

Pierce County Council Meeting
October 31, 2017

By Alison McCaffree

Seven members were present at the meeting. The meeting started at 3:11. Agenda was approved. 7-0. The consent agenda passed unanimously 7-0.

There were one message, no proclamations, seven ordinances, and two resolutions besides the consent agenda. Several reports were under Other Business.

Messages from the Executive:

The County Executive has formed the Farming Assistance, Revitalization, and Marketing (FARM) Program Advisory Board.

Ordinances

Proposed Ordinance No. 2017-45s, Franchise - Olympic Pipe Line Company

This proposal would give a non-exclusive franchise to maintain and operate the pipeline on several roadways for a 15-year period. It has been reviewed and recommended by Economic and Infrastructure Development Committee. A Council amendment to correct a legal description passed. Joseph Stone and James Fraily (Damage Prevention Team lead) presented about Olympic Pipeline.

The pipeline is a joint venture (70 % BP and 30% SeaPort Pipeline Holdings). The pipeline transports the highest volume products sold in the NW. It includes 4 refineries, 22 product terminals, 400 miles of pipe, 8 delivery sites, 1 terminal, 9 pumping stations. Pierce County has the most number of valves, creating concerns about accident prevention. Pipe carries gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, in the amount of 300,000 barrels/day, 4.5 billion gals per year (1500 tanker trucks per day, or 1 truck per minute). It is highly regulated by WUTC and has an extensive modern system for maintenance and leak detection. Staff of the pipeline are continuously trained and an call system is set up to coordinate with any construction near the pipeline. The products that flow through it and how well it is maintained determine the life of the pipe. It is 52 years old and will last a long time into the future.

Proposal passed as amended: 7-0.

Proposal No. 2017-51, County Excise Tax on Real Estate Sales and REET

This proposal does the following two things.

1. First .25% REET- would change the designation of the funding, and instead of allocating funding to specific departments, it now would go into a fund. Council will determine how it will be used.
2. Second .25% REET - This tax was enacted in last decade and it is directed to roads (75%) and parks (25%). The sunset in 2026 has been changed to 2036 because some bonds go beyond the original 2026 date.

Michael Flinn, Tacoma Pierce Co Association of Realtors, approves of these changes. Staff confirmed that RCW 82.46.030 requires the county Treasurer to hold 1% of the tax for administration, so an amendment to add the language is just making it

clearer. After clarification of how much tax this would be on a \$500,000 home, the Amendment was approved, 6:1, with Councilmember Roach voting no. Amendment #2 adds back language, “primarily”, for facilities in unincorporated Pierce County and moves the sunset date from 2026 to 2036.

Amendment was approved 7-0. Ordinance as amended was approved: 7-0.

Proposal No. 2017-55, Inter-fund Loans

This proposal would create a new chapter of Pierce County Code to establish a policy regarding inter-fund loans pursuant to guidance from the State Auditor. The Budget and Finance Committee is supportive of this loan process. Interest rates are set by investment pool rate +1% but no higher than market rates (muni bond rates). Approved: 6-0, Council member P. Roach excused.

Proposal No. 2017-70, Work Force Central - Line of Credit

This proposal will renew the line of credit for the work of the WorkForce Central Workforce Development Board. It will be valid through Dec 31, 2019. It has never been drawn upon.

Approved: 6-0, Council Member Ladenburg excused

Proposal No. 2017-54, Annexation of Unincorporated Territory into Fircrest

This proposed annexation area is within the Fircrest Urban Growth Area and is 60% contiguous to city limits. Recommended by the Community development committee.

Technical Amendment passed. Proposal Approved.

Proposal No. 2017-69, Browns Point Lighthouse - Register of Historic Places

The lighthouse is owned by US Coast Guard and maintained by the Tacoma Metro Parks. With this designation, the Landmarks Commission reviews whether permits for changes are should be approved. The process started in 2013 and was postponed because of Puyallup Tribe concerns. Points Northeast Historical Society led the application and it was approved eight months after the second application was submitted. The lighthouse has already been on the national historical register since 1989. Council Members spoke highly of the location and the lighthouse.

Approved 7:0.

Proposal No. 2017-71, Placing the Vaughn Library Hall on the Register of Historic Places

Key Peninsula Historical Society has been leading this effort and is the third owner of the building. It was started as a dance floor and is the last meeting hall standing.

Approved 6:0.

Resolutions

2017-113 Declaration of an Opioid Crisis

This resolution is a follow up action to the letter sent to the Governor on August 8, 2017, and declares a state of opioid crisis in Pierce County. This resolution annotates and coordinates actions taken in the county and documents several studies that have County-specific data. Council Member P. Roach would like to see

some advertising on the subject. Council Member Young announced an upcoming meeting. Council Member Landenburg wanted the public to know how much people in the county are working on the problem. Approved 7:0.

2017-114

This resolution to sell two county-owned properties that were purchased in the expansion of 127th street in Spanaway and have been declared surplus. Purchase documents are signed, but cannot be finalized until the council passes the resolution. Approved: 5-0. 2 Members were excused.

Other Business:

No other business.

Citizen Forum:

James Bartell asked for change in when inspectors to come back to derelict housing, moving it to 30 days if it endangers public safety. He also asked for an Ordinance for Parking, additional human resources and more information on the county website.

Meeting evaluation: Questions on the Observer sheet regarding standards were positive. The meeting started at 3:11 and adjourned 5:16pm.