



OBSERVER REPORT FORM

University Place City Council

Date: July 6, 2021

Name of Observer: Kresha Warnock

Meeting called to order at 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.

Others present: State Rep. Mari Leavitt; State Rep. Dan Bronoske; State Senator T'wina Nobles; City Manager Steve Sugg

Agenda approved and seconded. Passed unanimously

Legislative Update from Mari Leavitt and Dan Bronoske:

Leavitt: record number of constituents participating. Would like to maintain virtual contact as way of encouraging participation.

Four main areas of focus:

- 1) Addressing Covid – PPE, Economic recovery focusing on small businesses (still working on this.
- 2) Climate Change and environment – Addressing wildfires and wild life management; recent heat wave
- 3) Racial equity
- 4) Police accountability – expanded amount of support of police and mental health options.

Accomplishments:

- Small Businesses – property tax deferral; small business grants focus rather than loans. Shored up unemployment cliff. More resources into Employment assurance department. Fees for some businesses were temporarily lifted. Expanded Main Street programs.
- Two million dollars in funding for sewer installation was passed.
- Bronoske: Started to build infrastructure in terms of better access to mental health resources which included creating alternatives to ER's; expand substance use disorder services;

On agenda: need ways to deal with unprecedented heat wave and as events happen in future including expanded access to cooling centers.

When questioned about issues of police accountability and perhaps some confusion among local agencies as to how new statutes will be implemented, Leavitt emphasized that she and Bronkoske met with every district police chief, as well as law enforcement workers and unions to get their perspective on changes.

Nobles, joining later: Worked on healthcare, behavioral health, police accountability, equity, climate change, education, childcare. Listened to funding for UP, like the Curran House Museum. First short session next January.

City Manager Report:

Parks Board heard this morning that have just had a grant awarded for Cirque Park -- \$750,000 They've been working on this for two years. The project will begin fall 2021. Expanding playground, constructing paved walking trail around park perimeter, upgrading skate park.

Chambers Creek Trail #1 to connect UP side and Lakewood side. The trail was well used during heat wave. Should be complete by end of year. Working with Pierce County

Council Reports:

- Lee: On July 17 all registered voters will receive ballots for one position on school board. Emphasized importance of voting.
- McCluskey: Congratulated Keel on his appointment as Vice-President of the Association of Washington Cities.
- Worthington: Did ride-along with UP police on July 4, Sunday night. Felt like Fireworks ordinance is working.

Study Session:

Parks Budget Adjustment. McCluskey: Park staff has expanded responsibilities in the past few years. Feels we are at a breaking point; citizen volunteers are aging out. Museum being added and Homestead redesign being carried out. Addition of Veteran's Memorial to Cirque Park. Important to raise funding to meet the expanded needs.

Fleming: Only 2.5 FTE on park staff. Allows Council chance to step back to keep up with the pace of growth. Not developed by staff but directly by the Council.

Keel brings up question: What is the vision, the ask? McCluskey – Parks department and public works would have the funds and staffing available to maintain and expand resources.

Mayor Belleci and Mayor Pro-Tem Worthington will work with Park Department staff to clarify goals and needs and bring back to a later study session.

City Hall Reopening: City Hall has re-opened. Steve Sugg (City Manager) announced the time line. Regular business hours – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. City Services still available through hybrid options. If not vaccinated, asking to wear a mask. Police Station reopening July 12, 9a .m. to 3 p.m. Pierce County Library is open and welcoming visitors – face masks required.

Council Meetings will not go live again until September when hybrid technology is complete.

Adjournment at 8:06.