



OBSERVER REPORT FORM

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Name of Agency	Puyallup City Council	Date of Meeting	Feb. 9, 2021
Observer Reporting	Liz Knox	Length of Meeting	
Members Present	Mayor Julie Door, Deputy Mayor John Palmer, Council Members Robin Farris, Dean Johnson, Cyndy Jacobsen, Jim Kastama, and Ned Witting		
Others Present	City Manager Steve Kirkelie, Josh Metcalf, City Clerk Brenda Fitsvold, Ryan Wheaton and Lindsey Sehmel from Pierce Transit, Sarah Harris and Anamarie Burke from Puyallup Recreation Center, Katie Baker, City Planning Manager, Ken Cook, Engineering Manager		

Called to Order at 6:30

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved

Council-initiated item: Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure for Agenda Preparation and Approval (Palmer/Door)

2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Approved

2.a Minutes of November 10, November 17, and December 8, 2020

3. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

3.a Proclamation Honoring the Reverend Tom Slate

3.b Pierce Transit Service and Informational Updates:

Ryan Wheaton reported from Pierce Transit. Drop of 50% levels due to decrease in ridership and availability of drivers. Currently operating at 90% and will be looking at returning to regular levels. They are considering equity issues and are looking at the infrastructure to transit services. They are looking at a study of the routes for future possible expansion. Puyallup sees about 400,000 trips per year on average. There has been a significant drop in Vanpool use. They have issued 750 free Orca student passes in Puyallup. In March, Sunday service hours will resume.

Councilmember Jacobsen expressed appreciation for the concentration in this presentation on Puyallup. She asked if they are seeing shortfalls from revenue from sales taxes. Wheaton responded that Pierce Transit is doing all right, unlike Sound Transit. The funds from the federal government may be in question. Jacobsen expressed a request for bus service up Shaw Road. Councilmember Witting asked for clarification of the efficiency plans. Wheaton responded that they would be considering a wide variety of issues for consideration with each stop that is added. Witting requested a list of the stops being added within the Puyallup City limits and Mayor Door asked that that list be provided to the City Clerk for distribution to the entire City Council.

3.c Puyallup Education and Activities Kamp (PEAK) Program Update

Anamarie Burke presented on this Educational Camp which operated during COVID as a childcare and school support for K-5th grade students. The ratio was one staff per eight children. Grant funding was available for 50% of the program. Councilmember Farris asked specifics about the price and congratulated Burke for the great work. She also asked about availability of Spanish language and Burke replied that there were no Spanish-speaking children. Mayor Door thanked Burke and the Rec Center staff for their work on this program.

3.d Proclamation Honoring Dixie Gatchel

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Door asked the city clerk to read a letter from the City Council regarding a racially offensive figurine on private property and re-stating the Council's commitment to respecting diversity.

Chris Chisholm expressed disappointment in the Council's letter and stated that the Council should do something more specifically to stop the citizen from displaying the offensive statue on private property. He encouraged the City to establish a citizen's commission for diversity issues.

Jen (last name unknown) asked the City Council to establish a citizen's commission for diversity issues. She emphasized that Puyallup is not a safe place for people of color and urged an anti-racist initiative of change by the Council.

Davida Sharpe-Haygood spoke of many incidents of racism in Puyallup. She urged the City Council to step up and create a commission for diversity issues.

Tiffani Young spoke in favor of creating a diversity commission.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Approved

4.a Award a contract to Gray and Osborne, Inc. for the design and construction management of a clarifier unit at the Water Pollution Control Plant

4.b Accept a \$3,000 grant from Washington STEM to expand knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics via story time programming at the Puyallup Library

4.c Approve an amendment to the contract with Murrey's Disposal Company pertaining to customer rates for solid waste collection and processing services

[Murrey's Disposal 2021 Rates Submission](#)
[2021 Rate Sheets](#)

4.d Accept a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Pierce County Connected to fund scholarships for the Puyallup Education and Activities Kamp (PEAK)

[Grant agreement](#)

4.e Accept a \$4,850 grant from the Department of Commerce for the reinstallation of historical Route No. 1 signage at Maplewood Elementary

[Contract readiness survey](#)

4.f Approve a supplemental agreement to the contract with Fehr & Peers for the Downtown Parking Study, Phase 2

[Scope of Work \(Exhibit A\)](#)

5. **ORDINANCES**

5.a First reading of an ordinance relating to the application of zoning for the East Town Crossing project, finalizing a 2016 Comprehensive Plan map amendment request

[Ordinance No. 3131 \(2016\) 2016 Staff Report](#)

Katie Baker presented regarding a proposal regarding a zoning amendment to allow for a multi-family residential project the corner of Shaw Road and Pioneer. Deputy Mayor Palmer expressed agreement but also surprise because initially he was under the impression that the initial proposal was presented to fit within the current zoning. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

6.a Consideration of the City submitting a Conservation Futures grant application to facilitate City acquisition of five parcels located on 12th Avenue SE

[Exhibit A site map](#)

Ken Cook presented on a proposal to purchase a Conservation Futures Project on 12th St. SE 20.12 acres to be conserved as open space. The site is designated AO FEMA floodplain. The property is appraised at \$2,830,000 and the city would purchase it for \$800,000 along with a Conservation Futures Grant. The owner would claim the remainder as a donation. A park could be built on a portion of the property. Maintenance could come from the Pierce County Conservation Project and volunteers. Councilmember Jacobsen spoke in favor of this proposal. She clarified that this would take development off the table for this parcel. Councilmember Johnson and Deputy Mayor Palmer also expressed support. Councilmember Witting mentioned the possibility of a stormwater park given that this area is already partially a wetland.

6.b Council-initiated item: Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure for Agenda Preparation and Approval (Palmer/Door)

Deputy Mayor Palmer presented that most agenda items must be submitted by to the City Manager by Wednesday before the meeting and that if four members agree to add something to the agenda those could be added up to the day of. Some of the members felt it should be two members and not four. Councilmember Witting expressed concern about issues being discussed in private meetings in advance of bringing up last minute items. He suggested that this technique only be used when it's a time sensitive issue to serve Puyallup constituents. Overall items should be determined in advance. Deputy Mayor agreed that this is possible. Councilmember Jacobsen expressed her support for Witting's suggestion. City Manager Kirkelie clarified that if he hears from four members by Wednesday, he would like to be able to add an item to the agenda. Five members would be needed to approve a last-minute item. Councilmember Johnson expressed support for the four-member proposal, and for the supermajority for an item on the day of. Deputy Mayor Palmer suggested that they come back to this item in the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT Nothing to report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kastama passed.

Councilmember commented on the Growth Management Policy meeting he attended. Puget Sound Regional Council is working toward an equity advisory committee and Witting is in favor of an equity advisory committee in Puyallup as well. 2050 vision implementation topics included housing, transportation, climate change and others. Witting summarized several key points. He spoke in favor of changes in permitting to allow more flexibility to accommodate needs for affordable housing.

Councilmember Jacobsen expressed appreciation of the PEAK program. She has heard good comments about the Library curb pick-ups and virtual book clubs. She spoke about Supreme Court exceptions to free speech, but you can't defame others etc. WA State Constitution has a broader protection than the federal one. She believes that limiting free speech is more dangerous than limiting offensive language. She believes the letter the Council wrote was the right approach.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the Council for their commitment to civility in the midst of disagreements. Councilmember Farris encouraged those who spoke during the comments section to get more involved in City committees and seconded Councilmember Jacobsen's comments about freedom of speech. She offered to get more involved in equity issues. She called the person in charge of the diversity commission in Edmonds and has sent the Councilmembers links to information she had found. She is open to discuss ideas and is willing to work

with anyone. She asked Ken Davis to turn on his camera. She suggested giving neighbors who might be inconvenienced by city project a small gift. She offered to do a Zoom Town Hall and asked any citizens in her district to e-mail her.

Deputy Mayor Palmer mentioned that he is happy with the letter and agrees about the importance of free speech, but that he feels inadequate because the statue is of concern and he is open to if there is something to do, he would like to do it. He brought up the commission that the citizens have brought forward. He wants citizens to know that they are looking at the concept and that they continue to discuss it. It is not falling on deaf ears. He asked what the next step for Puyallup could be, what other cities are doing, and what would be the scope, focus and purpose of this commission. He asks if a couple of them bring something forward it needs to be well thought out. It's a little like the homelessness issue. People have a lot of different ideas and it can go many different directions. Councilmember Farris brought something up during the retreat and they decided not to go that direction. What are other cities doing? Putting together a new board is not trivial. The last one was on the Arts, and it took a lot of planning. This task would be more complex, and something needs to come back to Council about this.

Councilmember Kastama mentioned that he enjoyed these comments and he mentioned when the Puyallup School District was going through racial justice issues. He suggests events such as rallies that allow people to come together and discuss issues. He recalled a time when in Skokie Illinois Nazis were marching in Jewish neighborhoods, but that the ACLU defended their first amendment rights, as disturbing as it was. He suggested moving forward with a fair and balanced approach and thanked the citizens who spoke at the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Door spoke of her frustration with the limited legal recourse to address offensive behavior. She expressed that she and others are working on ways to move forward but she is frustrated with the difficulties. She apologized and said that she knew that citizens are not aware of how much is being discussed as possible ways forward. She is open to ideas as she explores issues of diversity and equity.

Public Meeting adjourned at 9:09

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate; Performance of a Public Employee ADJOURNMENT

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:			