

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce Co.

Observer Report Form

Name of Agency: Puyallup City Council

Date: 1/29/19

Observer Reporting: Nancy Dahl

Length of Meeting: 2 hrs. 20 mins

Members Present/Absent: All members Present

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Many members of the public attended along with 27 HS Gov't Students from Puyallup and Emerald Ridge.

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?*

- After unanimous approval of the agenda and minutes from 10/29/18 and 11/6/18, Asst. City Manager Kirkly introduced Radhika Nair and Andrew Bjorn from BERK Consulting, Seattle, who have been hired to advise the City in preparation of a plan to inform economic development in the downtown core area of Puyallup. The preliminary plan will be developed in the next two months with a goal of engaging stakeholders in April and completion of the plan by early summer.
- The consent items relating to Cartegraph software, street improvements, Towing and improvements to the cemetery were approved 7-0.

Major discussions were as follows:

1. Resolution transferring two parcels included in Dechaux Water Assoc. to the city water service area. This is an uncontroversial issue proposed to ease a situation in which it is difficult for the owners of the parcels to access DeChaux water. They requested transfer to the city system. Motion to approve passed 7-0.
2. A proposed ordinance to regulate the riding of bicycles on sidewalks in the city requested by the Police Dept. to remove conflicts occurring between bikes and pedestrians. After some discussion, council directed staff to come back for second reading with multiple proposals on what streets to include and whither to use age, behavior, speed or other judgement factors to direct police in use of the ordinance.
3. 2019 Work Plan: List was created at retreat based on majority favor to the issues and included a green list (high priority) and a red list (lower priority to advise city staff of anticipated work load. The major discussion was surrounding the inclusion on the red list (lower priority) of homelessness issues. Councilmember Jacobsen explained that made sense to her because the city has not been able to hire the additional police staff needed to move forward on the city's plan to work on homelessness by enforcing the existing laws in the city. Councilmember Farris expressed a desire for a strategic plan for homelessness and felt it should be a higher priority issue. Councilmember Door also expressed disappointment as she understood the Homeless Service Zoning ordinance was a first step. The plan was approved 6-1 with Councilmember Farris dissenting.

Agenda:

See published agenda [here](#)..:

***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?

February 5 – Council Study meeting re: Affordable Housing in Puyallup

March 3 – Historical Society Meeting

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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?

- There were many members in the audience that attended as there was a rumor that there was a move to push an agenda item onto the agenda at this meeting to approve a special election in April and a referendum on that ballot to change the form of City Government to a Strong Mayor system that would also make the Mayor the City Administrator. Many people commented about their disfavor of this move in response to a petition drive by ReachOut NW that failed to collect enough signatures. Several members in their Council Reports mentioned that the item will be on the agenda at the Feb. 12 meeting.
- The Bicycle Ordinance discussion seemed uninformed and insensitive as to the consequences of the various proposed suggestions would be for either enforcement or impact on bicycle usage in Puyallup. No one suggested considering bikes as part of an overall traffic plan or planning for what people who come downtown to eat or shop via bicycle but are barred from riding in the blocks around Meridian would do with their bikes.

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.