

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

University Place City Council

Date: November 1, 2021

Name of Observer: Kresha Warnock

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

All Council Attachments can be found at

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/11-01-21%20RM.pdf

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

Others present: UP Chief of Police Premo; Micah Lundborg, Bureau Chief of Operations- Pierce County Sheriffs. Leslie Blaisdell, Steve Sugg, City Manager; Matt Kaser, City Attorney

Presentations: Police Chief Premo introduced Micah Lundborg, Pierce County Sheriff Bureau Chief of Operations. In 2021, the department has lost 30 officers and hired 10. Struggling to maintain. 39 vacancies as of today. Thirty more out on Military leave, injury, family leave so 69 officers not on the streets.

Questions:

Flemming: What's driving the resignations? Lundborg – product of public sentiment over law enforcement. Feeling of not being respected. Have been assaulted and comments from Prosecutor's office leave them feeling they don't know how sympathetic jury would be. Legislative changes – officers being prosecuted for issues not holding citizens to. No pool of candidates in whole area. Service-oriented professions including nursing, healthcare, tired of taking brunt of frustration.

How do we turn this around? Working on it. Some agencies thrown money at problem. Not same tax base as municipality in the county. More than money? How do we show value to our people?

Worthington: suggestions re- recruiting; social media; job fairs; military; lots of inquiries; Puyallup Fair.

Figueroa: suggested more recruitment among military. There is a recruiter at JBLM weekly. Figueroa suggested seeking out military contractors taken out of Afghanistan.

Keel: Also suggested taking more aggressive approach to recruiting. Pierce not suggesting defund the police; what's happening in King County not happening here to that level.

Emphasized that this Council, to a person, supports the police and law enforcement.

Lundborg: Current police need to be able to think, communicate, work with community.

Proclamation of Support for the Police Department

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/11-01-21%20RM.pdf (p.3)

Keel: as head of Association of Cities, said he and his people will be working on improving the legislation passed last year.

Public Comments: No email public comments.

Audience members present

Consent Agenda passed

Public Hearing:

One percent property tax levy.

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/11-01-21%20RM.pdf (pp. 7-17)

Necessary to adopt ordinance. \$ go to the police. @\$5/\$500,000 house.

Moved; seconded. Passed unanimously.

2022 Legislative priorities (Matt Kaser, City Attorney)

Support AWC asks:

http://cityofup.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/City_Clerk/CouncilMeetingPackets/2021/11-01-21%20RM.pdf (p. 20)

Several Financial asks suggested and discussed.

[This was not in writing and observer was not able to get the whole list but items included two Chambers Creek footbridges, Day Island Bridge, Homestead Park Pavillion, sewer improvements]

Keel suggested, since short session, better to focus on one or two.

Worthington suggested priorities: three on state level; some might be more likely to be funded on Federal level.

Tracking criminal justice reform.

Flemming: set our priorities – most important to least. Keep on radar screen.

Lee, McCluskey: agree choose priorities but keep on list.

Worthington:

Chambers Creek trails – bridges for them – most popular

Keel: Keep whole list, but these are the most important. Can you look at these things first? But trust staff to negotiate what comes up when money is available. Highlight different things perhaps with specific legislators.

Figuroa: Perhaps indicate short/long term goals as part of highlighting process.

Resolution passed to forward Legislative Agenda based on AWC

City Manager Report:

Steve Sugg, City Manager. Chambers Creek Trail Bridge under construction.

Council Comments and Report Outs:

Keel: It was insulting that state legislators. Mayor Woodard and Governor Inslee came to University Place in support of the criminal attack on the Mosque, located in UP, and neither notified, invited, or acknowledged local officials. Mayor Belleci will send letter and several concurred that this was a very inappropriate way to relate to our city.

Lee: Ribbon cutting for new business on 27th- Linton Insurance.
Veteran's Memorial ceremony on the 11th at 10:30 at Cirque Park.

McCluskey: Supports idea of naming new bridge as "Gold Star Bridge". Add a plaque.

Belleci: Two ribbon cuttings from women-owned businesses. Second is Blue Mountain Behavioral Health.

Interfaith meeting at TCC to which Belleci invited. Over 100 faith-based organizations in Pierce and some in King to show concern about incidents of arson against-faith-based organizations in last few months. Strickland, Kilmer, Mayor Woodard there.

December 20 meeting cancelled with no objections.

Study Session:

Write-Offs

Forty debts, that have already been sent to collection. After 24 months, asked to write off. Come back to Council for approval December 6.

Fee Schedule Review. Are reviewed each biennium, but City Manager suggested reviewing this year too. Working to bring all fees into one resolution.

No comments or questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.