

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

This form may be completed electronically and the space expanded as needed. If completing this form by hand, please use the back of the page to add information as needed.

Name of Agency	Puyallup City Council Study Session	Date of Meeting	July 11, 2017
Observer Reporting	Nancy Dahl	Length of Meeting	90 min.
Members Present	All except council member Johnson, who was excused		
Others Present			

Content: What issue was discussed? Was some action approved? What discussion related to League positions or priorities? If discussion related to League priorities, do you recommend League action? What documents were made available about these issues?

1. Clarks Creek TMDL (Total Max Daily Level) Implementation plan: Presented by Mark Palmer, Puyallup City Engineer

This is an ongoing program to reduce sedimentation and increase oxygen levels in the Clarks Creek Watershed. Many projects associated with the plan have been completed successfully. Some of the projects involved removing impervious paving, increasing shading of the creek, removal of sedimentation, and yearly removal of elodea (a water plant). The remaining significant project involves stabilizing the upper Clarks Creek channel to reduce downstream sedimentation. This project will be bid in March 2018. Comments by the council related to efforts to build more public awareness of what the city is doing to improve the conditions in Clarks Creek.

2. 2018 Budget Policy Directions: Presented by Cliff Craig, City Budget Director
 - Proposed some changes to method of determining “Operating Revenue” (Approved)
 - Proposed continuation of 4% utility catchup to be applied to Storm Drainage through 2021 (Differed for further study)
 - Proposed a utility rate study be authorized in 2020 (Differed for later decision)
 - Discussed how Tier 3 revenues allocated to debt reduction should be distributed (Approved allocating to Energy Project loan first and then to Van Leirop loan.) The energy loan has a lower interest rate, but the Van Lierop loan payments are tied to the police and fire pension fund so there are positive reasons not to pay it off as quickly.

3. Blighted or “Zombie” House Program: Presented by Brian Yamamoto, City Manager

The manager requested approval to choose one home from the list of 10 worst properties the city has generated. Yamamoto requested approval to experiment on how the city, using city employees could get the property out of legal limbo, which is usually why these homes become derelict (bank owned and not maintained, owner has died with no will, etc.), and take control of them so that the homes can be sold to buyers who will fix them and maintain them. Councilmember Shadko raised the issue of requiring buyers to fix them up in the contract of sale to avoid them being torn down and replaced with homes that are out of scale with the neighborhood, a situation which is becoming more common.

Public Meetings Announced: Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?

None

Process and Protocol:

Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments/Explanations
Did members appear to have done their "homework"?	X		
Was material for the meeting made available to the public in advance?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
How did the group respond to your presence?	Mayor Hopkins generally circulates and he introduces himself		
Other factors worth noting:			

Reminder:

The purposes of the LWVT-PC Observer Corps are to:

1. Promote public interest in local government;
2. Be a presence to elected officials.
3. Alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which League has program positions to which League can speak.
4. Identify areas for future LWVT-PC 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 LWVT-PC Observer is impartial, silent and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your LWV 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 LWVT-PC Observer Corps Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting. Send information to Paula Eismann, peismann60@comcast.net, or c/o LWVT-PC Office; 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 202; Tacoma, WA 98402.