

City Council



1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270

**Work Session
Minutes
April 4, 2022**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehring at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present:

Mayor: Jon Nehring

Council: Councilmember Mark James, Councilmember Tom King, Councilmember Kelly Richards, Councilmember Stevens

Absent: Councilmembers Steve Muller, Jeff Vaughan, and Kamille Norton

Staff: CAO Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, Communications Manager Connie Mennie, Assistant Public Works Director Max Phan, Police Chief Erik Scairpon (via Zoom), City Attorney Jon Walker, Community Development Director Haylie Miller (via Zoom), Systems Analyst Mike Davis

Motion to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Steve Muller, Kamille Norton, and Jeff Vaughan moved by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Richards.

AYES: ALL

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Nehring asked Council to consider taking action on items 5, 8, and possibly an item coming out of Executive Session later in the meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Presentations

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

1. Approval of the March 7, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Consent

2. Approval of the March 16, 2022 Claims in the Amount of \$525,377.03 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 154147 through 154292 with Check Number 153981 Voided
3. Approval of the March 23, 2022 Claims in the Amount of \$2,851,347.58 Paid by EFT Transactions and Check Numbers 154293 through 154442 with Check Numbers 154324 and 154362 Voided

Review Bids

Public Hearings

Approval of the Agenda

New Business

4. Consider the GeoTest Services, Inc. Supplemental Agreement No. 2 – Professional Services Agreement in the Amount of \$12,460.00 for a Total Allocation of \$354,748.00

CAO Hirashima reviewed this item. There were no questions.

5. Consider the Amazon Donation for Strawberry Fields Improvement Project in the Amount of \$140,000.00

Mayor Nehring expressed appreciation for the donation from Amazon and from the County for this project. He requested that Council take action to accept the contribution tonight.

Motion to waive normal rules and take action on this item tonight moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

AYES: ALL

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2516, related to the Amazon Donation for Strawberry Fields Improvement Project in the Amount of \$140,000.00 moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

AYES: ALL

6. Consider a Draft Temporary Sign Ordinance

City Attorney Walker stated this is just for discussion tonight, and any sign code amendment would need to go to the Planning Commission first. He explained that this would limit the duration for temporary signs that are for a specific event, require permission of abutting property owners if they are in the right-of-way, and prohibit off-premises general business signs. The City would then be able to remove signs that violate the code and impose civil penalties. He reviewed regulations and legal precedents related to sign codes.

Councilmember James asked about signs for home businesses. City Attorney Walker commented there is a definition of a general advertising sign which would apply to home businesses. He stressed that the ordinance would apply to all signs and could not legally distinguish between the content of various signs.

Councilmember James asked about sizes of signs. City Attorney Walker noted that details about allowable sizes would be hashed out at the Planning Commission level. Councilmember James suggested that there are certain standards of sign sizes which would not fit in this code. 2'x4' would work. Lake Stevens allows a square footage max which is more flexible. He recommended trying to match what is allowed in surrounding jurisdictions.

Councilmember Richards asked if real estate arrows would no longer be allowed. City Attorney Walker replied they would not be allowed. Councilmember Richards asked about directional open house signs and garage sale signs. City Attorney Walker replied that technically they would not be allowed.

Councilmember King asked about a neighbor who occasionally puts up a sign for cooking classes in front of her house. City Attorney Walker replied it would be allowed as long as it fits in the general business description and was placed in front of her business location.

Councilmember James asked about enforcement. City Attorney Walker replied that it would primarily be complaint-driven unless staff sees signs that appear to be violations.

Councilmember James asked who someone would contact for permission at a strip when the businesses are not the property owners. City Attorney Walker noted this would need to be clarified at the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Richards asked to be notified when this goes to the Planning Commission. He also asked about a person who wants to support two or three political candidates. Are they limited to just one sign? City Attorney Walker explained that right

now there is no total square footage limit; the signs themselves just can't exceed a certain size. This might be something for the Planning Commission to consider.

7. Consider an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.63 of the Marysville Municipal Code Relating to the Utility Rate Relief

Finance Director Langdon explained that staff is proposing to increase the utility discount for low income seniors and low income disabled from 30% to 40% with an effective date of May 1. This is based on surrounding cities who offer an average discount of about 40%.

Councilmember Richards asked how many customers this would apply to. Finance Director Langdon replied that it is about 450 customers. The low-income threshold is a federal guideline based on the number of people in the household.

Councilmember James asked if the \$49,450/year estimate is for all utilities. Director Langdon replied that it is. The amount reflects the percentage of revenue (up to 40%) not collected from the utilities and could grow if the number of people qualifying for the discount grows. Director Langdon emphasized that user fees have to cover expenses, and this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Legal

Mayor's Business

8. City Clerk Appointment: Sandy Langdon

Motion to waive normal rules to take action on item 8 moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Motion to appoint Sandy Langdon to the position of City Clerk moved by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember King.

AYES: ALL

Mayor Nehring reminded Council of the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. He stated that they were keeping Officer Rocha's family and community in their thoughts and prayers.

Staff Business

Director Miller brought up a survey available on the city website regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. Staff is looking for feedback from the community for the update process.

Mayor Nehring thanked the Police Department for their continued support of Everett.

City Attorney Walker stated a need for an Executive Session to discuss one collective bargaining item with action expected which was estimated to last five minutes.

Call on Councilmembers and Committee Reports

Councilmember Richards reported he did a fire ride along today with Battalion Chief Soper. It was an interesting time.

Councilmember Stevens gave an update on the recent Economic Development Committee meeting where they received a thorough update on the economic development efforts by the Port of Everett. They also received information from Connie Mennie on the upcoming business summit and some updated marketing materials for the Cascade Industrial Center.

Councilmember King reported on last Friday's Public Works Committee meeting. The new organizational chart was reviewed. They got a report on some long and short-term energy-saving projects they are doing at Public Works buildings. They received project updates on various projects. They were presented with a plan to pick up litter in the City. He noted that he saw his first ATV side-by-side vehicle driving in Marysville last week.

Councilmember James:

- He reported that he went to the memorial today for Officer Rocha. It was a very poignant event. He is very thankful for our police department and all those who make that sacrifice every day.
- There was a Marysville Historical Society fundraiser event last weekend which was very successful. Thanks to Peter Condyles for his efforts.
- Last week, the State of Everett was a good event.

Adjournment/Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Executive Session

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel - one collective bargaining item
- C. Real Estate

Executive Session began at 7:50 p.m. and lasted five minutes.

Reconvene

Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Motion to waive normal Council rules and allow action on this item presented during Executive Session moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember King.

AYES: ALL

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the memorandum of agreement with the Marysville Police Officers Association Custody/Community Services Officers regarding the shift length in the jail board moved by Councilmember Richards seconded by Councilmember James.

AYES: ALL

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. moved by Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember Richards.

AYES: ALL

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Mayor
Jon Nehring