

**City Council**



**1049 State Avenue  
Marysville, WA 98270**

**Work Session  
Minutes  
March 1, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Nehring called the March 1 Work Session to order via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Nehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, City Engineer Jeff Laycock, Police Chief Erik Scairpon, City Attorney Jon Walker, Parks & Recreation Director Tara Mizell, Interim Community Development Director Allan Giffen, Fire Chief Martin McFalls, Community Information Officer (CIO) Connie Mennie, Human Resources Manager Teri Lester, Information Services Manager Worth Norton, Systems Analyst Mike Davis

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**AYES: ALL**

## **Presentations**

### **A. Pallet Shelter Housing Project**

Presenters: John Hull, Everett Gospel Mission; Sarah Higginbotham, North County Community Outreach; Amy King, Pallet Housing.

CAO Hirashima introduced this item. The current code has a provision for allowing temporary housing for up to 90 days. This group is looking at putting together a proposal with a local church to do this kind of shelter project. The location has not been announced until proper notice has been given.

Mr. Hull and Ms. King discussed myths surrounding community shelters and gave an overview of community sheltering options stressing the need for preparation for even more homelessness as a result of economic issues related to the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Hull explained how congregate housing helps to reduce trauma, increase safety and allow individuals to stabilize and heal. Ms. King reviewed how the pallet housing model has been successful in other communities while they are waiting for permanent housing. She discussed details of the pallet shelters including construction and layout. Ms. Higginbotham reviewed work done by North County Community Outreach and what is being proposed at a church in Marysville beginning in April for a 90-day shelter to house 8-16 people. She also discussed the management of the community, which will be provided by their organization, as well as other resources which will be available to residents.

Mayor Nehring commented that this sounds similar to the MESH program in some ways. He asked what would happen if there is a substance abuse problem by one of the residents. Ms. Higginbotham explained that the management would not allow substance use on-site, but users are allowed to stay even if they are in active use. This is part of the code of conduct that residents have to agree to. Mayor Nehring asked if Everett Gospel Mission would pull them back into the shelter if they were asked to leave the community because of on-site drug use. Mr. Hull confirmed they would be happy to provide that partnership. He also noted that the residents will be selected for this particular property. The church has chosen to have a low-barrier shelter meaning that residents do not have to stop using drugs in order to be housed there.

Council President Norton asked where the residents housed in the shelter will be coming from. Ms. Higginbotham commented they would likely be coming from primarily Marysville and Arlington. Council President Norton asked about the problems with cold weather shelters in the past. Ms. Higginbotham explained that in Arlington there were specific issues with substance use on properties. She also received feedback from the participants that the inconsistency between locations and differing expectations were problematic. Mr. Hull added that long-term stability for the individuals is the key. Winter shelters are lifesaving, but don't necessarily support life change.

Council President Norton asked if residents would be participating in the same sort of programs that Everett Gospel Mission provides at other locations. Ms. Higginbotham

explained that North County Community Outreach would lean into partners such as Salvation Army, Arlington Community Resource Center, and the Lake Stevens Resource Center. These people are already engaged with the individuals that the shelter will be working with. They are not looking at having a social worker on site at this point, but they may look at that in the future. Mr. Hull commented that Everett Gospel Mission's first program is giving the individuals on the property a sense of purpose, place, and dignity. This has the most significant impact of any of their programs. Other life recovery programs, such as drug addiction recovery and life skills, are important, but they come second after this first program.

Mayor Nehring stressed the need to give priority to people from Marysville experiencing homelessness since it will be located here, and Marysville has a big homeless problem. Mr. Hull noted that Everett is in the same situation; they take all of their referrals from the Everett Police Department's embedded social workers. Ms. Higginbotham noted the need to eventually have these shelter communities in every community. She spoke to the importance of having a successful pilot project.

CAO Hirashima commented that the group would be meeting with staff this week, and one of the things they had specifically requested was meeting with the embedded social worker team. She noted that the group was expecting to come back to Council after 45 days of successful operation to request an extension to the current 90-day limit.

Councilmember James asked about current regulations. CAO Hirashima discussed notification requirements and Marysville's 90-day time limit which is grandfathered in even though the state has since adopted other regulations. City Attorney Walker explained that state law says that the City cannot limit shelters to less than four consecutive months or six months in a calendar year for religious organizations which is a little longer than what Marysville currently has.

Councilmember James asked about the utility infrastructure. Ms. Higginbotham reviewed the setup including electricity and hygiene such as porta potties and shower facilities. The church is on a bus line for transportation, and there may be shuttles. Ms. King explained there is someone from the Pallet Shelters team who will work closely with the shelter to work out details around electricity and utilities. Usually a certified electrician does the actual connecting of the shelter to electricity, but they come ready to plug in. Pallet Shelters is also about to release a bathroom unit to go with the shelter communities in the future.

Councilmember James asked about supervision on the site. Ms. Higginbotham explained they would coordinate with local law enforcement, but there will be paid staff on site 24 hours a day. She commented that the emphasis is generally more about keeping people out that do not belong than controlling those who are inside.

Councilmember Richards asked how hard these units are to move once they are set up. Ms. King explained they actually come apart faster than they go together, and they are very lightweight and simple to move and reassemble.

Councilmember Muller asked how the congregate shelter options fit into this. Mr. Hull explained that it would not be part of this project, but if anyone is aware of a building that would be an option for a longer-term congregate shelter they would love to talk about it.

Councilmember King asked about provisions for preparing food on the sites. Ms. Higginbotham explained there are no facilities, but they are looking at bringing meals in.

Councilmember James asked what would happen to a shelter if a church went out of business or changed ownership. Ms. Higginbotham did not think they would want to stay at a place where they were not wanted. Councilmember James asked if there are examples of cities that host these. Ms. King explained that the vast majority of sites are funded by and managed by municipal partners, but there is always a non-profit service provider that is in partnership with the shelter.

Councilmember Vaughan asked about metrics of success, such as transition to permanent housing, in other cities. Ms. King replied their sites are pretty new – within the last year - so they do not have good metrics yet. She stated that the people who build shelters at the plant in Everett could be available to talk about their lived experience with homelessness and what helped them. Mr. Hull stressed there is not much permanent housing to move people into, so metrics related to that are not very useful anyway. He also believes this situation will get worse because of the current and coming COVID-19 economic crisis. Mayor Nehring concurred that the current lack of permanent housing is an issue; this is the reason he feels people from Marysville need to be the focus of any shelter located in Marysville. He thanked the group for their presentation and for their work.

Councilmember James expressed an interest in touring the facility and talking with people involved. CAO Hirashima indicated she would follow up on this.

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

#### **Consent**

1. Approval of the February 10, 2021 Misc. Payroll in the Amount of \$29,991.62 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 33374 through 33375
2. Approval of the February 17, 2021 Claims in the Amount of \$3,352,892.43 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 146497 through 146653
3. Approval of the February 25, 2021 Payroll in the Amount of \$1,453,575.61 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 33376 through 33384
4. Approval of the February 24, 2021 Claims in the Amount of \$668,885.00 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 146654 through 146783

## **Review Bids**

## **Public Hearings**

## **New Business**

5. Consider the Supplemental Agreement No. 5 with HDR, Inc. for Phase 2 of the State Avenue (100th Street NE to 116th Street NE) Corridor Improvement Project in the Amount of \$298,543.93 and Extending the Term to June 30, 2022

City Engineer Jeff Laycock reviewed this agreement with HDR to complete design for Phase 2 of State Avenue and help to secure the right-of-way.

6. Consider the Amending the Grant Agreement with the Department of Ecology for the Downtown Stormwater Treatment Project

City Engineer Jeff Laycock reviewed this amendment to an existing grant for the downtown stormwater treatment project. This would provide for an extension of the terms of the existing grant.

7. Consider the Professional Services Agreement with BHC Consultants for the Design of the WWTP Near Term Improvement Project

City Engineer Jeff Laycock reviewed this Professional Services Agreement with BHC for near-term wastewater treatment plant improvements.

8. Consider the Water Easement Relinquishment with WK Investments, LLC

City Engineer Jeff Laycock explained that this item and the next are related to easements which are no longer used or relevant.

