

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 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 Bergman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen, Finance Director David Hammond, Patrol Sergeant Raulie Robertson, Fire Chief John Cermak, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, Assistant to the Administrator & Communications Manager Krista Hintz, and City Clerk Lisa Sokolik.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Gaumond to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation

Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award

Mayor Roberts received a letter from the Department of Ecology notifying him that the City of Stanwood is receiving the 2021 WWTP Outstanding Performance Award. Out of 300 wastewater treatment plants, Stanwood is ranked in the top third for outstanding performance. Stanwood has received the award 15 out of 16 years. Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen thanked the wastewater crew and Utilities Supervisor Leigh Danielson for all their hard work. Danielson has been with the city for 17 years; she has put in a lot of time and has been instrumental in the city receiving all 15 awards. Leigh is very dedicated and an excellent employee and deserves many kudos for all her hard work.

5. Public Comments

Written comments must be provided to the Clerk by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Verbal comments may be provided by attending the meeting in person or via Zoom.

Written Comments - None

Verbal Comments

Les Anderson Stanwood Topic: Twin City Idlers Car Show

Mr. Anderson thanked the Council and the City for their continued support of larger events. The Sunday, June 26th Twin City Idlers Car Show was a huge success:

- 580 cars were registered, but over 750 cars were on site.
- Cars lined 271st Street from the railroad tracks to Hamilton at the Y. Usually, the event ends at the Middle School.
- Crowd reached 10 to 12 thousand, normally it's in the 8 to 10 thousand range.
- One of the larger shows in the Puget Sound region; the Seattle Greenwood Car Show is the largest show, they only had 400 cars registered for their Saturday, June 25th show.
- People out of state want to come next year and asked when they could start to preregister.

Mr. Anderson also thanked the Stanwood police.

6. Staff / Department Reports - None

7. Council Committee Reports

- a. Salary Commission Minutes – June 15, 2022
- b. Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2022 & June 17, 2022
- c. Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2022
- d. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2022

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Vouchers and Payroll Checks
- b. Approve June 14, 2022, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Shepro to approve the consent agenda items A - B. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Full-time Mayor

Finance Director David Hammond briefed the council on the outcome of the Salary Commission meeting on June 15th. The Commission was very supportive of the role of the current and past mayors, and unanimously agreed that Stanwood mayor salary has fallen behind. They voted unanimously to increase the mayor's salary from \$1,600 to \$2,100 per month and agreed to increase the council's salary to \$535.00 per month.

Hammond discussed medical benefit options for the mayor. The Stanwood Municipal Code says that the mayor will receive the same medical benefit as non-represented employees but will pay ½ the premium and it will not cover a spouse. This benefit has not typically been used as past mayors have other insurance. In the City's Personnel Policy, there is a program called the Medical Premium Opt-Out Incentive which allows employees to opt-out of insurance, whereby the city and the employee split the savings.

Council questions and comments:

- Do department directors receive spousal medical benefits and at what percentage level?

Hammond answered yes, and the city pays 91%.

- Comment: The Medical Premium Opt-Out Incentive option should be available to the mayor. Recognizing that the mayor is part-time, and the 91% opt-out incentive is for full-time directors, the mayor is the elected executive head of the city so should be eligible for the incentive.
- Comment: Provide the maximum level of a benefits package to the mayorship which will encourage more people to apply in the future and gives incentive for people to run for mayor.
- Comment: The role of the mayor can be very stressful, equal to what department heads occasionally go through. The salary increase to \$2,100 reflects the part-time nature of the job, but the job takes a tremendous toll on the mayor's health so the maximum benefit package would reflect the nature of the job.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Bergman to direct staff to prepare a resolution to allow health insurance coverage at the same rate provided to exempt employees including eligibility for the opt-out incentive.]

Councilmember Robb commented that the difference between options 2 and 4 is if the spouse is included in the coverage. He referenced the MRSC description of the Mayor-City Administrator responsibilities (page 9.2 in the council packet). Some mayors may have their own insurance, so the opt-out option would bring the monthly compensation slightly above the average.

Councilmember Schmitt commented that the mayor can serve on different boards, like Community Transit. A mayor who has outside employment cannot represent Stanwood's best interest like a mayor who can dedicate all their time, so the city should give the mayor resources, including financial resources, so they can fully represent Stanwood.

Councilmember Shepro commented that employing a mayor for \$2,100 per month is a heck of a bargain for the city. Offering the mayor a better benefits package is one way to better compensate the mayor. The difference between options 2 and 4 is only \$350 per month. If we want to attract talent to our city, it boils down to more than looking at a comparison chart, we can do better than other cities, we don't need to follow the leader.

Councilmember Metz commented while we have established an idea of what the mayor's hours and duties are, we could potentially get a lot more value from a mayor if they are able to dedicate more time and energy. We don't have to follow the leader, we can pay our mayor better.

Roll call of votes was taken:

<i>Councilmember Bergman</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Schmitt</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilmember Gaumont</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilmember Metz</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilmember Robb</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Pearce</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Shepro</i>	<i>No</i>

Motion failed.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Schmitt to direct staff to prepare a resolution to allow health insurance coverage at the same rate provided to exempt employees including spousal coverage and eligibility for the opt-out incentive.]

Roll call of votes was taken:

<i>Councilmember Bergman</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilmember Schmitt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Gaumont</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Metz</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Robb</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Pearce</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilmember Shepro</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Motion carried.

10. Public Hearing – none scheduled

11. New Business

- a. Approve Resolution 2022-10 Authorizing a Ballot Proposition for the Transportation Benefit District Levy Renewal.

Finance Director David Hammond discussed the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) taxing authority, which is set to expire in 2023.

- The Finance Committee and Public Works Committee discussed this issue and unanimously recommend approving the item.
- Voters approved the tax by 68% in 2013.
- On a recent survey, maintaining safe streets was the leading priority.

Council discussed the TBD levy renewal.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Pearce to adopt Resolution 2022-10 – providing for a ballot proposition to be submitted to the qualified electors of the City on November 8, 2022, to renew a sales and use tax in the amount of two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) for the purpose of financing costs associated with transportation improvements in the City for a period of ten (10) years.

A roll call of votes was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Public Closing Comments

No public comments.

13. Executive/Legislative Reports

- a. Mayor's Report

- The Mayor and City Administrator Shawn Smith continue to diligently work on funding the dike repair on the northwest of town. Washington State Representative Dave Paul visited the dike on July 13th, and some options from the State were looked at.
- There was a major house fire in Stanwood on July 4th, the house and two cars were destroyed. Luckily, no one was injured. The fire is still being investigated as to the cause. A GoFundMe page has been set up for the family of eight.
- Very pleased with the progress being made on the Twin City Mile project and the city beautification in general. Thank you to all committee members volunteering their time, including Councilmembers Bergman, Gaumond, Shepro and former Councilmember Judy Williams.
- Planning a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and would like others to join him on the tour.
- The next Walk-With-The-Mayor is Friday, August 4th at 8:00 a.m.

b. City Administrator Report

Exciting News! The Dept. of Ecology's Flood Plain by Design's final ranking of their 2023-2025 projects was released on July 13th; Stanwood is ranked 4th out of 19. Ecology is recommending to fund over \$70 million which would fund the top 11 projects. Stanwood requested one million for the Irvine Slough Stormwater Separation Phase 2 project and Diking District 7 requested one million for dike replacement.

c. Councilmember Reports/Questions

- Councilmember Schmitt read a statement regarding the Six-year Transportation Improvement Plan process..
- A comment was made that to further the Six-year TIP discussion the topic should be added to a future workshop agenda.
- The Public Works Committee discussed the Six-year TIP four or five times and everything that is on the list came from citizen input. Citizens have asked for sidewalks on 80th, so that project was moved up in priority. The process of the Six-year TIP is not a failed system, there can be a discussion on ways to improve it, but it is not a failure.
- Councilmembers Gaumond, Metz, and Shepro attended the July Community Development Committee meeting and discussed the Downtown Beautification project and all the amazing things that can be done with funding and energy.
- A comment was made on how encouraging it is to see how successful the city events are, like the Twin City Idlers car show. It's exciting to see everyone out and enjoying themselves, the weather, and the events. Although there are many city events, are there any other events that the city can partner with?

14. Recess to Executive Session


At 8:11 p.m., Mayor Roberts, Council, City Administrator Smith, PW Director Hushagen, Finance Director Hammond, and City Attorney Thompson recessed to Executive Session for a 15-minute discussion of the SCADA Network Vulnerability Assessment, in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(a)(ii).

15. Reconvene and Adjourn

The Regular City Council meeting reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

There being no further business before the Council, and hearing no objection to adjournment, Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

CITY OF STANWOOD



Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk