

<b>Name of Agency</b>	Puyallup City Council	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Feb. 23, 2021
<b>Observer Reporting</b>	Liz Knox	<b>Length of Meeting</b>	2hrs 45 min.
<b>Members Present</b>	Mayor Julie Door, Deputy Mayor John Palmer, Council Members Robin Farris, Dean Johnson, Cyndy Jacobsen, Jim Kastama, and Ned Witting		
<b>Others Present</b>	City Manager Steve Kirkelie, City Clerk Brenda Fitsvold, Karissa Thompson and Renee Gilliam from LEAD, Kendall Wals-Planning Division, City Attorney Joseph Beck, Katie Baker Planning Manager		

**Content:** What issue was discussed? Was some action approved? What discussion related to League positions or priorities?

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved

**2. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

2.a Minutes of January 5, 2021 Approved

**3. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

3.a Proclamation Honoring Bill Franklin

3.b Proclamation Honoring Davey Armstrong

3.c Puyallup Rotary LEAD Program: Karissa Thompson and Renee Gilliam presented on the 'Logistically Empowering Advanced Development Program' (LEAD), an 8 week program to foster student leadership opportunities. This program is offered with the support of the Puyallup Rotary and in collaboration with the Puyallup School District.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

- David Berg encouraged the council to give further consideration to a Racial Equity Commission as a way to be proactive instead of reactive.
- Paige Brauen requested that the council move forward with the Racial Equity Commission. She gave examples of Puyallup residents who have experienced racial comments or negative comments because they were LBGTQ. She referenced the book 'How to be an Anti-Racist' as support.
- Jen Rittenhouse also asked the Council to begin the Racial Equity Commission along with funds to back this effort. She referenced feeling unsafe in the Puyallup community as a woman of color.
- Yvonne Shindle applauded the Council for their proclamation on racial justice earlier this year. She referenced the racist statue that has been displayed in the downtown area by a private citizen and urged the council to make a policy to initiate positive change and create a Racial Diversity and Equity Commission to move forward in creating an anti-racist community.
- John Goble also brought up the issue of unequal access to resources such as transportation and health care. He also spoke in favor of the Racial Diversity and Equity Commission.
- Kimberly Gerstin asked the council to step up and lead by example and to create the Commission as other cities have.

- Mary Beth Daugherty referenced the statue and expressed that she is sad that Puyallup has the reputation of being racist. She expressed that she likes the schools and the quiet atmosphere, but is considering moving due to the racism. She spoke in favor of the Commission.
- Julie Davidson also spoke in favor of the Commission. She shared that she is a Latina who is fluent in both English and Spanish and expressed her frustration that her children are experiencing the same inequities that she did as a child. She urged the council to institute the Commission. She offered her services because she has worked with the Tacoma Equal Rights Commission.

#### 4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Approved Unanimously

4.a Approve a resolution declaring retiring Puyallup Police Department K9 Maverick to be surplus to the needs of the City and transferring ownership to Sergeant Kevin Karuzas

4.b Authorize the sale of vacant land located on 39th Ave SE, previously declared to be surplus to the City's needs

Resolution 2329

4.c Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing date to consider a latecomers agreement as requested by Viking JV, LLC

Resolution

4.d Approve accounts payable, payroll, and electronic fund transfers of \$17,458,005.59

#### 5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

5.a Public Hearing on Freeman Road Pre-annexation Zoning

Staff Report: Kendall Wals from the Planning Division presented on the Freeman Road annexation. SEPA Mitigation efforts will include a Cultural Resources Survey with the Puyallup Tribe, Traffic Impact Analysis, and Zone Transition Standards for non-residential to residential areas. She shared overlays of a proposed zoning map, physical description, and history of the annexation request.

5.b Public Hearing on Freeman Road Annexation

- Tyler Litzenberger from Vector Corp. spoke in favor of the proposed zoning and the planned future development and warehouse for a portion of this property. He shared that he seeks a positive relationship with the city and residents.
- Jack McCullough also from Vector, spoke in favor of the project and mentioned enhancements for the planned landscaping.
- Alicia Lane, as a resident of Freeman Road, expressed her appreciation to the council for the transparency of the process.
- Mr. ? Lane echoed Alicia's comments.
- Keith Asbjornsen was concerned with the decrease in farming land and wanted his mother to be able to live on her property as she has for many years. He complained that the road expansion will come too close to her home.
- Kelly Asbjornsen was also worried that the road as planned, would not be wide enough and would encroach on their property. She recommended that the current right of way should be sustained as it currently exists. She was concerned that road improvements would not be funded by the developer, by Fife, or by Puyallup and requested that they wait a period of time until these issues can be resolved.
- Richard Johnson and Mike Galloway, residents of Freeman Road, thanked the council for their efforts and spoke in favor of the rezoning and plans as presented.

#### 6. **ORDINANCES**

6.a First reading of an ordinance amending Puyallup Municipal Code Title 20 to establish a new "Freeman Road Overlay" zone

Public Hearing on this ordinance

Tyler Litzenberger and Jack McCullough again spoke in favor of this expansion. No one else asked to speak.

Kendal Wals presented regarding this ordinance. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

- Councilmember Jacobsen asked about the Planning Commission's agricultural overlay recommendation. Kendal Wals again presented the information.
- Deputy Mayor Palmer asked who is responsible for the Traffic Impact Analysis. Wals responded that the development applicant would be responsible. He asked for clarification regarding that the right of way expansion. He explained that his question was due to concerns expressed by the Tribe and by the Asbjornsens and asked for a phrase to be added that these improvements would be north of 50<sup>th</sup>. He expressed appreciation for the work of the city planners in providing protection for residents and for issues the Tribe may have. **He moved for approval of his amendment and Jacobsen seconded.**
- Council member Johnson asked for clarification of the added clause. He wondered if making the amendment is appropriate.
- Council member Farris reminded the Council that any proposed amendment should be submitted in writing rather than verbally and also asked the City Attorney if she should ask Kendall a question given that there is legal action regarding Freeman Road. The Attorney replied that it is appropriate for her to ask questions. She asked if the Asbjornsens have made contact with her and Wals replied that through the Planning Commission, they have. Farris asked if the City of Fife owns the road in question. Wals answered that there is still work to be done in this regard. Farris asked if eminent domain could come into play regarding right of way improvements. Wals explained that this would not necessarily be the case. Farris asked if right of way expansion could result in homes being unlivable. Wals answered again, that not necessarily, depending on the width of the right of way. Farris emphasized that the developer intends to upgrade the road. Wals agreed. Farris thanked the developers for their customer service. She offered support for the ordinances.
- **Council member Kastama suggested that the amendment be a separate vote and made a motion. Farris seconded. Palmer withdrew his amendment and Jacobsen and Kastama followed suit. Kastama moved and Johnson seconded approval of the ordinance as presented.** Palmer requested that the planning staff consider adding the statement about 50<sup>th</sup> Street for the second reading. The first reading passed unanimously.

6.b First reading of an ordinance on pre-annexation zoning and annexing an area commonly referred to as the Freeman Road Annexation area: **Passed unanimously**

6. c Second reading and adoption of an ordinance relating to the application of zoning for the East Town Crossing project, finalizing a 2016 Comprehensive Plan map amendment request: **Passed unanimously**

## 7. RESOLUTIONS

7.a Resolution confirming appointments to citizen advisory boards and commissions  
**Approved unanimously**

## 8. CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

8.a Resolution amending the City Council Rules of Procedure

City Manager Kirkelie presented an operational amendment proposed by the Council regarding which items can be added to the Council's agenda. Approved six in favor, one (Farris) opposed.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Steve Kirkelie reported that the Parks and Rec Staff assisted senior citizens in getting vaccines through the Senior Center. He urged citizens to complete the Community Satisfaction Survey which is on the website through the end of February.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

**Dean Johnson** shared his reflection on the many people who have passed away and his appreciation for life, friendship, and family.

**Cyndy Jacobsen** thanked staff, emergency management for the vaccine help, for the many city volunteers and those who made public comments.

**Robin Farris** thanked the staff and emergency management for the vaccination help. She expressed frustration related to the difficulty of developing a permanent plan for the homeless. It has taken far too long to develop a plan. She had put forth a proposal a long time ago and didn't get a question or feedback. She wants to move forward with the Racial Diversity and Equity Commission and is concerned that the Council can't wait for something more serious to happen before it acts. She shared that her pastor got death threats and the 'N' word sprayed across his doors when he moved to Puyallup. She expressed that people of color do not feel comfortable living in Puyallup and that she is tired of being sidelined and feeling discounted. She wants the Council to address this and she finds that the Council wants to postpone things and she is frustrated with the lack of progress. She thanked the Council for listening.

**Jim Kastama** said that he was not quite sure how to respond. He asked that Robin bring her pastor to talk with him. He referenced some positive events related to equity in past years. He suggested that the press has maligned Puyallup. He referenced that Ezra Meeker voted to acquit Chief Leschi, Puyallup was a safe place for Chinese people when they were being persecuted in Tacoma, and that Puyallup citizens helped Japanese people in Camp Harmony and spoke against this injustice. He shared that the KKK had been reported to be in Puyallup, but that actually it was in Tacoma, not Puyallup. He is open to unifying events that will bring people together and will work to address structural inequities. He shared that he has two bi-racial children and has lived in Israel with people who were persecuted. He defended the city's handling of the statue and as abhorrent as it is sometimes, freedom of speech is of utmost importance. He wants action, not processes or plans. He thanked the speakers and asked the people who spoke tonight to come and talk to him.

**Ned Witting** suggested that the Council needs to have more discussion on this topic. He acknowledged Robin's frustration and expressed that he is of the opinion that an Equity Commission would be helpful. He spoke in favor of empowering citizens to sit on this Commission just like citizens sit on the Arts Commission. The issue of diversity is a very important issue. He has talked with neighbors who have had negative experiences related to race in Puyallup. He is not afraid of Commissions and does not find them to be divisive. He believes that they can put on activities to pull the community together and that he as a Council member believes that the citizens are better to put on events of this nature, not the Council. He expressed appreciation for Robin's energy and Jim for his passion. He reiterated that Puyallup shouldn't be a place where racial injustice thrives. He agreed that there is a problem.

**Deputy Mayor John Palmer** shared that South Sound Housing Partners will be presenting on March 9 to the council and recommendations for next steps regarding homelessness. He expressed appreciation for the citizens' comments and support for actions to help facilitate movement toward greater equity. He agreed that racism exists in Puyallup and asked how to successfully raise awareness and help change the community. He offered support for Kastama's idea for some kind of equity and diversity festival. He agreed that it is important that the council stand for that and be vocally supportive. He shared that he has been working with the Mayor and the City Manager to reach out to other cities, Pierce College, and the school district to consider models for

moving forward. He believes that the focus should be on the community and events. He has not ruled out a Commission and shared that the Council is thinking about this.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Julie Door** echoed Deputy Mayor Palmer's message and reiterated that there is research and conversation underway about the Council's approach to Racial Equity. A consultant has been considered. She went on to announce that South Sound 911 will be moving into their new building in April.

9:18 Adjournment to Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Review the performance of a public employee **ADJOURNMENT**

**Process and Protocol:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comments/Explanations</b>
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 reaction		
Other factors worth noting:	None		