

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
Monday, July18, 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 Deputy City Clerk as follows:

Council Member Keel	Present
Council Member Wood	Present
Council Member McCluskey	Present
Council Member Flemming	Present
Council Member Belleci	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa	Present (left 7:40 p.m./ returned 7:54 p.m.)
Mayor Worthington	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Community and Economic Development Director Briske, Police Chief Premo, Public Safety Manager Hales, Engineering and Capital Projects Director Ecklund, Parks Maintenance Supervisor West, Operations & Facilities Manager Kelly-Sage, Director of Administrative Services Petorak, Finance Director Blaisdell, Communications Manager Seesz, Communications Specialist Kleber, Information Technology Manager Vallantyne, Business Outreach Liaison Metcalf, City Clerk Genetia and Deputy City Clerk Nicholas.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Wood led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**5. PRESENTATION**

Public Works and Parks Department Recognition - Mayor Worthington presented a proclamation recognizing the Public Works and Parks staff for setting a new record of 366 days working without a time loss incident.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A.** Approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Approve the cancellation of the August 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
- C.** Adopt a resolution establishing the City Council's collective goals for the 2023-2024 biennium. **(RESOLUTION NO. 978)**
- D.** Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Engineering to apply for and execute the necessary documents associated with a grant for the Curran Apple Orchard improvement project. **(RESOLUTION NO. 979)**

**The motion carried.**

## **COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

### **8. PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY**

Staff Report – Council has been studying Police service levels, staffing, and funding and concluded that additional revenue is necessary. Police Chief Premo summarized Public Safety's education and outreach efforts with the community to place a levy lid lift on the November 2022 ballot for support of law enforcement services. For Council to determine the levy rate, he submitted four staffing options with staff's recommendation for Option B+ which increases Police staffing levels by one sergeant, one investigator, six patrol officers, and adds two traffic enforcement officers and a civilian community outreach officer. The community outreach officer is a limited commission civilian employee who will serve as a primary crime prevention officer to work with businesses, homeowners, and apartment complexes. This employee would also facilitate crime prevention education to mitigate property crime and initiate proactive outreach to offer resources to individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health issues.

Council discussed tax implications, the City's portion of property tax revenue, cost, data, and the process of initiating the levy. Council agreed that, based on public input and with the increase and projected increases in the City's population, it is prudent to move forward and let the voters decide if they want to fund additional law enforcement services.

Public Comment – The following individuals provided public comment: Stephen Gregorich, Scott Booth, and Dennis Flann.

Council Consideration – **MOTION:** By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Council Member Belleci, to adopt a resolution authorizing a levy lid lift be placed on the November 2022 general election ballot for support of law enforcement services with recommended Option B+.

**The motion carried. (RESOLUTION NO. 980)**

### **9. CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa reported on the Puget Sound Regional Central District Economic Development Board Meeting and the Innovation Cluster Accelerator program designed to create jobs with \$15 million of CARES Act funding. He explained the Industrial Lands Update and described his tour of their new proposed location. He also reported that he attended the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade change of command ceremony.

Council Member Wood invited the public to the Lewis Army Museum-Living History event and to the City's Twisted Cider 5K.

Council Member McCluskey reported on her attendance at the Teddy Bear Picnic. She then stated she had some concern with components of the Bus Rapid Transit letter and asked Council Members for their thorough review.

Council Member Belleci invited the public to the City's Music in the Square summer events and the U.S Women's Amateur Championship. She reported on her attendance at the Teddy Bear Picnic and thanked Dance Theatre Northwest for producing the event and U.P. Refuse for their sponsorship and continued support making events possible.

Mayor Worthington participated in event day setup of the Teddy Bear Picnic and thanked Dance Theatre Northwest for producing the event. He invited the public to the upcoming Concerts in the Park. He also described the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) change of command ceremony where he presented Council's proclamation and the signed photo as a memento to Col. Finison. He expressed his appreciation for CAB's association with the City and our community. Mayor Worthington also reminded Council of the cancelled August 15 Council meeting and noted it as an opportunity to allow staff a break after the many complications with COVID during the last two years and feels it is a way to thank staff for their work. He

then made a call for statements of interest from voters interested in writing “for” or “against” statements for the Voter’s Pamphlet Law Enforcement Services Levy Lid Lift measure.

City Manager Sugg described the Chambers Creek Road and Homestead Park projects and reported that they are out to bid.

## **10. CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORTS**

Planning Commission Vice Co-Chair Boykin reported the Commission’s work on its 2022 Work Plan items and the recommendations the Commission has made to Council.

Economic Advisory Commission Chair Gruener reported newly implemented rotating meeting locations, business engagement strategies, and explained that they continue discussions to prepare a recommendation for Council on the American Rescue Plan Act business assistance project.

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **11. FEE ADJUSTMENT**

Community and Economic Development Services Director Briske presented proposed changes to the development services fee schedule based on Council input from its first Study Session on the topic in April. He explained the purpose for the proposed increases and that building permit fees were last adjusted in 2006 and land use fees in 2009. He also offered fee comparisons of neighboring jurisdictions and an analysis of land use fees including staff hours and cost. The following was proposed:

Building Permit and Land Use Fees:

- 5% Increase on all Land Use Fees
- 3-Year Step Options to adopt current International Code Council Building Valuation Data Table by 2025 – Building Permits / 5% increase in 2023

New Fees

- Telecommunications Eligible Facilities Request - \$200
- Site Plan Review Fee – New Primary Structures / \$150; Accessory Structures and Additions / \$75

No changes to the following:

- Development Engineering Permit Fees
- Fire Code Fees
- Mechanical Code Fees
- Miscellaneous Building Fees
- Plumbing Code Fees

### **12. PARKS MAINTENANCE COST**

Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Ecklund provided Council with details regarding the Park Department’s deferred maintenance items, costs, and labor deficits. These are a result of a reduction of parks maintenance labor, an expansion of the City park system, and an increase in park usage. Since 2007, labor staff has decreased by two full-time employees while at the same time the City’s parks have increased 130% in park land and 81% in developed park area. With the increase in park space and usage, maintenance hours have also increased 217%. To fill the staffing need, a request for two additional staff positions will be included in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Council discussed landscape maintenance contract services, staffing levels and cost, park vandalism, and the impact of road build out improvements. Questions were answered about the Council process relating to staffing and the budget. There was a suggestion to use summer hires, a request for a maintenance project prioritization list with information on usage, and a request for a report on lawn mowing at Curran Orchard.

**13. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,



Debora Nicholas  
Deputy City Clerk

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