

MINUTES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

Due to public health concerns, this meeting was held remotely.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Mayor Kuhn called the meeting to order and called roll. Those present: Councilmembers Abersold, Denson, Franich, Himes, Markley, Rodenberg and Woock.

Staff present: City Administrator Bob Larson, City Clerk Molly Towslee, Assistant City Clerk Josh Stecker, Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm. HR Director Kameil Borders, Police Chief Kelly Busey, Finance Director Dave Rodenbach, Tourism and Communications Director Laura Pettitt, and Community Development Director Katrina Knutson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COVID-19 Update – Kameil Borders and Kelly Busey gave a review of the City’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic to date. They highlighted efforts to keep employees safe and the impacts of the pandemic on local crime trends.

2021 Community Development Projects - Long Range Planning and Building – Katrina Knutson briefed Council of the status of 2021 projects and reported on pending land use legislation in the Legislature.

2021 Capital Improvement Projects / Staffing Discussion – Jeff Langhelm gave a status report of 2021 capital projects and also identified how the City would implement the additional engineering FTEs added to the 2021 Budget by adding on-call engineering services and evaluating future staffing levels.

Mayor Initiatives – Mayor Kuhn reported on several initiatives he is currently working on including establishing a Sister City, convening the Leadership Council, Restoring a Native American Park Name. The Mayor followed up from the last retreat discussion of selling surplus City-owned property. Council did not support a proposal to sell any properties at this time. Council also discussed issues of enforcement of development regulations and tree retention. Mayor discussed the timeline for the Crescent Creek Park Master Plan and plans for the Masonic Temple. Council heard the Mayor’s thoughts on downtown parking.

City Strategic Plan - 2022 and Beyond – Bob Larson explained the concept of developing a strategic plan for the City. Council expressed support for soliciting requests for proposals for a facilitator.

City Communication Plan/Strategy Initiative – Laura Pettitt presented the City’s plan for internal and external communication.

Council Requested Items – Councilmember Franich requested that the City look into raising the threshold for low-income residents to get a discount on utility bills. The City will be conducting a utility rate study soon which could incorporate the impacts of a lower threshold.

Council also agreed to hold a future study session on downtown parking issues.

ADJOURN: There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.