

City Council



**1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270**

**Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 27, 2020**

Call to Order

Mayor Nehring called the teleconference meeting of the Marysville City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Pastor John Mason of Mt. View Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

CAO Hirashima gave the roll call.

Present:

Mayor: Jon Nehring

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

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen, Parks Director Tara Mizell, Interim Police Chief Jeff Goldman, City Attorney Jon Walker, Community Development Director Jeff Thomas, Fire Chief Martin McFalls, Human Resources Manager Teri Lester, Public Relations Administrator Connie Mennie, Information Services Manager Worth Norton, Systems Analyst Mike Davis

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Approve the agenda moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Committee Reports

Councilmember King reported that the Fire Board Personnel Committee met on Friday and interviewed for two firefighter positions.

Councilmember Richards noted that Jan Brown did a video conference last week to talk to the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) representatives.

Councilmember James reported on the kickoff meeting of the Law and Justice Council on Thursday, April 16.

Presentations

A. Proclamation: Declaring Crosswalk Safety Month in Marysville

Mayor Nehring read the Proclamation into the record.

B. Proclamation: Declaring Women's Health Month in Marysville

Mayor Nehring read the proclamation into the record.

Audience Participation

Mayor Nehring solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes (Written Comment Only Accepted from Audience.)

1. Approval of the February 27-28, 2020 Council Retreat Minutes

Motion to Approve the February 27-28, 2020 Council Retreat Minutes moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember King.

AYES: ALL

Consent

2. Approval of the April 15, 2020 Claims in the Amount of \$420,513.39 Paid by EFT transactions and Check Numbers 140189 through 140456 with Check Number 140184 Voided

3. Approval of the April 24, 2020 Payroll in the Amount of \$1,356,116.47 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 33044 through 33065

4. Approval of the April 22, 2020 Claims in the Amount of \$2,330,784.63 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 140457 through 140727 with Check Number 138698 Voided

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda items 2, 3, and 4 moved by Council President Norton seconded by Councilmember Richards.

AYES: ALL

Review Bids

Public Hearings

New Business

5. Consider Approving the Professional Services Agreement with Makers Architecture and Urban Design, LLP for Consultant Services

Director Thomas reviewed this item. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Motion to Approve authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the Professional Services Agreement with Makers Architecture and Urban Design, LLP for Consultant Services moved by Councilmember King seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Legal

Mayor's Business

6. Discussion Regarding Affordable Housing Sales Tax Credit COVID-19 Program

Mayor Nehring reviewed this item utilizing grant funding for people in the community that are suffering as a result of COVID-19 related job loss or loss of income. Finance Director Langdon discussed the application process.

Councilmember Richards asked how much money would be in the fund for this purpose. Mayor Nehring estimated about \$93,000; the maximum per individual as recommended by staff would be \$1500 per person.

Councilmember James commented that this could help a significant number of households. He asked how fraud would be handled. Mayor Nehring commented that the funds would be paid directly to the landlord. City Attorney Walker also responded.

Councilmember Muller asked how realistic it is that they could implement this in the next 60 days. Finance Director Langdon explained that they would work with Connie Mennie to get the word out through a variety of channels. Mayor Nehring added that if there was money leftover it would just stay in the fund for another purpose later. Councilmember

Muller asked if there would be an ending date on it. Mayor Nehring replied that they could.

Councilmember James noted that some of these people might not have computers. He also suggested reaching out to other organizations that work with low income individuals to get the word out. Finance Director Langdon indicated that staff had considered this.

Councilmember Richards suggested reaching out to the landlord group to let them know about this opportunity. Mayor Nehring indicated they could do that.

Council President Norton wondered if this could create an enticement for someone to not pay their rent. She stated that she was a little uncomfortable with putting the City in the position of picking "winners and losers". She noted that other cities do more of a lottery scenario. She also wondered if they would be better off waiting until they have a better idea of the impact of this crisis.

Councilmember Vaughan expressed concern about setting up the City to do something they are not already doing, especially when there are other organizations that already do this work. He suggested channeling the money to an organization already serving this population. He also commented that a lot of those who are furloughed are currently making more money now than they were when they were working. He also thought it could be wise to wait and see what happens. He likes the idea of using these funds for the MESH houses in the future when they may be more necessary than ever.

Councilmember Richards liked the idea of possibly waiting to see what happens a little later as most people are getting unemployment and stimulus checks.

Councilmember James asked where this idea came from. Mayor Nehring explained that he and Finance Director Langdon had been discussing it. They have since learned that several other cities are also considering this.

Councilmember King spoke in support of the idea.

Councilmember James asked about getting some pre-applications from people in order to get more of an idea about the need. Finance Director Langdon suggested they could call United Way or other organizations to see what kind of calls they are getting from people in the area.

There appeared to be a consensus to wait to take any action on this for now. Mayor Nehring noted that it could be taken up at any time in the future. He suggested bringing this back to the last meeting in May.

Other Mayor's Business:

- He thanked councilmembers for brainstorming other good ideas.

- There is \$33,000 from the CDBG grant fund which will be used to support businesses or non-profits that are helping people with COVID-19.
- The CARES Act will also be available soon. This will be a microbusiness program.
- He put together a call with all the mayors in the county to put together a coalition to send a message to the community and a corresponding letter to the governor to get some real benchmarks and a timeline for re-opening the community.

Staff Business

Director Thomas gave an update on the idea to postpone expiration dates of business licenses. He discussed the status of construction activity in the city during Phase 1. He also discussed a grant program for small businesses up to \$10,000 per businesses which is through the State.

Director Langdon announced that the audit began a week and a half ago, but it is being done remotely.

Human Resources Manager Lester had no comments.

Director Mizell commented that she was involved in a group of directors across the state to communicate with the Governor. Some of their recommendations were reflected in the Governor's recent update.

Interim Chief Goldman announced that the crime rate is continuing to go down in all areas. He gave an update on new hires.

Director Nielsen gave an update on public works projects around the City.

Public Relations Administrator Mennie thanked Councilmember Vaughan for bringing attention to resident concerns about the virtual Council meetings. She noted that more information about public access to these meetings has been added to the website.

Chief McFalls thanked staff for the information about grant funding.

City Attorney Walker stated the need for an Executive Session to discuss three items - two items regarding property leases and one item regarding collective bargaining negotiations. No action was expected on any of the items, and the total time was estimated to be 15 minutes.

CAO Hirashima reported that the civic center is continuing to be under construction. The City has been notified that there have been COVID-related construction cost impacts, but no costs have been accrued yet.

Call on Councilmembers

Councilmember Muller thanked staff for all the updates. He asked Director Nielsen about DOT projects. Director Nielsen replied they are still scheduled to move forward.

Councilmember King commended Interim Police Chief Goldman for police response to a situation at WinCo last week. He commented that the bridges are looking good. He also noted that *The Herald* had a good article about the Mayors' meeting.

Councilmember Vaughan had the following comments:

- He thanked the Mayor and staff for all the regular communication.
- He thanked Director Thomas for getting copies of the safety plans for construction projects. This will be a benefit for the community. He asked to recognize the contractor that made these available.
- He thanked Connie Mennie for responding to the citizen concerns about the virtual meetings.
- He commended the community for complying with the Governor's Stay Home Stay Safe order. He discussed concerns that he is hearing from the public.
- He recommended working closely with local businesses to find ways to lessen financial burdens and impacts they are facing.
- He recommended looking at the resources available through the faith community. He also suggested engaging and empowering community groups and non-profits.
- He recommended beginning to open up some recreational type activities which are currently more stringent than the state requirements.
- Finally, he expressed concerns he has heard about liberties and civil rights.

Councilmember Stevens expressed appreciation to Councilmember Vaughan for his comments.

Councilmember James had the following comments:

- He commended the Mayor and the staff for their hard work.
- He thanked the Marysville Police Department for helping out with food bank operations.
- He asked Director Thomas for the name of the contractor who had provided the safety plans. Director Thomas acknowledged J.R. Riley Construction from Bellevue for making the plans available.
- He thanked residents for cooperating with the Governor's guidelines.

Councilmember Richards thanked staff for their hard work. He also thanked J.R. Riley Construction who helped with the safety plan. He read a draft letter he had proposed sending to Governor Inslee in support of starting to cautiously open things up.

Council President Norton thanked Councilmember Richards for the letter. As advocates for the citizens she agreed it is important to start looking forward and getting better answers.

Adjournment/Recess

Council recessed at 8:32 p.m. for eight minutes before reconvening into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss three items - two items regarding property leases and one item regarding collective bargaining negotiations. No action was expected on any of the items, and the total time was estimated to be 15 minutes.

Executive Session

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel - one item, RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)
- C. Real Estate - two items, RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)

Executive Session was extended 20 minutes.


Reconvene

Council reconvened following the Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved this 26th day of May, 2020.



Mayor
Jon Nehring