

City Council



**1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270**

**Special Meeting
Minutes
February 16, 2021**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Mayor: Jon Nehring

Council: Council President Kamille Norton, Councilmember Jeff Vaughan, Councilmember Tom King, Councilmember Mark James, Councilmember Kelly Richards, Councilmember Michael Stevens, Councilmember Steve Muller

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Gloria Hirashima

Goals and Objectives Discussion:

Mayor Nehring gave a brief overview of the list distributed to Council identifying Executive Office and Department goals and objectives for 2021. CAO Hirashima offered additional comments on the need to prioritize staffing as the departments are operating at very low staffing ratios throughout the city.

Councilmembers identified their priorities and ideas, summarized as follows:

Councilmember James commented that 1) all Councilmembers should be involved in the artist discussions for city hall building; 2) would like to see development of leaders from within City; 3) suggested that the City consider incentives to redo business facades in the downtown as he has heard and has concerns about the variety of buildings-paint and building looks- along State Avenue at the south end of the City; 4) that we should review permitting to ensure that we are not creating unnecessary and burdensome process-

mentioned example of business submitting through online portal; and 4) supported pursuing litter initiatives.

Councilmember King commented that 1) 4th Street is an important entry and should be improved visually; 2) Asbery Field improvements should be considered potentially in partnership with Marysville School District who owns the site; 3) supported litter cleanup projects; and 4) supported a new community center.

Councilmember Vaughn commented on the lasting impact of the pandemic on our businesses and community. He spoke about the uncertainty of recovery and the questions that it raised as to whether we would encounter the same needs following reopening of the economy. He spoke of the need for a sense of community. He felt volunteer programs were one avenue to promote community. He felt the Council needed to look at business recovery needs. He also spoke of concerns about addiction and homelessness.

Councilmember Stephens identified his priorities and concerns as follows: 1) need for a design review process to improve design and require buildings to have entries/windows on street versus a blank building wall like Jimmy Johns and Verizon; 2) continuing focus on public safety; 3) continued program development for addiction and homelessness; 4) expansion of economic development support; 5) Cascade Industrial Center support; 6) continued work on waterfront as the front door to the city; 7) downtown image improvements; 8) Parks emphasis – agreed with opening parks in phases of improvements at Mother Nature’s Window, instead of trying to do it all at once; 9) would like to see linked connections between parks so that it encouraged walking between parks.

Councilmember Richards identified the following priorities: 1) parks in the north end – mentioned neighborhood tracts, potential playground improvements at Strawberry Fields, and north end park improvements; 2) staffing (PW and elsewhere); 3) consider social and emotional needs of kids and families (give community ways to re-connect and get involved); 4) supported volunteer opportunities including cleanup and 5) consider special vote for quiet zone funding if possible.

Councilmember Muller identified the following areas: 1) developing a sense of community; 2) wanted to see more connectivity of trails – longer bike trails that connect to regional trails; 3) focus on infrastructure assets such as WWTP/water sites to make them community assets to larger audience for recreation and other uses – referenced membrane system so that WWTP site could be used for additional uses; 4) need to consider dark sky lighting requirements; and 5) need for large grassy fields/parks for recreation.

Council President Norton identified the following priorities: 1) push for reopening business and small business support; 2) waterfront development –look at incentives; 3) Quiet zone to improve waterfront/downtown; 4) Image – instilling community pride; 5) litter clean up (volunteers); 6) utilize social media to tell positive stories; 7) graffiti cleanup; 8) look at

using hotel/motel funds in more strategic way; 9) schools – supporting District to address education concerns; and 10) police recruitment.

Councilmember Stephens left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Council Procedures Discussion:

Council President Norton opened up discussion on Council procedures. Councilmember Vaughn commented on moving the committee reports to the end of the meeting. Councilmembers agreed that moving it to the end was a good idea and asked that it be implemented.

Councilmember James suggested that committee reports be more detailed so that Councilmembers who don't attend the meetings have more information and requested that a calendar reflect all committee meetings for the month. A general discussion ensued relating to Council calendars and assembling the materials from committees to distribute to the full Council. CAO Hirashima indicated staff would pursue improved calendar information and committee packet briefings for the full Council.

Council President Norton asked about policies on social media for staff and Council. Discussion relating to public records and separation of personal response from official City responses followed. CAO Hirashima indicated that they would schedule a social media training with City Attorney Walker at an upcoming Council work session.

Adjournment/Recess

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember Richards.

AYES: ALL

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of February, 2021.



Mayor
Jon Nehring