

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce Co.

Observer Report Form

Name of Agency: Puyallup City Council

Date: January 8, 2019

Observer Reporting: Nancy Dahl

Length of Meeting: 2.67 hours

Members Present/Absent: All members present (CM Farris on a remote conference link)

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Students from Puyallup High School

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?*

- **Council approved consent agenda items 7-0.**
- **Ordinances:**
- **Major discussions were as follows:**
 - a. 1st reading of ordinance to restrict parking to 4 hours on south Spring St and 4th and 5th St. SE south of E. Pioneer—not controversial; passed 7-0 with some discussion of the resident parking program that gives residents on these streets priority for street parking
 - b. Issue related to acquisition of property to complete Phase 5 of Riverwalk Trail involving whether city must pay relocation expenses due to new law passed in 2018 Leg. Session. In consultation with experts it was determined that the city is not required since negotiations began before law was passed. The council approved moving forward per this decision, however there was discussion regarding encouragement to the city to be fair to impacted renters who will lose residence due to this situation and not benefit from buyout.
 - c. 2019 proposed City Legislative Capital Budget Agenda to be presented to legislators and lobbied for by new city lobby team Jim Hendrick and Luke Esser:
 - ✓ West Pioneer frontage improvements
 - ✓ Safe Routes to School sidewalk improvements-Wildwood Dr.
 - ✓ Culvert improvements on Meeker Creek—7th and 11th St. SW
 - ✓ Shaw Rd culvert improvements—engineering costs
 - ✓ Safe Routes to School sidewalk improvements—W. Pioneer to 112th, study to establish phases

Major direction from Councilmembers was to retain local control at all costs, opposition to community based mental health services (except for city manager who thought an open mind to proposals that could incorporate site into hospital community especially if it came with state funding stream), promoting economic development, condo-liability reform encouraged,

- d. City Attorney reported on lawsuit Boyle vs City of Puyallup regarding city liability related to removal of homeless camps. Ongoing litigation being handled by city insurance company, WICA.

***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?*

- **Citizen’s Advisory Board applications are due to city January 28th**
- **District 2 Community meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2019.**

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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?

This meeting was much improved over last year's interminably long meetings and argumentative discussions, lasting only a little over two hours and ending before 9 PM. I had the sense that the League reports and contact by League members have had an impact on some new goals for this body, as several council members greeted me for the first time when I arrived.

There was a concerted effort to stick to the agenda, including a move from the mayor and City Manager to refuse to let Councilmember Kastama add an agenda item. The solution was to have the city attorney present an update on Kastama's discussion item in the City Manager's report. Councilmember Kastama then gave a Councilmember's report of 12 minutes, most of it focused on a letter from a constituent, which he read. The beginning of his report was an informative discussion of things happening at the WSU Experiment Station like the type of report typically given by the other members of the council. They usually spend a few minutes each on their reports. The constituent letter could have been shared privately with council members and worked on with the constituent or as an agenda item in future meetings.

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.