

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce Co.

## Observer Report Form

**Name of Agency:** Puyallup City Council

**Date:** 3/26/19

**Observer Reporting:** Nancy Dahl

**Length of Meeting:** 4Hrs - 13 min

**Members Present/Absent:** All members present

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

**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?*

### **Major discussions were as follows:**

1. The United Way of Pierce Co., at the invitation of the council, presented an overview of their program focused on job training and financial literacy.
2. Presentations by the two responders to the event Request for Proposal (Farmer's Market, Meeker Days and Santa Parade) were made. They were Puyallup Main Street Assoc. and Foster's Creative from Tacoma. Given the many years that PMSA has put on these events, the competition was minimal as Foster's Creative is primarily a marketing company owned by a musician with little event experience. The RFP for a 3-year contract was awarded to PMSA resulting in noticeable sighs of relief in the audience.
3. The consent agenda was passed 7-0 and included:
  - Scheduling a public hearing for a proposed right-of-way vacation on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW,
  - an upgrade of automated water meter reading software,
  - The Police Management collective bargaining agreement
  - A supplemental agreement for management and inspection of the No. Levee Overlay project
  - An interagency agreement with Federal Way to provide guaranteed bed space in the Puyallup jail
4. Chris Beale, Senior Planner, presented a review of the alternative housing choices encouraged by the GMA to kick off a discussion of the first reading of the ordinance to update the land use codes related to housing. He reported that these options are designed to add variety, infill, increased supply of affordable units, of which 25% should be for incomes below 80% AMI which is currently \$64,342 in Puyallup. Of the population living in Puyallup, approx. 30 – 38% are cost burdened (pay more than 30% of income on housing and utilities). Further, 41% make less than the median income. The proposed amendments include changes to:
  - Auxiliary Dwelling Units, which are currently legal in Puyallup but have very high fees so very few are permitted. Proposed are reductions in permitting and sewer fees, removing size restrictions for detached ADU's, allow "prefab" and kit tiny houses, on wheels or not, as long as they are built to Uniform Building Code standards, to make them very affordable.
  - Allow limited duplex and triplex permits in RS10 zones with a Conditional Use Permit to limit the number per neighborhood

The comments by the council focused on neighborhood impacts. Mayor Palmer made the statement that affordability has nothing to do with homelessness; CM Door recognized the need for low cost additions to house older children or elderly parents, but she was not in favor of allowing wheels on ADU's (mobile tiny Houses). She felt that they should require the wheels and chassis to be removed on a manufactured unit so it could be attached to a foundation making it permanent. Neither CM's Jacobsen or Kastama could see the benefit of any of these changes and CM Kastama spoke out against the update characterizing it as a zoning change. He stated it was going to ruin neighborhoods as people would move

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many tiny homes onto their lots and rent them to homeless people. A vote was taken on a motion to approve the changes except for the wheels on tiny houses (Sec. 11E). It passed 5-0 with abstentions by CM's Jacobson and Kastama.

5. A motion to approve the second reading of an update to the ordinance relating to small cell (5G) facilities passed 7-0.
6. A motion to approve the second reading of an update to the ordinance related to Telecommunications Service Providers passed 7-0
7. A motion to approve the second reading of a new ordinance relating to lewd conduct was made. After brief discussion the motion passed 7-0

#### **Reports:**

**Kastama**—A memorial for his mother, Darlene Kastama, will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at Veteran's Park.

**Farris**—Will be distributing information about round table public hearings that she sees as promising in "divided" Puyallup. She also wanted district 1 residents to know that she has been attempting to schedule a district meeting, but she has been unable to find a date when her colleague in Dist. 1 is available.

**Door**—In response to a citizen comment, she explained that the downtown fire station needs to move, but requires a 6-minute response time, so must be located downtown. After a long search, they finally have a first right of refusal offer pending for the downtown Armory building that meets their criteria.

**Johnson**—The CM suggested that residents contact members on a personal level prior to the meetings to express their opinions so that CM's can reply if appropriate or respond in a constructive way, rather than just "blasting" the council in public.

**Jacobson**—Now serving on the Pierce Co. Regional Council as an alternate on the Transportation Committee.

**Swanson**—South Sound Alliance has 3 new initiatives: (a) rolling out a regional economic development web portal; (b) Sumner CM, Ryan Windish, is serving on the SSA Transportation Management Association and will be presenting some ways Puyallup and Sumner could work together on regional traffic issues; (c) Organizing an Regional Affordable Housing strategy group. DM Swanson suggested that PCC should delay further discussion of Affordable housing since perhaps if a regional strategy is created, perhaps Puyallup won't need any (??).

**Palmer**—Co. Exec. Dammeier, Tacoma Mayor Woodward, and PC CM Ladenburg are forming a mayoral working group to create a county-based discussion on Affordable Housing "to work on the messaging".

**\*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?*

It would be interesting to have representatives of the League in some of the Affordable Housing discussion groups mentioned in the members reports.

#### **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?

Behavior was civil, though the housing discussion took most of an hour and nothing presented was new. It was a review of previously presented information. It's my opinion that several of the members don't understand the extent of need or the inability of developers to build new housing that is affordable for many. The agenda of this meeting was stuffed. They commenced an Executive Session after 11 PM.

#### **Reminders ☺**

**The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:**

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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.

Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your awesome ID 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 the LWV Observer Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting.***

[paulapeismann60@comcast.net](mailto:paulapeismann60@comcast.net).