

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Puyallup City Council Date: 11/28/2017
Observer Reporting: Bonnie L King Length of Meeting: 6:30 to 10:10 pm
Members Present/Absent: All were present
Others Present (i.e., media, public): Puyallup Herald/ News Tribune representative;
Large public attendance

Content (What is being discussed): i.e., *Did they approve some **action**? Does anything **relate to League priorities or positions**? If so, **do you recommend** local league action? Was **access** to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you? Was background material available to the public?*

Access to all backup material for presentations was available on the City's website along with the agenda.

Review of Regulations Pertaining to Marijuana-related Businesses: This was the topic that generated the most public interest. Of 13 citizens providing comments toward the beginning of the meeting, nine spoke against permitting marijuana retail businesses in the city limits; one spoke in favor. The person speaking in favor already owns a marijuana business just outside the city limits. Council members all expressed their opinions, but the decision was to seek additional information about whether the revenue benefits would outweigh negative impacts and to bring the subject back again in 2018. Councilmember Door specifically asked for crime statistics, data from schools, and more medical information from an expert. There were questions about what the State would be doing with the revenue and if, according to Mayor Hopkins, it would just be a "drop in the bucket." Councilmember Johnson discussed protecting Puyallup's culture versus seeking revenue. He also complimented Councilmember Farris for providing a different perspective, saying he didn't necessarily agree, but he respected her point of view. Her statements shown a more favorable light on marijuana businesses. She indicated she had done a great deal of research.

Lobbying Services with Outcomes by Levy: A contract was approved for Doug Levy to represent the City during the 2018 Washington State Legislative session. Priority items he will work on include:

- Capital Budget – Ensure 2017-19 Funding
- Transportation Needs -- State Route 167/State Route 509 "Gateway" Project 'Local Match' Requirement
- Funding and Tools to Address Affordable Housing, Homelessness
- Economic Development Incentives to Bring Class A Office Space to Non-King-County Cities
- Ensuring Safe Streets, Enhancing Public Safety, Addressing Mental Health
- Giving Cities More Tools to Ensure Foreclosed and Abandoned Homes Are Not Neglected
- Address Fiscal & Local Resource Needs, Preserve State-Shared Revenues
- Protection of local rights-of-way and local authority in deployment of small cell ("5G") technology
- Opposition to legislation that undermines the ability of law enforcement to conduct drug and property forfeiture operations

Two other presentations of interest had to do with property development:

The City purchased acreage on 39th Ave SE (South Hill Puyallup) on which to locate a new public safety building to replace the current facility downtown on West Pioneer. The new location will also house an East Pierce County fire station. The Council awarded a contract to Mackenzie Architects for \$160,500 to begin a Scope and Needs Assessment for a police station, jail and municipal court on the site. Councilmembers encouraged the addition of a councilmember representative and a citizen representative, preferably a graduate of the Citizens' Academy to the core team that will work with MacKenzie

Tom Utterback made a presentation on downtown sites currently owned by the City. The Council had previous-

ly requested an informal study by city staff of development potential for three separate locations. These three key sites are:

- the "Cornforth-Campbell" property at East Main-3rd Street SE, consisting both of the main former-dealership block and the separate narrow "canopy" area along 2nd Street SE;
- the current Public Safety Building block on West Pioneer, given plans to eventually relocate that public safety function; and
- the "old AOB" property along 3rd Street SW, which presently contains surface parking across from the senior center.

The Council requested additional research into public/private partnership possibilities, keeping the need for public parking in mind. The purpose of development would be to encourage people to live, work and play in the downtown Puyallup.

***Public Meetings of interest to League** – i.e., *Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?*

N/A

Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting):

i.e., Did the members appear to have done their “homework”? Were members courteous to each other and the public? How does the group respond to your presence?

Councilmembers worked well together and were respectful. They all appeared to be well prepared for the meeting. Prior to the next council meeting, a farewell gathering will take place on December 5th at 5:30 pm to honor the service provided to the City by Councilmember Shadko and Mayor Hopkins. They were both defeated in the recent election and will be replaced by Cynthia Jacobsen and Jim Kastama.

Reminders 😊

The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:

1. To promote public interest in local government and to be a “presence” to elected officials.
2. To alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which we have program positions on which we can speak.
3. To identify areas for future LWV study and action.

Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your awesome ID Badge!

Please attach the Agenda and any other materials received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report. Please try to submit your report to the LWV Observer Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting. peismann60@comcast.net

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