

# **CITY OF STANWOOD**

City Council - Special Workshop Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

Stanwood-Camano School District Admin. Bldg. Board Room

26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood

and via Zoom Online & Telephone

## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Sid Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

### **Attendance**

Councilmembers present: Dani Gaumont, Marcus Metz, Tim Pearce, Steve Shepro, Andreena Bergman and Tim Schmitt.

Councilmembers Absent: Darren Robb

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Finance Director David Hammond, Fire Chief John Cermak, Police Chief Rebecca Lewis, Assistant to the Administrator and Communication Manager Krista Hintz and City Clerk Lisa Sokolik.

### **1. Community Transit Strategic Planning Update**

Community Transit Ric Ilgenfritz, CEO and Roland Behee, Director of Planning and Development gave a Community Transit Update to the Council.

Community Transit has broken ground on the Swift Orange Line which is the new bus rapid transit that will service between Lynnwood and Mill Creek. In June, planning will begin for the Swift Gold Line which will run between Everett and Smokey Point.

Right now, travel time from downtown Lynnwood to downtown Seattle, on the bus, is very unpredictable and can take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour and a half, travel time on the Light Rail takes 28 minutes.

The 2024 service goals of Community Transit are to connect bus to light rail, expand access to frequent service, adjust to changing market and focus on equitable access; travel made easy for all.

The Swift Orange Line is an 11-mile corridor serving Mill Creek Town center, Alderwood Mall, Edmonds College, and Lynnwood TC, connecting Swift to the Blue Line, Green Line and light rail. The Swift Orange Line will include:

- 15 new buses
- New transit center at Edmonds College
- 19 platform stations

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- Redesigned transit center and McCollum Park P&R
- New speed and reliability infrastructure

There is also great opportunity for Community Transit to partner at the State and Federal levels to help fund the Swift Orange Line.

In 2024, bus route 905 will be a direct line from Stanwood proceeding down the I-5 corridor stopping at the Smokey Point transit center and other park and rides and will end at the Lynnwood City Center Station where commuters can transfer to the light rail.

### **2. Drainage & Diking District No. 7, Projects Update**

City Administrator Shawn Smith discussed Diking and Drainage District No. 7 and the dike that extends north from Johnson Farm. The Dike was built in 1890 using horses, it's 6 feet wide and is just tall enough to keep high tide from flooding all downtown Stanwood. The Dike has been repaired numerous times by the farmers.

The 4-mile dike is outside city limits, but the City of Stanwood residents and businesses benefit from the Dike. The city purchased the Johnson farm several years ago with the intent of tearing down the buildings, putting in a parking lot and having access to the dike for a walking trail.

One of the ideas to help with the funding to build up the dike is to donate the rest of the Johnson farm as mitigation area. To build the dike up per the Army Corp of Engineers standards, it will need to be 13 feet high and wide enough that would take either 8.5 acres of tidal estuary or wetlands in the inside. The proposal would be for the City to donate 4.5 acres.

Diking District No. 7 consists of approximately 10 farmers, and they maintain the dike by mowing the top twice a year. They currently have \$4,500 in their bank account. They are not equipped or have the funds to fix or rebuild the dike. They were part of a grant program, Floodplains by Design and received 1.8 million (the City received one million from this grant program for the Irvine Slough Stormwater Separation Phase 1 project). The Diking District estimate they will have \$1.3 million after design and permitting, the construction estimate is \$5.3 Million.

The Mayor, City staff and the farmers have met with Congressman Rick Larsen's office three times, Snohomish County Councilmember Nate Nehring several times and Representative Greg Gilday trying to help the farmers find more funding. FEMA has been asked to come out to take a look to see if there is anything they can do.

Staff is asking council to think about donating 4.5 acers of the Johnson farm to help get the dike rebuilt. The Mayor is asking the council to do everything in the City's power to help.

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The Stillaguamish Tribes are managing the \$1.8 million grant, have an engineer working on the design, doing the permitting, and they have negotiated with the tribes up north to get agreements for any appeals.

Community Development Director Love reminded the Council that the Johnson farm was purchased with Conservation funds which says the land must be used for passive recreation and not for active recreation, e.g., athletic fields.

### 3. 2023-24 Budget Priorities Discussion

Finance Director Hammond discussed with Council the budget priorities that will guide the development of the 2023-2024 budget. The staff sent out a survey to approximately 700 utility customers who had provided their email address and received 168 responses to the question asking to order or rank the importance of the following:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Survey Score</b>
1. Building Safe Streets	27%
2. Water and Sewer System	24%
3. Drainage and Flood Protection	13%
4. City Beautification	11%
5. Support a Sustainable Local Economy	11%
6. Enhance Parks and Recreation	9%
7. Code Enforcement	4%
8. Improve Public Engagement Opportunity	1%

Council discussed the above list and the priority of each.

Regarding building safe streets, Councilmember Shepro suggested revisiting the idea of forming a Citizen Traffic Advisory Group to compile a list of affordable low-cost options of streets that need improvement.

Councilmember Bergman suggested that after hearing about the issues of Diking District No. 7, that the Flooding Protection should be moved up in priority. She also asked if Island County can help fund the rebuild project; if the dike fails, Camano Island residents will not be able to get on or off the island.

City Administrator Smith and Community Development Director Love commented that having the dike rebuilt to Army Corp of Engineer Standards will help the City's flood rating system go down, helping lower flood insurance to residents.

Hammond finished the discussion by saying he is bringing a budget amendment to the Finance Committee on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> with a lot of clean-up and Six-Year Transportation items which will take the budget to the end of 2022. At the August Council Workshop, the focus can either be just capital or just operating budget, the next scheduled


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workshop is in October, which is pretty late, Hammond said there is talk about adding a Saturday, half-day workshop.

### Adjourn

Mayor Roberts Adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

CITY OF STANWOOD



Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk