

League of Women Voters of Tacoma – Pierce County Observer Corps

Pierce County Council
Lydia Zepeda reporting

July 2, 2019
Started at 3:03 pm ended at 4:10 pm

Members present: Marty Campbell, Connie Ladenburg, Jim McCune, Dave Morrel, Douglas Richardson, Pam Roach, Derek Young

Absent: none

Others present: county directors and staff, members of the public.

Consent agenda – Consent agenda approved 7-0.

Approval of Minutes - April 23, 2019, Council meeting.

- June 18, 2019, Council meeting

Ordinances

[Proposal No. 2019-47](#) Funding South Sound 911 public authority.

Actions on Resolutions

[Proposal No. R2019-82](#) Confirms appointment of Jamilyn Penn to the Pierce County Library District Board of Trustees.

[Proposal No. R2019-90](#) (hyperlink does not contain proposal). Authorizes the Pierce County Executive to enter into a Public Safety Communications Center financing agreement and ground lease agreement providing the right to purchase county-owned surplus property located at 3580 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma.

Other items

[Proposal No. R2019-84](#) Authorizes the Executive to enter into an agreement with SS 911 to provide for the distribution of revenue received from E-911 excise tax and sales and use tax.

Reconsideration of 2019-81 Voted to reconsider [R2019-81](#).

Amendment to R2019-81. on page 17 of charter on line 18 insert period and strike rest of paragraph. There is confusion about who makes appointments to boards External board statements. The council makes appointments not the Executive. Amendment adopted. R2019-81 as amended passed 7-0.

Ordinances

[Proposal No. 2019-27](#), Public Records - Fees and Fee Waiver. This proposal was before the council before. State code allows local government to charge for electronic documents. Virtually every county around Pierce has adopted fees for electronic records. This proposal amends Chapter 2.04 of the Pierce County Code, "Availability of Public Records," establishing costs for uploading and delivering electronic files in response to public records requests. It provides a waiver for the first 10 pages of records every 30 days. There were 3400 request made in 2018, most are small, but some are huge. Council wants to ensure that small requests are not be subject to a fee. Councilperson Roach wanted to know why all records are not publically available. She was told that there are a large number of statues that prohibit making some electronic records publically available (e.g. health records) and the County would be liable

if such records were released. Councilman Young pointed out the fee is to prevent nuisance requests, e.g. a former employee who asked for all the records of an agency; such requests take time away from legitimate requests. He looks forward to future when records can be “predacted” (redacted to remove sensitive information) to allow documents to be publically available, but stated we are not there yet. Councilperson Roach stated that the IT department should “predact” all the systems for the Council right now for free. She stated she would vote against the proposal. Proposal 2019-27 passed 6-1.

[Proposal No. 2019-38](#), Collective Bargaining Agreement - Pierce County Deputy Sheriff's Independent Guild. Ratifies collective bargaining agreement with the Pierce County Deputy Sheriffs' Independent Guild, Local No. 1889. This is a four-year contract for 2018 to 2021, with cost of living raises of 2.5% for 2018 and 3.8% for 2019, and a formula tied to Seattle cost of living index for next two years, with a minimum 2% cost of living raise. The contract amends the Pierce County Salary Classification Plan. The contract will cover the first 6% of any increase in health care plan for 2020 and 2021. The negotiations started in October 2017, because the contract was set to expire December 2017. The union voted on it in 2018 and the offer was rejected. A state mediator was brought in. A tentative agreement was reached in April 2019. Among other things, it abolished the sick leave incentive program, because this program is illegal under state law. Councilperson Young registered a complaint that Council was not involved in negotiations and was put in the position to be forced to approve the contract. He stated the Council could have provided some guidance on the process and that elected policy makers need to be involved in negotiating. Council person Roach demanded to know the details of the negotiation but was told that violated the law. Chair Richardson indicated that there is closed session July 16 to go over labor negotiations.

Passed 7-0

Resolutions

[Proposal No. R2019-74](#), A resolution of the Pierce County Council declaring broadband to be essential infrastructure, the Intent of the Council to direct resources to advance broadband internet access within Pierce County, and actions for further evaluation by the Council. The proposal was the in response to a study evaluating broadband in Pierce County. The Resolution declares that access speeds in urban areas should be at least 1000 MBps and 100 MBps in rural areas. The actions to take include procuring services to have a broadband strategic plan, a broadband stakeholder process to solicit opinions and needs, and to revise existing policies and codes to remove barriers to bb delivery.

Passed 7-0.

No other business.

Citizen's forum:

Fred Reiton –Council continues to pass regulations that drive up costs for business. He says they are the biggest obstacle to affordable housing, he used the example of a custom home on a 20 acre parcel to illustrate how regulations drove up his costs as a custom builder.