CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Special Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Administration of Oath of Office by Municipal Court Judge Sandra Allen

Municipal Court Judge Sandra Allen administered the oath of office to Mayor Perry, Councilmember Zaroudny, Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ott and Councilmember Morton.

Swearing in of Interim Police Chief Mark Langford

Mayor Perry administered the oath of office to Interim Police Chief Langford.

The Mayor called for a recess until 7:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Mayor Perry called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the flag salute.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Council Members present: Whalen, Taylor, Jones, Ott, Morton, Manley and Zaroudny.

   STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Mukerjee, Finance Director Lisa Tylor, Police Chief Langford, and Public Works Director Neal.

3. **Swearing in of Interim Police Chief**
   (Moved up to after swearing in of elected officials)

4. **Additions/Deletions:** None.

5. **Citizen Participation:** None.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   Approval of:
   A. Minutes from the meeting of December 2, 2013.
   B. (i) Payroll for 12/15/13, 12/20/13 and 12/31/13.
      (ii) Checks/voucher numbers 54658-54733.
   C. Ordinance amending MMC Title 2, Administration & Personnel – Repealing Fire Department, Fireman's Relief & Compensation Benefits, and Personnel Job Descriptions.

   COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Passed 7/0.**

7. **Regular Agenda**

A. Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem
City Administrator Mukerjee outlined the process. Mayor Perry opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Whalen nominated Councilmember Taylor as Mayor Pro-Tempore. There were no other nominations. Mayor Perry then closed the nomination and called for a vote. **The vote was 6/0 in favor of the nomination.**

B. Appointments to Inter-Jurisdictional Boards & Commissions
Council discussed appointments to the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) and the Suburban Cities Association (SCA). The 2013 appointees were as follows: PCRC: Bart Taylor, Alternate, Debra Perry; and SCA: Debra Perry.

COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Manley to continue with the same appointments for 2014. **Passed 7/0.**

Leonard Sanderson requested that the Council consider appointing a representative to the Emergency Medical Council of Pierce County. He will send an invitation for such an appointment to the council.

C. Setting Council Retreat Date
Council discussed various dates and times for the Council Retreat.

COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Manley, to hold the Council Retreat on Friday, February 7th afternoon and Saturday, February 8th morning. **Passed 7/0.**

Council asked that the discussion of the retreat agenda be brought back at an upcoming Council meeting.

D. Acceptance of Alder Ridge Trail Easement
City Administrator Mukerjee and Public Works Director Neal stated that this easement was a condition of project approval. It would provide public pedestrian access from the current inter-urban trail, from 28th Avenue, through Alder Ridge to the intersection on Meridian and Military Road, and then connect to the existing trail in Edgewood.

COUNCILMEMBER OTT MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Jones to authorize the Mayor to execute the attached Public Pedestrian Trail Easement.

Councilmember Zaroudny raised questions about whether accepting this easement would adversely impact any future funding for the opened section of the trail.

Jacquelyn Whalen asked the Council to consider calling it a sidewalk. Leonard Sanderson urged the Council to accept the easement.

COUNCILMEMBER ZAROUDNY MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Morton to amend the motion to add the phrase "as an interim measure" to the end of the main motion. **Motion failed 2/5, with Councilmembers Zaroudny and Ott in favor, and the remaining five councilmembers voting against.**

Mayor Perry called for a vote on the original motion.
Motion failed 3/4, with Councilmembers Whalen, Jones and Ott in favor, and the remaining four councilmembers voting against.

Council asked that this item be brought back in the future with references to "interurban trail" being deleted.

E. **28th Avenue/Milton Way, Traffic Light Options**

Public Works Director Neal described the three temporary options to address some of the traffic complaints at the intersection of 28th Avenue and Milton Way. These were (1) Installing protected left-turn signals for 28th Avenue southbound and Safeway parking lot exiting traffic ($4,000); (2) Restriping southbound 28th with a combined straight/right-turn lane and a left-turn only lane, matching the current northbound configuration out of the shopping center ($3,300); and (3) Not allowing straight thru traffic from 28th across Milton Way ($3,800). A traffic study would cost approximately $12,000.

Council discussion included whether to do any of these temporary measures, now, or wait until the Meridian project is completed by WSDOT. After discussion, all councilmembers decided to wait until the completion of the WSDOT Meridian project, and then do a new traffic study, before proceeding with any modifications.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- Commended planning, building, stormwater and public works staff for their hard work during the holidays to ensure that the Alder Ridge development received its temporary certificate of occupancy.
- The Stone Ridge property has finally been purchased by a California company. The new owners will need to complete a number of items, including building a water booster station prior to obtaining occupancy.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor:
  - Officially welcomed Derek Shuck, reporter for the Fife Milton Edgewood Signal.

- Councilmember Whalen:
  - Concerned about people using the rear of the Safeway parking lot as a road.
  - Street giving way a little at 5th & Comet.
  - Possible impact on police reserve officers due to the Healthcare act.

- Councilmember Jones:
  - Emerald Street stop sign looks great.
  - 1700 block of Emerald, east bound lane beginning to settle.

- Councilmember Ott:
  - Congratulated newly elected members.
  - Remarked about the lack of city lights at Hylabos, and requested a future study session of street lights.

- Councilmember Morton:
  - Alder Ridge opening on Thursday 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
  - Commended the demolition of derelict house on 23rd.
  - The car wash is looking great
  - New pavement at the baseball field looks really nice.

- Councilmember Manley:
  - Also commended the demolition of two derelict houses on 23rd.
  - Wants the next steps of visioning to be discussed at the retreat.

- Councilmember Zaroudny:
    - Commended staff for their support and hard work.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Looking forward to the open house at Alder Ridge.
- Commended Officer Don Hobbs for his approach to code enforcement.
- Glad that Chief Langford is on board as interim chief. She is in no rush to start the recruitment process for the permanent chief and will involve council as part of the interview process.
- Enjoyed having the Rangers at Heather Hills.

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Debra Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Tylor, City Clerk