

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
Monday, May 2, 2022**

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Worthington called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by the City Clerk as follows:

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Councilmember Keel      | Present                     |
| Councilmember Wood      | Present                     |
| Councilmember McCluskey | Present                     |
| Councilmember Flemming  | Present                     |
| Councilmember Belleci   | Present                     |
| Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa  | Present (left at 8:55 p.m.) |
| Mayor Worthington       | Present                     |

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Engineering and Capital Projects Director Ecklund, Parks Maintenance Supervisor West, Police Chief Premo, Public Safety Manager Hales and City Clerk Genetia.

Guest: Stacey McClain, Park Advisory Commission Chair

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Flemming led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Belleci, to approve the agenda.

**The motion carried.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

Service Recognition – Mayor Worthington presented a proclamation to Deputy J Sousley of the University Place Police Department, congratulating him on his retirement and expressing Council's sincere appreciation for his dedication, hard work and achievements.

Curtis High School Boys' Basketball Team – Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa presented a proclamation to the State Champions Vikings Boys' Basketball Team champions in recognition for their hard work, talent and dedication. The team ended the season with a 27-3 record, and went undefeated as South Sound League Champions, West Central District 3 Champions, and ultimately won the 4A Washington State Boys' Basketball Championship.

Curtis High School Boys' Swim Team – Councilmember Keel presented a proclamation to the State Champions Vikings Boys' Swim Team champions in recognition for their hard work, talent and dedication. The team ended the season undefeated with a record of 10-0, set new Washington State 4A records in the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays, achieved South Puget Sound League Dual Meet and Meet Champions as well as West District III Champions, and ultimately won the 4A Washington State Boys' Swim and Dive Team Championship.

Curtis High School Girls' Swim Team – Councilmember McCluskey presented a proclamation to the Vikings Girls' Swim Team in recognition for their hard work, talent and dedication. The team placed second in the 4A Washington State Swim and Dive Championship, while clocking a time of 1:38.22 to win the Girls' 200

Yard Freestyle Relay and taking the 2021 WIAA 4A State Title. In addition, Gabi Bellin won the Girls' 200 Yard Freestyle with a time of 1:52.64 to take the 2021 WIAA 4A State Title.

Curtis High School Girls' Wrestling Team – Councilmember Wood presented a proclamation to the Vikings Girls' Wrestling Team in recognition for their hard work, talent and dedication. The team placed third in the 4A Washington State Girls' Wrestling Championship. In addition, Clarissa Wangen won the Washington State Girls' Wrestling Championship to triumph as the first Curtis Girls' Wrestling Champion.

Curtis High School Girls' Volleyball Team – Councilmember Belleci presented a proclamation to the Vikings Girls' Volleyball Team in recognition for their hard work, talent and dedication. The team placed second in the 4A Washington State Girls' Volleyball Championship.

Curtis High School Daffodil Queen – Councilmember Flemming presented a proclamation to Clara Blakeslee, congratulating her on her achievements in winning the titles of the 2022 Daffodil Queen and Miss Congeniality.

Childcare Provider Appreciation Day – Mayor Worthington presented a proclamation to Mandie Walters proclaiming May 6, 2022 as Childcare Provider Appreciation Day in University Place and urged all its citizens to recognize childcare providers for their important work.

Mayor Worthington called for a five-minute recess at 7:16 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Belleci, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for period ending 04/15/22; and Claims dated 04/15/22.

**The motion carried.**

## **8. CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

City Manager Sugg reported on the grant application submitted by the City to the Washington State Department of Transportation Federal Bridge Program to hopefully get funding to replace the Day Island Bridge. The estimated cost to replace the Bridge is approximately \$17 million.

Councilmember McCluskey reported that she and Councilmember Wood attended the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) meeting and shared information on discussions/comments made regarding population growth allocation. She also thanked Engineering Director Ecklund and his team for grant projects they are working on. Lastly, she reported that she and Community and Economic Development Director Briske met with Jason Gauthier, SSHA<sup>3</sup>P's Manager.

Councilmember Flemming applauded the success/achievements of the Curtis High School students. He also echoed the comments made by Councilmember McCluskey and Mayor Worthington regarding the work that Director Ecklund and his team have done to continue to build upon a better infrastructure for the community in pursuing those grants. Lastly, he thanked Mayor Worthington for his leadership and commented on the positive outcome of the Council retreat held last weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, with the assistance of City Attorney Kaser, provided an update on naming of the Chambers Creek Canyon Bridge.

Mayor Worthington provided information on upcoming community events and meetings. He also thanked his colleagues for a successful retreat. Concluding, he mentioned that five Councilmembers will be attending the AWC Conference in June which will overlap with the City Council's second meeting of June. He asked for their thoughts on whether to hold the meeting online or have it rescheduled at some other time.

