

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce Co.

Observer Report

Name of Agency: Puyallup City Council Date: June 6, 2017

Observer Reporting: Nancy Dahl Length of Meeting: 6:30 – 9:15

All Council members were present. Nine community members spoke to the Council and audience. Student observers were also present.

Major discussions were as follows:

1. First reading of proposed ordinance to make it a misdemeanor offense to expose a minor child to domestic violence -- Comments from council members raised issues related to impact on family when “breadwinner” is removed from the home; need to review how this new law would be implemented to improve the situation of family and not be used simply as a punishment; should be one tool among many, to assist victims improve their lives. City attorney suggested that removing offender from the home provides a “cooling off” period and sentence would not be dependent on the victim pressing charges. He and professionals he has asked, feel that sometimes a separation might allow the victim the time to find ways to leave the relationship. The first reading was approved.
2. Shaw Road widening project will be delayed until next summer due to desire to roll sewer upgrade into the project. Should get started by May 2018.
3. There will be no change made to zoning for private schools which must currently apply for a conditional use permit for expansion in a residential zone. Planning commission determined that the current system is workable for most situations and revisions seemed to cause more conflict than they solved.
4. City manager Yamamoto presented a letter for approval by the council that will be sent to the Pierce County Council. The letter is in support of Executive Dammeier’s supplemental budget proposal for additional mental health funding in the county. The city council members all supported the letter and expressed support for a regional solution for this problem. Councilman Door expressed frustration with the recent no vote by the PC council against the .1% tax for mental health services. Small cities cannot solve this problem alone and need the county to find a solution. She said that Pierce County is the only county in the state that hasn’t implemented this tax. Councilman Swanson cited the success of Mental Health response teams that operate in other cities throughout the country and how effective they are, but suggested with the recent amendments to the amount of funding being considered, that it might be better to spend the money to add to the current Multicare/CHI program. (Puyallup LWV members might want to contact their city district representatives about this issue.)
5. An RFQ has been submitted for a new public safety building for the city and bids are due at the end of July. A firm will be selected in August.

Agenda:

http://cityofpuyallup.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=5&clip_id=900

***Public Meetings of interest to League – League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming**

ing involved with becoming members of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board.

Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the
The meeting was well conducted with courtesy and efficiency.