

City Council



1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270

**Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 26, 2020**

Call to Order

Mayor Jon Nehring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Pastor Joel Belcher of Calvary Chapel Marysville gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present:

Mayor: Jon Nehring

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

Staff: CAO Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen, Community Development Director Jeff Thomas, Athletic Supervisor Dave Hall, Interim Police Chief Jeff Goldman, Human Resources Manager Teri Lester, City Attorney Jon Walker, Fire Chief Martin McFalls, IT Manager Worth Norton, Systems Analyst Mike Davis

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Council President Norton seconded by Councilmember Vaughan.

AYES: ALL

Committee Reports

Council President Norton reported on the May 14 Public Safety Committee meeting where they received updates on the budget, staffing, hiring, crime statistics, Covid-19 impacts, the Chick-fil-A opening, and the search for a new police chief.

Councilmember King reported on the Community Development Block Grant Committee meeting where they discussed distribution of additional funds which will go to Goodwill Industries. They plan to use the money for rental assistance and grocery gift cards for Marysville residents. Councilmember King also reported on a Fire Board meeting last week where Chief McFalls declared May 17-23 as Emergency Medical Services Week, and there was an update on the Fire District.

Councilmember Vaughan reported on the May 21 Special Meeting of the Snohomish County Board of Health where there was a briefing about the County's move to Phase 2 and discussion and a vote in favor (11-4) of giving the health officer broader powers of enforcement. Councilmember Vaughan explained he was one of the four board members who voted against this motion.

Councilmember Richards reported on the Parks Board meeting where they received an update on Parks activities.

Councilmember James reported on the May 12 Governmental Affairs Meeting with the Tribes where the Tribes expressed concern about the homeless people who had received vouchers from the County to stay at one of their local hotels without any coordination with them. The City agreed to increase communication, but explained that it was the County sending the folks over there.

Councilmember James also reported on the Law and Justice meeting on May 16 where they talked about how Covid-19 is impacting law and justice in the city. They also received a report on the jail population.

Presentations

A. Declaring June 2020 Men's Health Month

Mayor Nehring read the proclamation into the record.

B. Declaring June 2020 as Class of 2020 Month

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 April 13, 2020 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve the April 13, 2020 City Council Minutes moved by Councilmember King seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

2. Approval of the April 27, 2020 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve the April 27, 2020 City Council Minutes moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Consent

3. Approval of the May 6, 2020 Claims in the Amount of \$582,450.68 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 140904 through 140956 with No Check Numbers Voided

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda moved by Councilmember Muller seconded by Councilmember Richards.

AYES: ALL

Review Bids

Public Hearings

New Business

4. Consider Approving the Three-Party Contract between Boulder Park Project and King County for Biosolids Beneficial Use Services

Director Nielsen reviewed this item. There were no comments or questions.

Motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the Three-Party Contract between Boulder Park Project and King County for Biosolids Beneficial Use Services moved by Council President Norton seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

5. Consider Approving the Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce through the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Local Governments

Director Langdon reviewed this item. Council President Norton asked about flexibility with the way this money is spent. Mayor Nehring explained there is some flexibility. \$1.5 million of city expenses is a projection, but it could be reallocated if necessary. Director

Langdon agreed that this is an estimate. Reimbursements will be put in monthly as needed. Council President Norton asked if this is consistent with how other cities are using the funds. Mayor Nehring confirmed that it is.

Motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce through the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Local Governments moved by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

6. Consider Approving to Initiate and Administer the Business Rent Relief Grant Program, including Final Grant Awards

Finance Director Langdon reviewed how these grants would be administered. Councilmember Muller asked about which businesses would qualify. Finance Director Langdon indicated it was intended for businesses in the city which generate retail tax.

Council President Norton asked about the prioritization process if the number of applications exceeds the amount of money available. Mayor Nehring explained that the Economic Development Committee would develop their own criteria. If there is a situation where there are more applications than money, they could do something like a lottery system and/or they could do a second round for others, but the intention is to allow the Committee to determine the rules.

Councilmember Vaughan asked for clarification about business ownership requirements. Finance Director Langdon explained the intention is to assist smaller businesses and that the person applying is at least 51% of the ownership. The grant would go to the company. There was discussion about removing the requirement for 51% ownership. Councilmember Vaughan recommended adding "or equivalent" to the criteria for 25 or fewer employees. He also recommended that the DUNS Number be replaced with a Tax ID Number. Finally, he suggested requiring a P&L and/or a tax return from the applicant in order to avoid fraud. Councilmember Vaughan asked about funding for non-profits. Mayor Nehring noted there is still some CDBG money available that could go to them. Councilmember Vaughan also wondered if June 11 might be too soon. Finance Director Langdon replied that the intention was to be able to have a first round of this and get checks out to business owners as soon as possible. If there are more applicants, it could be possible to do another round. He noted that some companies don't have employees, but have contractors, so that is something else the committee will have to consider.

Councilmember Muller suggested requiring proof of incorporation with the State.

Council President Norton wondered if 25 employees is the right number. Mayor Nehring noted that most businesses are 1-20, so he made it 25 just to include more businesses. Councilmember Muller thought that the larger businesses mostly got support with PPP, but the smaller companies had a harder time getting support.

Councilmember James wondered if there should be verbiage stating that application is no guarantee of award. He also wondered about requiring proof of rental payments for the last 12 months since this is for rent relief. He agreed with requiring some sort of paperwork that shows they have had a loss of income. Finally, he asked if there is any recourse if it is found out later that the person was dishonest. Finance Director Langdon reviewed auditing requirements. Mayor Nehring spoke in support of getting the money out to any businesses that can use it. He recommended changing the amount of the grant to just the flat dollar amount rather than a certain number of months of rent in order to provide more assistance and flexibility to those who need it. Councilmember Richards pointed out that documentation of expenses is already required with the application.

Motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to Initiate and Administer the Business Rent Relief Grant Program, including Final Grant Awards with the following modifications: take out the 51% ownership qualification; use full-time equivalency for employees; drop the DUNS Number and use a Federal Tax ID number; require a tax return or 2019 3rd or 4th quarter 941's; add in a disclaimer that there is no guarantee of award; and drop the number of months covered and instead just use a flat amount moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

Legal

Mayor's Business

Mayor Nehring had the following comments:

- There will be a Rotary Scholarship drive-in award ceremony on May 20.
- He spoke in support of honoring this year's graduates during this trying time.
- He thought Chick-fil-A's opening went very well. He commended the officers involved. The City is working with Chick-fil-A to provide resources as needed for ongoing management of traffic flow.
- He expressed concern about the regulations regarding the phased reopenings. He and other mayors have been working very hard to encourage the Governor to allow reasonable reopening. He will continue lobbying on behalf of the City and its needs.

Staff Business

Human Resources Manager Lester had no comments.

Chief McFalls had no comments.

Director Nielsen noted that Public Works is busy driving pile, building roundabouts, building new roads, and paving on 47th.

Director Langdon reported that auditors are not in the building yet, but they are giving staff work daily to get through the process.

Athletic Supervisor Dave Hall had no comments.

Chief Goldman:

- The City is getting some complaints of fireworks. The majority of incidents are on the reservation side and are being addressed with a zero tolerance policy.
- Plans for a parade to honor 2020 seniors are taking shape. This activity is being spearheaded by a parent and supported by the police.
- He thanked the Mayor for recognizing their work with Chick-fil-A. He also recognized Public Works for their assistance. He reviewed statistics for the opening event. He is in dialogue with the corporation about how they plan to manage the traffic going forward.

Director Thomas reported that next Monday there will be another session of the Mayor's Task Force on Growth Management where they will be kicking off a discussion about the Downtown Master Plan Update.

City Attorney Walker gave an update on the court and prosecution operations. The court is trying to move cases along with GoToMeeting and Zoom. Traffic tickets are being handled with email. They are in discussion about safe reopening of the court in the future. This is a challenge for everyone.

CAO Hirashima stated a desire to reschedule the Economic Development Committee meeting to the 3rd week in June so they can review the Rental Relief applications that have come in. There was consensus from the Council to reschedule.

Call on Councilmembers

Steve Muller made comments about the struggles businesses are facing and the way they are responding with the tight restrictions in other parts of the state.

Jeff Vaughan had no comments.

Mark James had no comments.

Tom King asked if last Friday was the cutoff date for the early retirement proposal. CAO Hirashima reported it was the prior Friday, and 12 people took advantage of it.

Kelly Richards commented that traffic around Chick-fil-A has been moving smoothly during the mornings this week.

Michael Stevens noted that residents in the area have been pleased with the way the Chick-fil-A opening has happened.

Council President Norton had the following comments:

- She asked when the playgrounds are set to open up again. Dave Hall explained that the Parks Department has recommended they reopen in Phase 3. This is consistent with other jurisdictions around the state. Council President Norton commented that reopening as soon as possible will be important in boosting public morale.
- She then asked for an update on bridge work. Director Nielsen reported that they still need to do eight more piles, and it is more time consuming than expected.
- She spoke in support of continuing to advocate for the community's needs related to reopening.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember Muller.

AYES: ALL

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Approved this 23rd day of June, 2020.

Mayor
Jon Nehring

