

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, October 16, 2023**

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 (Virtual)
Councilmember Wood	Present
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Present
Councilmember Belleci	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa	Present
Mayor Worthington	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Police Chief Burke, Administrative Services Director Petorak, Public Works Director Ecklund, Human Resources Manager Moreland, Senior Human Resources Analyst Hands, and City Clerk Genetia.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember McCluskey led the 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. PRESENTATION

Tacoma Public Utilities – Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) Deputy Director of Customer Experience and External Affairs Wortham and Financial Stewardship Manager Collins presented an overview of the budgetary impact caused by WestRock's closure. WestRock was Tacoma Water's largest customer, and their operations provided a significant source of income. Tacoma Water is proposing an additional rate increase to make up for this unprecedented, ongoing loss of income to maintain its system and service.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – 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 October 2, 2023 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for period ending 09/30/23; and Claims dated 09/29/23.
- C.** Receive and File: 2023 Second Quarter Financial Report.
- D.** Adopt a Resolution amending the City's Purchasing Policy. **(RESOLUTION NO. 1018)**
- E.** Authorize the pre-order and purchase of a compact track loader and attachments from Pape Machinery in the amount of \$94,108.42 including tax.

The motion carried.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

8. UPMC CHAPTER 12.15 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT FEE

Staff Report – Public Works Director Ecklund provided a summary of the previous discussion on surface water management fee update covering the City’s annual SWM fee; and the financial forecast and its impacts on operating cost, capital expenditures, the City’s obligations to meet its federal and state NPDES requirements. He indicated that to minimize the annual SWM fee to all property owners, staff are recommending the implementation of a System Development Charge (SDC) of \$280 per equivalent residential unit (ERU), effective in 2025 to give a grace period for any developments that are already in the pipeline to get to permitting stage. This charge will be assessed to new developments at the time of permitting and will be based on the added impervious area. This represents new growth buying in to the existing storm drainage system. At Council’s direction, Director Ecklund provided a rate comparison chart (shown below) that reflects the implementation of a potential SDC at \$280/ERU and \$550/ERU. The fee calculation is a cost-based model, and as such if the system development charge were to increase, the annual SWM rate would decrease.

Scenario	2024	2025	2026
SWM Rate with \$280 SDC and 1.65% annual increase	\$222.17	\$257.37	\$293.68
SWM Rate with \$550 SDC and 1.7% annual increase	\$222.17	\$254.80	\$289.84

The financial model requires an adjustment of 1.65% to be able to account for inflation and normalized growth. Staff recommends the 3-year implementation scenario. In addition, Director Ecklund recommends the addition of a low impact development credit of 10% as part of the existing service charge credits under UPMC Chapter 12.15.034.

Public Comment – None.

Council Consideration – **MOTION:** By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Belleci, to pass an Ordinance modifying Sections 12.15.032 and 12.15.034 of the University Place Municipal Code relating to Surface Water Management Fees and Service Charge Credits.

AMENDMENT: By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Belleci, to modify the Ordinance by replacing Section 1 to reflect the \$550 System Development Charge fee calculation.

The motion carried.

The main motion carried. (ORDINANCE NO. 772)

9. COUNCIL SALARY/SALARY COMMISSION

Staff Report – Human Resources Manager Moreland provided an overview of State laws pertaining to Council salary and Public Employees Retirement System-related adjustments. She covered and explained the State’s minimum wage and its role in determining PERS eligibility, the administrative codes that regulate the eligibility requirements for elected officials to earn service credits.

The City Council was presented with three options for consideration:

1. Make no changes to council member compensation. Current participating members will continue to contribute but will not receive any service credits unless the member is selected as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.
2. Consider raising council member compensation to \$1,783 and maintain an 8% differential in-between for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.
3. The council may discuss the merits of a salary commission.

Administrative Services Director Petorak provided information regarding the formation of a salary commission, covering the appointment process, appointment terms, membership and residency requirements, and changes to council salary by commission. A draft ordinance was provided should the Council choose to go this route.

10. Public Comment – The following individuals provided comment: Dennis Flann, 2623 Lemons Beach Road; and Debbie Klosowski, 6834 Chambers Creek Road West.

Council Consideration – MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Wood, to pass an Ordinance amending and retitling Section 3.20.040 of the City of University Place Municipal Code; relating to salaries for Council Members.

The motion passed 5 to 2. Councilmembers McCluskey and Belleci voted no. (ORDINANCE NO. 773)

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to table the Salary Commission.

The motion carried.

At 8:56 p.m., a motion was made and was carried to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

11. CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg reported on the success of Oktoberfest and thanked the events coordinator, Public Works crew and others for putting on a great event.

Councilmember Keel reported on his Association of Washington Cities and Sound Transit meetings.

Councilmember Wood relayed his enjoyment of the Oktoberfest event.

Councilmember Flemming was pleased and commended staff for the great event.

Councilmember Belleci relayed the positive comments she heard from the public. She reminded the community that the League of Women Voters is hosting a Candidate Forum for University Place candidates on October 18 via Zoom.

Mayor Pro Tem Figueroa noted that Oktoberfest has drawn people outside University Place, making U.P. events an attraction.

Mayor Worthington reported on his NATOA Annual Conference attendance where the City received 11 awards in government programming. He also mentioned that AWC is currently recruiting applicants for various boards and commission opportunities, specifically to serve on the AWC legislative priorities committee. Councilmember Flemming volunteered to apply for the position. Additionally, Mayor Worthington reported that he, along with Councilmember McCluskey, attended the third emergency preparedness meeting at Day Island and thanked staff and WPFRR for their work.

At 9:30 p.m., a motion was made and was carried to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

STUDY SESSION

12. 2024 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Finance Director Blaisdell presented the Preliminary Certification of Assessed Values/Levy Limit Factor from Pierce County for the property tax levy (final values, certification of levies and tax rates are expected in January 2024). She indicated that the preliminary assessed value is \$6,943,989,479, reflecting a 1.9% decrease from last year's assessed value. The passage of the City's levy lid lift on April 25, 2023 sets the rate at \$1.01 per \$1,000 assessed value. She indicated that the City would see taxpayers paying one of

two rates depending on whether they qualify for an exemption. Those who qualify will see an effective rate of \$0.6864 per \$1,000 assessed value. To implement the voter approved rate, it is necessary for the Council to pass an ordinance doing so. Director Blaisdell stated that the sample legislation supplied by the Assessor Treasurer does not appear to conform to the voter approved measure, and that staff are working with the County and the Department of Revenue to finalize the legislation document in time for the scheduled public hearing and Council's consideration on November 6, 2023.

13. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia
City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT