

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

University Place City Council

Date: September 7, 2021

Name of Observer: Kresha Warnock

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Worthington, Mayor Pro Tem; Javier Figueroa, Council Member; Kent Keel, Council Member; Howard Lee, Council Member, Pro Tem; Denise McCluskey, Council Member;

Not Present: Mayor Belleci, Council Member Flemming

Others present: Steve Sugg, City Manager, Chris Saunders, Leslie Blaisdell, Finance Director; Greg Premo, Chief of Police (UP); Eric Faison, Assistant City Manger.

Public Comments:

Chris Saunders... Announcing reformation of Coalition United for University Place. September 15, 11:30- 1 p.m. University Presbyterian Church 3rd Wed of each month. Place to collect, collaborate as a community. Meetings will focus on community assessment of evaluate areas of need. For example, may focus on needs of immigrant community, food bank needs.

Agenda moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Public Hearing continued until September 20 meeting.

Carryforward/Mid-Biennium Adjustment budget was presented. (Leslie Blaisdell)

Today's hearing Budget CarryForward/Mid-Biennium Adjustment

City Manager Report:

Steve Sugg. Groundbreaking for Cirque Park Veteran's Plaza in August. Goal to be completed by Veteran's Day.

Council Comments and Reports:

Council Member Keel: Sound Transit just finished realignment process trying to shore up gap of \$6.9 billion. Way forward that will bode well for UP since we're near to the end of the planning and implementation piece. Line stops at 19th and Mildred, technically not even UP. Have plan and need to operationalize so process matches goals. Will reach city in 2035 as planned.

AWC met with Legislative Committee today. Report will be out – that work has been done.

Among other issues, the AWC will work with legislators and law enforcement to clarify confusion in recently passed legislation.

Council Member Lee: Veteran's Memorial Plaza is on track;

Covid in Pierce County breaking records – recommend everyone get vaccine and wear mask.

Study Session:

Pierce County Recreation –Gary Cooper

NeSha Thomas Schadt, Jen Spence, Jenna Sargent – Pierce County Parks

What is specialized recreation and why is it needed? Form of recreation for individuals with special needs. 1000 Pierce County families need these services.

Keel: Supports this. Suggested contacting Association for Washington Cities for funding. Current grants available.

McCluskey: Would this work with seniors as well? Suggested that all seniors have “special needs” and should be served by these programs.

Would like to set up regular programming in UP, using Community Center facilities. Trying to get each city to bill per participant hour at \$8/hour. Would market to University Place citizens. Maybe doing summer camp and one day per week in Community Center for Club Pierce (perhaps Mondays). Other one time events in evening – based on when community center open. One full week of Camp Pierce in summer.

Descriptive slides start at p. 233 of Council Documents:

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/09-07-21%20RM2.pdf

Senior Center Discussion

Technology failed and observer was not able to view.

Policing Update: Police Chief Greg Premo

In May 2021 a large number of police reform bills were signed and went into effect July 31. HB 1554 and HB 1310 are ones that impact policing out on the street that are causing some confusion.

Levels of Police Contact:

1. Social Contact – has every right not to engage with police
2. Reasonable suspicion (“Terry Stop” Detention) Police can detain person to investigate their activity. Can use physical force to detain
3. Probable cause. Level of evidence that says we can now arrest the person. Level that allows to make arrest. Prosecutor decides if charges made.

In each case, varying descriptions of the distinction between “reasonable suspicion” and “probable cause” are causing confusion and conflicting legal interpretations among law enforcement and those interpreting these statutes. If “Use of force”, as currently defined means any physical contact such as handcuffing or holding onto a potential criminal, and if determination of “probable cause” is the only instance in which any force can be used, it makes it confusing how police can detain anyone who does not willingly agree to go with them in many situations. This could apply to mental health issues, as well as potential criminal behavior.

Probable cause vs. reasonable suspicion: If have not established probable cause vs. reasonable suspicion cannot use any force to detain individual.

Mental Health/Welfare Checks—Can still do but unless imminent threat cannot force to get treatment.

Also questions about when/if an officer can participate in a vehicular pursuit.

Law Enforcement will adapt, Premo says, but confusion now.

Council questions:

Keel – AWC wants to make the laws better and add clarity. The people who wrote it don't understand the people in the street; looking for ways to get this feedback to legislators.

Believes intent of the law

- Would clearing up difference between reasonable doubt and probable cause be helpful in fixing laws?
- Would he be willing to sit down with lobbyists to discuss?

Premo: Understand that the intent of legislation is to avoid police use of force in some situations but these changes are confusing. Need work with law enforcement.

Lee: How many co-responders available? The co-responders are contracted from Multicare. Six in Pierce County and expanding to nine. Almost 24/7 but cover all of Pierce County. Can be called to accompany officer.

Slides begin on p. 280 of attached package:

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/09-07-21%20RM2.pdf

American Rescue Plan AARPA (Eric A. Faison, Assistant City Manager)

City funded \$9.4 million -- ½ this year/ ½ next year.

\$6.5 million is going to sewer infrastructure.

Business assistance? What amount?

Figureroa—Had good discussion about sewers at retreat. Are we talking about residential or commercial sewer needs? Emphasized that wanted to make sure to cover residential because other funds often available for business.

Faison: Looking to build mainlines. May be ways to get grant funds for lower income people to hook up.

Gave \$750,000 to small businesses. Suggest giving more to support the businesses that have survived the pandemic.

Because the city was awarded more funding than expected, a plan will be developed to determine further use of the funds. Mayor Belleci and Mayor Pro Tem Worthington will continue to work with staff on this planning and will bring back to Council.

Slides start at p. 294 of attached:

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/09-07-21%20RM2.pdf

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.