

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

University Place City Council Meeting

Date: March 15, 2021

Name of Observer: Kresha Warnock

Meeting called to order at (time): 6:30 p.m.

Present: Carolyn Belleci, Mayor; Steve Worthington, Mayor Pro Tem; Javier Figueroa, Council Member; Kent Keel, Council Member; Ken Grassi, Council Member; Howard Lee, Council Member, Pro Tem; Denise McCluskey, Council Member; Stan Flemming, Council Member.

Absent: None

Others present: Matt Kazer, City Attorney; David Swindale, Development Services Director; Kevin Briske, Principal Planner; Steve Sugg, City Manager

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Remembrance for former City Council member, Lorna Smith, who died on Saturday.

2. ROLL CALL**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilmember Keel****4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Moved, Seconded, Approved**5. PRESENTATIONS**

- Introduction – Col. Derek Finison, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade Commander
New commanding officer about every two years. Here until about July of 2022. Hopes to come up in person. Over 3,000 in brigade. Long term relationship between this Brigade and UP.
- Service Recognition – Deputy Dan Hacker
Mayor Belizi read a proclamation in honor of the retiring Deputy, who has worked for twenty five years in UP.
Chief of UP-PD also recognized his years of service.
- Women’s History Month Proclamation (Mayor Belleci)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No emails submitted by 5:30.

CONSENT AGENDA (Approved, Seconded, Passed Unanimously) (Full content included in the attached)

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/03-15-21%20RM.pdf

PUBLIC HEARING AND COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Proposed Council Action: Pass an Ordinance amending Chapter 4.80 of the University Place Municipal Code; relative to Multifamily Tax Exemptions. (See full language in attached starting on p. 29 ff.)

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/03-15-21%20RM.pdf (pp.29-34)

This was a required hearing on the above—presentation by Matt Kazer, City Attorney; Kevin Briske, Principal Planner; and David Swindale, Development Services Director.

(No Public Comment made)

Council Consideration:

Currently there is only one eight-year tax abatement area in UP. This issue is to develop a second.

Basic issues on table:

1. Develop new Residential Target Area.
2. Require a 24,000 square footprint.
3. Design Review required.

Council discussed pros and cons of approving this RTA.

Motion approved: 6 Ayes, 1 nay.

CITY MANAGER & COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS - (Report items/topics of interest from outside designated agencies represented by Council members, e.g., AWC, PRSC, Pierce Transit, RCC, etc., and follow-ups on items of interest to Council and the community.)

City Manager Report: Steve Sugg, City Manager, reported that the first Vaccination Clinic in UP will be March 16. Registration filled in an hour, but more vaccines are on the way. March 17, everyone in Tier 2 will be eligible for vaccine. On March 22, all counties go to Phase 3. First review April 12. Masking still required.

Council Reports:

Council Member Keel:

- He is on search committee for new CEO for Pierce County Transit
- Sound Transit trying to fill \$11 Billion gap in programs. As chair of group, trying to figure out how to restructure programs. New presentation of re-aligned projects anticipated in July.

Council Member McCluskey:

- Revenues of Point Defiance Zoo have held up well despite COVID. Many events are either virtual or will be up and running in Phase 3.
- Coyote issue in certain areas of the city. Doing research and will work with public on this.

Council Member Fleming:

- Gave comments honoring Sgt. Dan Hacker and Loren Smith.

Mayor Pro Tem, Worthington:

- Commended Deputy Hacker on 32 years of service
- Finance Committee meeting – Report adopted in Consent Agenda. Property tax rate at \$.88 per thousand, which is used for public safety exclusively.

STUDY SESSION

SOUTH SOUND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PARTNERS (SSH³P)

Discussion on UP's participation in South Sound Housing Affordability's Partners. This is an effort to regionalize planning for affordable housing in the area in order to work together as a county. There was some hesitancy about how to proceed. Concerns of some were that, as a smaller city, UP would have less influence on the committee while asked to make some financial commitment. However, there were also concerns about the lack of affordable housing already available in UP and a question of whether UP would lose all voice in the issue if they decline participation in this group. They did not come to a conclusion and will have another study session on this at a later meeting.

Adjournment at 9:22 pm