

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, April 27, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
In-Person & Zoom Online Meeting
MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Sid Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Pearce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

City Clerk Lisa Sokolik called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Dani Gaumont, Marcus Metz, Darren Robb, Steve Shepro, Tim Pearce and Tim Schmitt. The meeting was quorate.

*Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Pearce, to excuse Councilmember Andreena Bergman. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Finance Director David Hammond, City Attorney Emily Guildner, Fire Chief John Cermak, Police Chief Jason Toner, and City Clerk Lisa Sokolik.

3. Approval of the Agenda

*Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Pearce to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.***

4. Presentation - None

5. Public Comments

Written Comment:

Jennifer Sutton, Stanwood

Topic:

Concerns with growing crime in Stanwood.

Nate Nehring

SnoCo Councilmember

Support letter for the community farm at Ovenell Park.

Melissa Spear

Exec. Director Tilth Alliance

Support letter for the community farm at Ovenell Park.

Dennis Moraski

A Simple Gesture Co-founder

Support letter for the community farm at Ovenell Park.

Kabrina Orchard

Owner Orchard Nursery

Support letter for the community farm at Ovenell Park.

Verbal Comment:

Brian Kemp, Stanwood

Topic:

Concerns of vaping happening at the schools and the serious health issues of vaping to children.

Peggy Wendel, Stanwood

Has lots of questions about the community farm.

6. Staff / Department Reports

Police Compstat Report - March

7. Council Committee Reports

a. Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2023

b. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023

c. Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2023

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Vouchers and Payroll Checks

b. Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2023

c. Adopt Resolution 2023-06 City iPad Usage Policy

*Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Robb to approve the consent agenda items A and B. **Motion carried unanimously.***

9. Unfinished Business

Authorize the Mayor to Sign Ordinance 1507A Extending the Interim Mini-Storage Development Regulations

Councilmember Metz asked if the city's employment forecast assumed the occupancy at the Twin City Foods building. Director Love answered that Twin City Foods was included in the forecast, but it wasn't included at the highest and best use of the building. The forecast will still be shy of the goal but the No Meat Factory using the building will help the numbers.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Metz to authorize the Mayor to sign Ordinance 1507A Continuation of Mini-Warehouse/Storage Facility Emergency Ordinance and forward the issue to the Planning Commission for review as part of the Community Development Department's Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code Update Work Plan.

*Roll call of votes was taken. **Motion carried unanimously.***

10. Public Hearing - None

11. New Business

a. Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Lease Agreement with Andrew Davis/Stanwood Camano Food Bank to Allow a Public Farm at Ovenell Park

City Administrator Smith said the proposal has been to the Public Works Committee, the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee and was emailed to council on March 23rd. This is not

a community garden, but a public farm where Mr. Davis will take the lead, he will get volunteers to work the farm and teach them how to grow a garden. The bounty will go to the Stanwood Food Bank.

The design for Ovenell Park needs to change due to the additional wetlands and BNSF not granting the city permission to cross the tracks to access the water. Council moved the Ovenell Park project to a lower priority on the Capital Improvement Plan, so a community farm will give Ovenell a use now; it will provide a benefit without a cost to the city.

Council Questions and Comments:

- Councilmember Robb said it was very helpful to have Mr. Davis attend the Public Works Committee meeting and to get questions answered and to get an understanding on how the farm will work and the parties at play. Robb stressed the importance of the partnership with the foodbank, Mr. Davis will be able to use their non-profit status to apply for grants and external funding. Robb gave kudos to Mr. Davis for bringing this proposal forward and evolving the project as he received feedback.
- Councilmember Robb asked if there will be some sort of lease fee? City Attorney Guildner answered that if there is a community benefit the fee can be as low as \$1.00.
- Councilmember Robb asked how will the optional requested items that are listed in attachment A be addressed? Smith answered that at this point, there are no permanent structures proposed. The proposed greenhouse is being donated, he will need a permit and staff will work with him on the location of where he can construct the greenhouse.
- Smith said Snohomish County Conservation District has agreed to work with Mr. Davis on potentially doing some wetland mitigation work, maybe adjust the buffers or shrink the wetland by doing some mitigation and enhancements. Councilmember Robb added that one of the optional requests on the proposal is to develop a plan to restore the wetland to the south of Saratoga Drive. Robb said as far as a lease goes, he would be happy to see any property lease be offset for wetland mitigation work, it would have a big benefit to the city for future capital projects.
- Councilmember Robb said that signage was mentioned in the plan, there has been discussion about replacing the current signage on the north barn that is visible from SR532, can those signs be replaced or just taken down?
- Councilmember Robb asked how will the farm pay for water? Smith said a water meter could be installed at the site; the rate would be the irrigation rate.
- Councilmember Schmitt commented that it's very heartwarming to know that a community farm at the Ovenell property will be benefitting the food bank.
- Councilmember Schmitt asked if there were still concerns of accessing the park from SR532. Smith answered that farm volunteers will access the park from Saratoga Drive; the SR532 access will not be opened.
- Councilmember Gaumond asked about restrooms. Smith answered that the proposal lists ADA-compliant portable restroom will be brought in.
- Councilmember Schmitt asked if any master gardeners will be involved with this project. Andrew Davis answered that he has reached out to several organizations including the Master Gardeners, they are interested in participating, but he does not have a formal agreement with them.