Councilmember Keel commented on Councilmember McCluskey's report about population allocation and growth and expressed his interest in working with staff and colleagues on figuring out how to best respond/address the matter with PCRC.

Councilmember Wood touched on what Councilmember McCluskey brought up about PCRC and indicated what they had tried to communicate with them, commenting that the City should also work on messaging that the City can only affect one portion of the solution – not the entirety of the solution.

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **9. REPORT ON RESOLUTION NO. 907 – PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Park Advisory Commission Chair McClain reported that as part of the Commission's 2022 workplan, they continued their study of Resolution No. 907 which entailed directives for the Commission to review potential amendments to UPMC Chapter 15.05 relative to park rules; specifically, whether it should be amended to prohibit, or otherwise regulate, public smoking, vaping or the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in the City's parks. He indicated that the Commission had looked at current municipal codes of north and south of University Place along the I-5 corridor and provided a summary of information they have collected (reflected on report included in the packet). He also shared the result of the FlashVote survey the Commission used to gauge the thinking of University Place residents in August 2021. The survey produced good results with 315 people responding. He noted that the result reflects a high percentage (47.2%) around concern of people leaving trash behind in the parks; 17.6% and 12.0% for people smoking and vaping, respectively; and 6.9% for drones. Other concerns include dogs/dog waste; crime; and issues dealing with the homeless (23.6%). The Park Advisory Commission met with the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) on March 17, 2022 to share and discuss their findings. Several PSAC members expressed concern that scarce police resources may be used for park code violation enforcement where more pressing concerns deserved attention. Mr. McClain concluded that with the above information, and with PSAC's concurrence, the Park Advisory Commission unanimously voted not to make any new regulations in these areas at this time.

Discussion followed with regard to the report not having considered the component on health and well-being of the community and its values; the validity of FlashVote survey results (not statistically correct); the possibility of revisiting the issue/conclusion if and when conditions change; mitigation to trash issue; implications of passing an ordinance that cannot be enforced; prevention and educational measures; and the possibility of implementing designated areas to smoke program/signage in public settings.

Mayor Worthington suggested that Council reflect on the information/recommendation about this before moving forward with a decision. He believes that the heart of the discussion is on smoking/vaping and whether Council wants to regulate it in a park setting.

### **10. NWP CONSULTING – PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING AND STRATEGY**

At a recent Council retreat, Council had expressed interest in potentially moving forward with some form of a ballot measure related to public safety. Part of that conversation included Council's interest in learning the guide rails of the process and what that would look like. City Attorney Kaser, joined by Christian Sinderman and Lily Wilson-Codega of NWP Consulting will provide information on the legal aspect and the education outreach feasibility component of the proposed measure. Attorney Kaser clarified that the discussion assumes that Council wants to move expeditiously on this, so the discussion would be on a potential November measure timeline. He wants Council to recognize that no decision has been made and that those decisions are within Council's purview.

Attorney Kaser provided guidance on the legal aspects of use of public funds for campaign-related activities, highlighting the general rule, scope of the provision, definitions of ballot proposition and measure, allowed and permitted/not permitted actions (elected officials and agencies), normal and regular course, mailings, public disclosure law, and penalties.

Christian Sinderman discussed the recent public polling by the EMC Research firm that indicates a strong desire among University Place residents to add new law enforcement capacity and reduce response times, among other improvements. He indicated that given that baseline of support and the priority placed by

voters/residents on public safety, it is a great time to have this public conversation and think about moving forward with a potential levy. He covered information on how this can move forward with the planning, how to communicate both the need and the opportunity to key stakeholders and the public through social media, public hearings and feedback, and community visibility. NWP Consulting's goal is to provide both strategic guidance and support, as well as hands-on capacity to this effort. Their specific areas of work include, but not limited to continued partnership with EMC Research to finalize poll analysis and develop message framework for policy and public outreach; work with University Place staff and Council to develop a timeline and strategy to best inform the public and engage with key stakeholders leading up to possible Council referral; work with the University Place Communications team and provide additional capacity and support to develop printed and electronic materials; and help author, edit, and distribute press materials and add capacity to University Place staff to help amplify messages. He went over the timeline for each areas of work – planning and Council consideration, public education and engagement, continued public outreach and visibility, preparation for Council action, announcement of Council referral, drafting of Voter's Guide, and preparation for informational mailing.

Discussion followed regarding concerns about the public outreach component; concerns with timeline, having enough time for public outreach to meet the August decision deadline; deliverables and the possibility of moving the measure to April 2023 for extended education outreach; restrictions on the use of data from development of educational materials; and the importance of Council's involvement in the campaign.

At 8:57 p.m., a motion was made and was carried to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia