Business Item B - Discussion of Process for the Shoreline Master Program Topic for the March 19 Agenda

### 1.B APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jones moved, seconded by Councilmember Langer, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

### 2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION - None

### 3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Olympia Historical Society President Mark Foutch, 1056 Boundary St SE, presented a resolution to the Council in support of preserving the Georgia-Pacific Building.

Ms. Maryann Connell spoke about homelessness and homeless youth in particular. She asked what constitutes an emergency in order for the City Manager to temporarily allow camping on City-owned property. She also asked about the status for funding for Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) to help homeless youth.

Mr. Matthew Miller discussed a handout listing City efforts to help reduce homelessness and spoke in support of repealing the recent ordinances that prohibit camping on City property and sitting on the sidewalk.

Ms. Jennifer Tobias spoke in support of immediate action to help the homeless community.

Ms. Erin Miller discussed the ordinance to prohibit camping on City-owned property and said she is currently running a low-barrier shelter called Zion.

Mr. Alex Daye discussed the handout about Olympia efforts to help the homeless community and spoke against the money spent to create and distribute the information. He spoke about Olympia ordinances prohibiting camping on City-owned property and disputed some of the statistics about homeless shelters.

Mr. Will Van Soronsen spoke against City actions to marginalize the homeless community.

Ms. Emmeline Mead spoke against Olympia's history of criminalizing homelessness and asked the Council to repeal the ordinances prohibiting camping on City-owned property and sitting on sidewalks.

Ms. Gail Ties asked about providing 24-hour public restrooms. She spoke in support of no-or low-barrier shelters.

Mr. Chad Gibbs spoke in support of all people being treated fairly.

## **COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Councilmember Langer thanked people for speaking civilly to discuss their points of view. He spoke of City efforts to reduce homelessness and said the City does not have the budget to address more than what is already being done. He recommended that speakers talk to the County, which has the funding to address the problem on a regional level.

City Manager Steve Hall discussed the emergency clause in the ordinance that prohibits camping on City-owned property.

Councilmember Cooper asked for Council consideration to add language to the City ordinance to define what constitutes an emergency under which the City Manager can open City-owned facilities during cold weather temperatures.

Councilmember Hankins spoke in support of continuing to put pressure on other jurisdictions to work on solving this problem at a regional level.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked to defer this topic until after Councilmember Cooper's report later in the evening.

Mayor Buxbaum discussed having a whole range of options to choose from. Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked to keep public restrooms on the list of options as discussions continue.

The Council agreed to defer the topic until after Councilmember Cooper's report later in the evening.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 4.A**     [13-0221](#)     Approval of March 5, 2013 City Council Meeting Minutes  
The minutes were adopted.
- 4.B**     [13-0203](#)     Approval of IAFF Wage Increase  
The decision was adopted. Councilmember Rogers registered a nay vote on this item.
- 4.C**     [13-0202](#)     Appointment to Capital Area Regional Public Facilities District Board  
The decision was adopted.
- 4.D**     [13-0208](#)     Approval of General Government Committee 2013 Work Plan  
The decision was adopted.

#### **SECOND READINGS**

- 4.F**     [12-0866](#)     Consideration of a Vacation Request for a Portion of an Unopened Right-of-Way Adjacent to 2015 East Bay Drive NE  
The ordinance was adopted on second reading.
- 4.G**     [13-0018](#)     Consideration of a Vacation Request for a Portion of an Unopened Alley Right-of-Way Adjacent to 516 Eastside Street NE  
The ordinance was adopted on second reading.

#### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Jones moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

### **FIRST READINGS - None**

## **PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.E**     [13-0211](#)     Approval of Advisory Committee / Commission 2013 Work Plans

Councilmember Langer pulled this item to discuss the Arts Commission work plan. He noted the Land Use and Environment Committee discussed public art locations, including outside City Hall. He spoke in support of providing the following additional direction in the work plan:

1. Place public art outside City Hall or the adjacent block;
2. Purchase an art piece from the 2012 Percival Plinth collection or one from the 2013 process;
3. Leave it to the discretion of the Arts Commission to determine public process;
4. Acquisition of public art outside City Hall or the adjacent block would be in the \$5,000 - \$10,000 range.

Communications Manager Cathie Butler noted Councilmember Langer is clarifying the intent of the Arts Commission work item 2.0 (Council Referral of Public Art at City Hall). She restated the intent is to use the People's Choice process and amend it slightly to include a piece of public art either outside City Hall or the adjacent block. The Council approved the plan with the added clarification.

**Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Hankins, to accept the General Government Committee's recommendation to approve the 2013 advisory committee and commission work plans with the additional instruction to the Arts Commission as noted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

## **5. PUBLIC HEARING**

**5.A**     [13-0037](#)     Public Hearing and Approval of Annexation Request for New Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Community Services Manager Steve Friddle provided background about the proposed annexation and showed maps to outline the area.

Olympia School District Facilities Manager Tim Byrne discussed the annexation request and the School District's preference to go through the City's permitting process. He asked for the City to do a text amendment to consider parking code changes for security and parking zone placement. The Council elected to discuss the text amendment request after the public hearing.

Council Discussion:

- The Eastside Cooperative Preschool has been notified of the petition to annex.
- The School District will temporarily move the preschool and is looking for a permanent relocation for them.
- There have been neighborhood meetings regarding the annexation.
- Neighbor issues are technical in nature, e.g., stormwater, traffic, and safety, which will be dealt with as part of the conditional use permit process.
- Review of public notifications of the annexation process before tonight's public hearing.

Mayor Buxbaum opened the public hearing.

Mr. Steve McKnight, 2305 15th Ave SE, asked for clarification about the end results of the annexation in order to ensure that the right-of-way area remains unchanged.

Mayor Buxbaum closed the public hearing.

Mr. Friddle outlined current boundaries near the area Mr. McKnight was looking for clarification on but said it's too soon to address what might occur in the future. He clarified timelines for the Boundary Review Board and noted that following review, the annexation will come back to the City Council for second reading.

Text Amendment

Mr. Friddle noted the School District came to the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) regarding two text amendments: 1) location of the parking infrastructure for the new school; and 2) fronting the building on the frontage of the property. These two conditions don't qualify as variance criteria for the Hearings Examiner process.

Council Discussion:

- The proposal is to locate the parking lot in front of the school; what discussions have been held with the neighbors about this and how would this impact the character of the neighborhood?
- There has been some contact with the neighborhood association, but there isn't a recognized neighborhood association right by this location.

- The request from the School District is to start the process for consideration of a text amendment, not make a decision tonight.
- Support for moving forward with a text amendment.
- The driveway off Boulevard Road would be a right-turn only and the School District has some drawings for good building design and landscaping.
- Interested in exploring the text amendment but have concerns with putting a parking lot in the front of the building; need to understand the security issues better.
- Direct the Planning Commission to do an expedited review in order to move the process along quickly.
- Support for significant public process, including a conversation with the neighborhoods in addition to a public hearing at the Planning Commission.

The Council agreed to start the process for consideration of a text amendment and direct the Planning Commission to expedite its review of the annexation and text amendment request.

**Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Hankins, to approve on first reading the ordinance to approve the Olympia School District requested annexation and direct staff to request expedited review and/or a waiver of review by the Thurston County Boundary Review Board. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Mayor Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Cooper, Councilmember Hankins, Councilmember Langer, Councilmember Roe and Councilmember Rogers

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.A [13-0256](#) Discussion Regarding City-Funded Homeless Assistance

Mayor Buxbaum said this item will be a discussion regarding City-funded homeless assistance, an update on City/County collaboration and the HOME Consortium report by Councilmember Cooper.

Housing Program Manager Anna Schlecht recapped the Council's direction to fund \$35,000 for a low-barrier shelter in Olympia and noted the efforts of many community groups to move forward with this proposal.

Mayor Buxbaum asked the Council to consider using a small portion of the \$35,000 for immediate homeless services rather than just for a low-barrier shelter and to coordinate with Thurston County and United Way to address needs, on an interim basis, that are not currently being met.

Council Discussion:

- Opposed to proposal - \$35,000 is intended for seed money for a

low-barrier shelter. Not willing to support erosion of funds already allocated for the low-barrier shelter.

- Is there a way to use utility funds to help PiPE with water usage and trash pick-up costs? Government agencies cannot pay for services without having a contract in place.
- Discussion on whether a decision has been made to select PiPE to work on providing a low-barrier shelter; no decisions have been made for a particular agency's proposal.
- A low-barrier shelter is one of the components in a homeless services system.
- Consider using \$2,500, on an interim basis, to be used to leverage funding by others (County/United Way) to help meet immediate needs.
- PiPE has an immediate need for a commercial dryer so youth on the streets in the rain have a way to dry their clothes.
- Continue to seed the low-barrier shelter idea but allow for immediate emerging needs; don't want to spend all the seed money on immediate needs.
- Hold fast to seed money for a low-barrier shelter to help move the larger need to the County level.
- Need to have a process in place and regardless of where the line is drawn, there will still be a large need. If looking at spending some of the seed money in another way, consider putting it toward public restroom facilities.
- Leave the money as incentive money for a low-barrier shelter and move on to the discussion of City/County collaboration.
- While a request for proposal is not required to spend \$2,500 for immediate needs, there is a level of discomfort in providing funding to an organization without some kind of selection process.
- The \$35,000 will not provide a low-barrier shelter but is attempting to send a message to the County that this is one of the highest needs of the community.
- Concerned about homeless youth who have no way to dry their clothes.

Following a brief discussion, **Mayor Pro Tem Jones moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to defer action on the motion until after Councilmember Cooper's report on the HOME Consortium. The motion passed 6-1, with Councilmember Cooper voting nay.**

Councilmember Cooper reported highlights from the HOME Consortium meeting he attended. He proposed a future Study Session to hear a presentation from Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Curt Andino and Sidewalk Executive Director Phil Owen on a comprehensive overview on a two-pronged approach to reducing homelessness in Thurston County. He discussed the HOME Consortium's planning efforts with the County to come up with a homeless services system as soon as possible and outlined the gap analysis done by the Thurston County Homeless Services Coordinator. He discussed additional one-time funding (\$1 million) the County has this year

to add to the normal RFP process or do separately. He noted three things not discussed this evening: 1) possible use of City property or buildings for a low-barrier shelter; 2) the need for 24/7, 365-day public restrooms; and 3) the possibility of amending the camping ordinance to deal with temperatures when cold-weather shelters are closed.

Mayor Buxbaum commented about his frustrations with the County's process for releasing funds, and concern about youth on the streets who have no way to dry their clothes in this rainy season.

After the motion passed, Council clarified that the intent is to provide \$2,500 for an immediate need, such as a commercial dryer at PiPE, and its desire for a coordinated effort to address immediate, emergency needs. Mayor Buxbaum offered to reach out to United Way and other agencies to encourage their participation to meet some of the emergency needs. Council agreed that staff should move forward to seek a proposal for the \$2,500 of City money; and that, while leveraged funds are desired, a contract should not be held up if funding from other agencies is not immediately forthcoming.

**Councilmember Cooper moved, seconded by Councilmember Langer, to accept the Mayor's proposal to give staff latitude to make up to \$2,500 of the \$35,000 allocated for a low-barrier shelter available to meet emergent needs around homeless services, including partnering with organizations like United Way and Thurston County to further leverage resources to expedite funding to meet immediate needs on the street today. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Councilmember Rogers

**6.B**     [13-0257](#)

Discussion of Process for the Shoreline Master Program Topic for March 19 Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Jones said that last week very little time was spent on reach 3A due to the lateness of the evening. He asked that it be added for deliberation March 19. The Council agreed to add the item to next week's agenda.

Mayor Buxbaum noted the visualization software presentation is currently on the agenda for next week and asked whether the reach 3A discussion will be instead of or in addition to that. Mayor Pro Tem Jones suggested listing the two separately and discussing reach 3A before the visualization software item.



The Council agreed to update next week's agenda to add a new Other Business topic called "Continued Deliberation on the Shoreline Master Program, Including Reach 3A", followed by a separate topic to receive a staff report and presentation on Mithun's visualization software.

Councilmember Rogers asked to add discussion of the Department of Enterprise Services' (DES) comments regarding Deschutes Parkway and Capitol Lake next week. City Attorney Tom Morrill noted this will be part of the continued discussion on the Shoreline Master Program including reach 3A.

The discussion was completed.

## **7. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

## **8. REPORTS AND REFERRALS**

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

Mayor Buxbaum commended Councilmember Rogers for submitting her report electronically.

Councilmember Rogers asked for coverage of the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) Transportation Policy Board meeting tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. Mayor Buxbaum noted he is the alternate but has a conflict and cannot cover the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jones agreed to attend.

Councilmember Cooper requested a referral to the General Government Committee to discuss the possible use of City property for shelter space, to discuss and scope the possibilities for a 24/7, 365-day a year public restroom, and the possibility of amending the camping ordinance per the conversation earlier this evening. Mayor Buxbaum proposed asking staff to report back to the Council next week about how to expediently break these topics down and work on them. The Council agreed to the proposal for staff information next week.

Councilmember Hankins reported highlights from the Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor & Convention Bureau, Thurston Communications 9-1-1 Board, and Steering Committee for the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations meetings she attended.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported highlights from Intercity Transit Authority Board, Thurston Regional Planning Council and Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings he attended.

Councilmember Roe reported highlights from Hearings Examiner Selection Committee interviews she participated in and the Executive Director search for The Washington Center for Performing Arts and General Government Committee meetings she attended.

Councilmember Langer reported highlights from Hearings Examiner Selection Committee interviews he participated in, the LOTT Board and Land Use and Environment Committee meetings he attended. He discussed Legion Way street trees and asked for Council consensus to allow spending \$5,000 - \$6,000 to hire a contractor right away to perform pruning, stump removal and replanting work for trees on Legion Way. The Council agreed with the Land Use and Environment Committee recommendation for the expenditure.

Mayor Buxbaum reported highlights from hosting a meeting from a Hong Kong delegation. He noted February 23 was Olympia's first annual Pie Day, which will continue each third Saturday in February. He reported highlights from the Sustainable Thurston Task Force and Community Renewal Area Ad Hoc Committee meetings he attended. He noted Eco Northwest was the consultant selected for the Community Renewal Area work.

Mayor Buxbaum asked Acting City Manager Jay Burney to have staff report back on any impacts to negotiations with the State regarding the Georgia-Pacific Building based on the resolution presented earlier tonight. He also noted there appears to be a new plaque that designates the entire building to the historic register. He asked that staff's response include an update on that.

Mayor Buxbaum asked staff to add Thurston County Homeless Coordinator Teresa Slusher's slide show to Granicus as part of the minutes or add it to the website for public accessibility.

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

Acting City Manager Jay Burney noted the City Manager left the meeting early due to an early flight tomorrow for vacation.

Public Works Director Rich Hoey reported Governor Inslee will hold a press conference tomorrow to announce recipients of energy efficiency grants. Olympia is one of the recipients of a \$500,000 grant toward conversion of street lights to LED technology. He noted this is part of a larger package that will convert all of approximately 3,600 City-owned street lights to LED technology. He indicated this will come back to the Council to discuss the financing package for the larger project, including an energy savings performance contracting approach.

Mayor Buxbaum requested a referral to the Finance Committee at the March 14 meeting to briefly revisit the Councilmanic debt level in concert with the discussion for debt issuance for the Washington Center project. The Council agreed to the referral.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.