- Councilmember Robb asked Davis to speak on volunteer selection process. Davis said that he wants to be open and accessible to as many people as possible, however, with the egress and ingress issue, he will be limiting the volunteers to ten (10). It will be on a first come first serve basis. Volunteers will fill out a demographic survey to determine that the outreach of the program is including members of our community who are otherwise marginalized. Davis said this is a pilot project, he is hoping for a one-year lease agreement to determine the level of interest in this project in our community and to be able to determine the level of funding from grants and donations. Robb said if the lease is approved, council would be interested in getting a quarterly or six-month update on how the project is going, the demographic results and the general interest in the project. Davis said he would like to produce a report for the city and for the food bank.
- Councilmember Gaumond asked about the wording in the proposal, 'The Stanwood and Camano Food Bank will be the recipient of the excess produce harvested at the farm'. It sounds like the food is going somewhere else. Davis said that the wording is not clear, he said his intention is that the food bank will be the primary recipient of the food, but he would like to offer volunteers donations of food.
- Councilmember Metz said he likes the idea of having a farm there, his only concern was the traffic on SR532, but after hearing this discussion, he thinks the proposal is very well thought out.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Gaumond to authorize the Mayor to execute a lease agreement with Andrew Davis/Stanwood Camano Food Bank to allow the establishment of a public farm at Ovenell Park.

*Councilmember Shepro amended the motion to add the words 'one year' in front of lease agreement. **Amended motion carried unanimously.***

*Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a one year lease agreement with Andrew Davis/Stanwood Camano Food Bank to allow the establishment of a public farm at Ovenell Park. **Main Motion carried unanimously.***

b. Discussion on Proclamations/Resolutions Policy

City Administrator Shawn Smith asked Council to discuss the current policy and direct staff to either make changes to the policy or keep it as is. Council discussed the proclamations and resolutions policy; consensus of council was to leave policy as is.

12. Public Closing Comments

Verbal Comment:

Meagan Watkins, Snohomish County

Topic:

Ethics committee question

Andrew Davis, Stanwood

Thanked Council for approving the Ovenell lease for the community farm.

13. Executive/Legislative Reports

a. Mayor's Report

- After Meagan Watkins' public comment, the Mayor spoke to her, she was still viewing the meeting via Zoom, he wanted her to know that there is not a two-way dialogue during Public Comments. He said that the legislation that she mentioned did pass and it is now part of the Stanwood Code and for her to reach out to staff if she would like a copy of the code or to ask staff questions.
- We have succeeded in obtaining preliminary funding from Snohomish County for rebuilding the Dike. The funding is still contingent on a few things, but we are very encouraged by the support of the County, State and Federal Governments.
- The Governor will likely call a special session to deal with the failed attempt to address the Blake Decision. The State House did not come to an agreement on a change in the law. Without an agreement, there will be legalized drugs come July. A special thanks to mayors and business leaders for all their work for public safety and for pushing this issue to try to get it resolved.
- May 15th is the deadline to register if you want to run for city council, we have four seats that will be on the ballot. More information can be found on Snohomish County website.
- Chief Toner will be looking into a citizen volunteer patrol program to augment our police department.

b. City Administrator Report

- The Wastewater Department was notified that they will be receiving the Outstanding Treatment Plant award, this will be eight years in a row, and a total of 14 years out of 15 that they have received this award.
- There are two open seats on the Economic Development Board, the requirement is that you must own a business within the Stanwood-Camano School District boundary.
- The mayor and Smith had a good meeting with a representative from the governor's office, he is hoping to get the Governor to come down and was asking what the city's priorities are and what we might need help on in the future.
- The city received eight bids for the 92nd Ave Sidewalk project. The low bid was \$103,000 under the engineer's estimate.

c. Councilmember Reports/Questions


- The columns of the Archway on 88th are standing. The concrete will need to cure for 28 days before it can be set.
- Thank you to Mayor Roberts, City Administrator Smith and all city staff who were involved in pulling together all the different funding for the Dike project.
- Kudos to the Mayor for all the work and involvement with the mayor and business coalition on the public safety issue. Although the Blake discussion was very disappointing, looking forward to seeing some language changes in code update that might address this issue at the local level.
- During Public Comments, a few citizens had questions. Unfortunately, council is stuck in their ability to answer questions during this time. The interpretation of the state law is the state frowns on council making any kind of comment to a member of the public when they make a comment. The state law says it would indicate favoritism even if council acknowledged that they spoke.
- The definition of a proclamation, per ChatGPT says 'proclamations made by the council should be intended to represent the collective views and values of the Stanwood community.
- Reminder that Clean Sweep is this Saturday, May 28th.

14. Recess to Executive Session - None

15. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, and hearing no objection to adjournment, Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

CITY OF STANWOOD



Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk