

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, October 3, 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 Wood	Present
Council Member Flemming	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa	Present
Council Member McCluskey	Present
Mayor Worthington	Present
Council Member Belleci	Excused
Council Member Keel	Present (arrived at 6:39 p.m.)

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Administrative Services Director Petorak, Finance Director Blaisdell, Community and Economic Development Director Briske, Communications Manager Seesz, Information Technology Manager Vallantyne, and Deputy City Clerk Nicholas.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022 Council meeting as submitted.
- B. Receive and File: Claims dated 09/15/22.

The motion carried.

7. CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg introduced Elliot Olson of SeeClickFix, who delivered a presentation about their company's citizen request management solution system that empowers residents to report issues, identify repair needs, share feedback, and ask questions of their local government. The City seeks a system for efficient and transparent workflows, fostering accountability and community trust.

Council Member Keel reported the Pierce Transit groundbreaking for its transit center and Park & Ride in Spanaway which will serve as the southern terminus.

Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa reported upcoming meetings that he will be attending.

Mayor Worthington shared Congresswoman Strickland's thank you and compliments regarding National Night Out. He reported that he hosted a meeting with Senator Nobles, Representative Leavitt, and Representative Bronoske, where staff briefed them on the City's housing and zoning policies. He expressed the City's appreciation for their time. During the last Rainier Communications Commission (RCC) meeting, Pierce County discussed its potential to offer the same services provided by the RCC. Discussions are in the beginning stages and will continue. He ended by inviting the community to the City's October 14th Oktoberfest event.

STUDY SESSION

8. CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORTS

Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair Koontz reported that the Commission is conducting monthly hybrid meetings and has worked on the AARPA Business Assistance recommendation and food truck regulations. In closing, he solicited input for the Commission's 2023 workplan.

Planning Commission Chair Graybill noted that the Commission has a vacancy and reported its work on: zoning code text amendments, Form-Based Code amendments, and the Housing Action Toolkit. Next, the Commission will begin review of the Northeast Business District plan.

9. 2023-2024 BIENNIAL BUDGET

City Manager Sugg introduced the proposed 2023-2024 Budget. Finance Director Blaisdell presented the 2023-2024 Proposed Biennial Budget as submitted to the City Clerk on September 23, 2022 and provided the schedule for review and approval. She described it as a balanced proposed budget which fits the conservative financial assumptions for the City Operating, Capital, and Debt Management budgets with the Operating budget at core service levels, staffing at 2022 levels with no new positions added, CIP at core level using local dollars to leverage grants, and debt payments budgeted according to the City's debt schedule.

Questions were answered about debt management strategies and anticipated adverse impacts resulting from the projected decrease in revenue.

10. HRA VEBA

Administrative Services Director Petorak gave background and proposed changes to the City's Retirement Health Savings (RHS) plan which is funded by employees who contribute at varying percentages for use toward out-of-pocket medical expenses and insurance premiums upon separation of employment or retirement. Currently serviced by MissionSquare Retirement, the RHS plan no longer allows contributions by employees at varying percentages. As an alternative, the Human Resources team presented employees with Health Retirement Arrangement (HRA) VEBA, also with employee-only contributions. She explained the differences between RHS and HRA VEBA and suggested the City offer a one-time contribution of \$1,000 for each current employee to offset their loss of access to their RHS funds while the new HRA VEBA account grows to a usable amount. A final decision by employees regarding switching plans is projected for the end of fall in an effort to develop a master agreement for 2023.

Council discussed the proposed one-time City contribution and its merits, funding sources, duration, and components of administering those funds. Requests were made to have the City's total annual cost for employee healthcare benefits and to receive information on how the City's benefit and hiring package compares with other cities.

11. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Debora Nicholas
Deputy City Clerk