

## 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.*

<b>Name of Agency</b>	Puyallup City Council	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12/10/19
<b>Observer Reporting</b>	Nancy Dahl	<b>Length of Meeting</b>	4 Hr. 20 Min.
<b>Members Present</b>	Johnson, Jacobsen, Swanson, Palmer, Door, Farris, Kastama		
<b>Others Present</b>	Many HS students attending for class requirements, in addition to the Puyallup HS Girls Soccer Team that recently won the Class 4A state championship and was recognized by the council.		

**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. The initial discussion was over whether an item proposed by CM Jacobsen should be added to the agenda. Mayor Palmer spoke out against adding agenda items requiring action by the council that have not been published to the community and asked her to withdraw her motion, but she would not. The motion passed 4 – 3 (Johnson, Jacobsen, Swanson and Kastama voting for)
2. The council approved 7-0 to continue the effort to collect enough property owner signatures to authorize the annexation of an area west of Freeman Road and north of Levee Road. It is an area that is currently in unincorporated Pierce Co, but bounded on three sides by cities: Puyallup, Fife and Edgewood. The petitioner would like better utility and law enforcement service than he is currently receiving from Pierce Co and better potential for development of his property by being within city limits.
3. A Public Hearing was held to approve amendments to the 2020-2026 Transportation Improvement Plan and then approved the amended plan. The TIP is a “dream sheet” for transportation planning and is reviewed yearly to identify and prioritize projects. It’s also an Important tool for long-range planning of funding. Approved 7-0
4. Budget adjustments were passed on second reading
5. An ordinance amending the city code regarding “Protests to Fees and Charges” pertaining to storm or wastewater development charges was approved 7-0. The result is that disputes will not now be decided by the city council.
6. The second reading of an ordinance related to land use, zoning and development costs of Accessory Dwelling Units was discussed with several amendments being presented and voted on. The final ordinance defines a detached ADU as a building that is a maximum of 700 SF within an existing property with separate utilities and sewer connection. The owner will need to live in either the main house or the ADU. Any unbuildable portions of a lot will be included in the determination of whether the lot is large enough to have an ADU. A maximum of 6 unrelated individuals will be allowed in the two units. To develop an addition to an existing building as an attached ADU with lower permitting costs, requires that a firewall separate the two units and the ADU must have a private entrance. Passed 7-0.  
  
An amendment to expand the definition of family to include more than 6 unrelated individuals on property with an ADU failed 5-2 and an amendment to require certain types of exterior finish to improve the quality of the building also failed 5-2.
7. The council passed a resolution of intent to authorize a credit of the portion of state sales tax referred to in SHB1406 which is estimated to generate \$190,000/yr for authorized spending on affordable and supportive housing in Puyallup.

8. The council passed a resolution to consider the Parks and Open Space Plan as part of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan update. It passed 7-0
9. Finally, the added agenda item submitted by CM Jacobsen at the beginning of the meeting, was discussed. CM Jacobsen moved that city staff be directed to write a letter to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency objecting to their plan to move the counties in the PS region to Clean Air Standards that have already been approved by California, Oregon and British Columbia. She felt strongly that Puyallup should follow a similar move made by the Pierce Co. Council based on a recent report that she said identifies significant costs to Pierce County from increasing gas prices and decreasing jobs. Mayor Palmer, along with CM Door and CM Farris, objected to holding a vote on the motion at the meeting as no one had prepared for the vote by reading the complete report referred to in the motion and that perhaps the facts cited were taken out of context. The City Attorney suggested that if there are subsequent legal actions, it would behoove the city to get their opinion on the record in order to be included in the suit. The question was called, and it was approved 4-3 with CMs Johnson, Jacobsen, Swanson and Kastama voting for the motion. For more information about the issue, the report can be accessed [here](#). There was also an op-ed in the TNT Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> submitted by a Lakewood council member that can be accessed [here](#).

**Public Comments:**

- There were several comments about a house on Terrace Dr that is being rented to multiple unrelated individuals by an out-of-town landlord. This is a property that the city is called to regularly because of nuisance issues; the speakers expressed frustration about the cities inability to regulate against the impacts to the neighbors.
- There were several comments in support of ADU housing for disabled and elderly people. One speaker reminded the city that they should take the responsibility for assuring that the development doesn't have negative impact on adjoining properties.
- A representative of the Eagles came to council to describe the cost impacts they are experiencing due to the purchase of their building by Sound Transit for a parking garage. They understood that the deal would not have adverse cost impacts to them, but they have received an unexpected eviction notice and bills from Sound Transit. They requested that the City intercede on their behalf.

**Public Meetings Announced:** Where there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue? **None were mentioned at the meeting, but members may be interested in a Public Hearing regarding the recently announced regional clean air standards proposal:**

**Thursday, December 19, 2019 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., 5 - 8 p.m.**  
 Washington State Convention Center, Room 2AB  
 705 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101

**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?	No Response		

Other factors worth noting:	Several times in the 2017-2019 term, the Council has inserted unpublished agenda items as they did at this meeting. It has negative consequences as it allows the council to discuss and rule on items without alerting residents to the matter in advance. It also results in the council not being prepared to discuss the topic.
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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.