Councilmember Richards asked about the City's original investment in this easement and if they would be losing money. City Engineer Laycock was not aware of the historical amount from 1969 that would have been involved, but did not think it would be significant. City Attorney Walker was not certain, but he thought it was likely that these were both part of a plat that was never developed with no purchase of the easement involved.

Councilmember James asked about potential impacts to the skate park. City Engineer Laycock commented that the skate park would not be impacted, but the old batting cages site would be.

9. Consider the Sewer Easement Relinquishment with WK Investments, LLC

See above.

10. Consider an Ordinance Consenting to the Change of Control of Astound Broadband LLC

City Attorney Walker explained that this item and the next item are cable television/telecommunications franchises. Both were acquired by Wave or the company that owns Wave. This allows the new entity to take over these franchises.

Councilmember Muller asked about consolidating the renewal times of the two contracts in order to be more efficient. City Attorney Walker suggested that could be discussed during negotiations in 2022.

11. Consider an Ordinance Consenting the Change of Control of WaveDivision I, LLC

See above.

12. Consider a Resolution to Increase Cedarcrest Golf Course Rates

Director Mizell shared the new rate schedule for 2021-2025 as discussed during the golf course presentation last week. There were no comments or questions.

## **Legal**

### **Mayor's Business**

Mayor Nehring acknowledged and recognized Director Langdon and the finance team for achieving the Awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Finance Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for their Comprehensive Annual Report.

### **Staff Business**

Chief Scairpon reported that the police returned an electric mobility trike to a resident who had it stolen from them in December. Commander Thomas worked with some local vendors to help restore the trike to brand new after Officer Vincent found the trike and arrested the individual who had taken it.

Interim Director Giffen had no comments.

CIO Mennie noted the passing of former city administrator John Garner. She also announced a Herald story coming up about sprinklering the Opera House.

Chief McFalls congratulated Director Langdon and the finance team. He thanked Connie Mennie for the coverage on John Garner and the upcoming story of the sprinklers at the Opera House.

Finance Director Langdon thanked Mayor Nehring for the recognition and noted that it is Finance's 13th award.

City Engineer Laycock noted there would be a Public Works Committee meeting on Friday. He explained that parking on 2nd Street between State Avenue and 47th Avenue would be converted to parallel parking similar to 3rd street.

Director Mizell had no further comments.

HR Manager Lester had no comments.

CAO Hirashima had no further comments.

City Attorney Walker had no further comments.

### **Call on Councilmembers and Committee Reports**

Councilmember Richards:

- He reported on last Wednesday's Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting. The new Economic Alliance for Snohomish County CEO Gary Clark introduced himself. They reappointed Michael Finch as a citizen representative and elected officers for Snohomish County Tomorrow. They also got an update on federal and state funding in Olympia for regional priorities.
- He has heard that visibility of signage from the north at the new Soper Hill roundabout is not very clear. City Engineer Laycock indicated staff would look into that.

Councilmember Stevens congratulated the finance team on their achievements.

Councilmember Muller also congratulated the finance team.

Councilmember Vaughan had no further comments.

Councilmember James:

- He asked for confirmation about the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow. Staff confirmed the meeting.
- Councilmember James congratulated the finance team for their achievement.
- He talked with some community business owners this week who had asked about expediting either completion or demolition of the unfinished hotel on 116th. They also commended police for their quick response to an alarm at their business. He also asked about the status of the solid waste recycle facility. Mayor Nehring explained that the City is still in talks with Waste Away. They are also meeting with Arlington. Interim Director Giffen noted that the City has been in contact with the new owners of the hotel who are planning on finishing the hotel as it was planned.

Councilmember King:

- He congratulated Finance Director Langdon and her staff.
- He and his daughter participated in outdoor Bingo last week and had a great time. They are looking forward to the upcoming drive-in movie.
- He volunteered at the museum yesterday, and a couple from Everett came in who are frequent users of Marysville's trails and parks.
- He asked about the status of naming the First Street Bypass. Councilmember Muller noted it was on hold until they worked through the whole waterfront plan to come up with a more cohesive project.

Council President Norton had no comments.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. moved by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Richards.

**AYES: ALL**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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Mayor  
Jon Nehring