# October 25, 2021-
# Vancouver City Council Meeting Minutes

## WORKSHOPS

*Workshops were conducted remotely over video conference utilizing a GoToMeeting platform. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting via the live broadcast on www.cvtv.org and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VancouverUS, or listen via the GoToMeeting conference call.*

Councilmember Lebowsky was absent from workshops.

### 4:00-4:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Implementation: Incorporating A Stronger Vancouver

*Eric Holmes, City Manager*

**Summary**
The City Manager provided Council with an update on the Strategic Planning implementation approach moving forward.

### 4:30-5:00 p.m. Amendments to Business License Surcharge Ordinance

*Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, 360-487-4848*

**Summary**
Staff provided Council with proposed amendments to the Business License Surcharge program.

### 5:00-5:30 p.m. Resilient Water Utilities Strategy: Integrated Water Utilities Capital Program and Financial Strategies Review

*Jennifer Belknap Williamson, Public Works Director, 360-487-7131*

**Summary**
Staff previewed a Resilient Water Utilities approach pertaining to the update of the utility capital program and financial strategy.

### 5:30-6:00 p.m. Fall 2021 Zoning Map and Text Changes

*Bryan Snodgrass, Principal Planner, 360-487-7946*

**Summary**
Staff presented proposed amendments to the VMC Title 20 zoning map and text changes as part of the annual review process.

## COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA MEETING

*This meeting was conducted remotely over video conference utilizing a GoToMeeting platform. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting via the live broadcast on www.cvtv.org and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VancouverUS. Public access and testimony on Consent Agenda items and under the Community Forum were also facilitated via the GoToMeeting conference call.*

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The consent agenda meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor McEnerny-Ogle. This meeting was conducted remotely over video conference.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Present:** | Councilmembers Fox, Paulsen, Lebowsky Glover, Stober, Hansen, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle |
| **Absent:** | None |

### Proclamation: Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read and presented a proclamation to Anna Cruz, Director of Vancouver Ballet Folklorico, recognizing Dia de Muertos/Day of the Dead.

### Community Communication (Items 1-6)

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened Community Communication and, receiving no testimony, closed Community Communication.

### Consent Agenda (Items 1-6)

**Motion by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Stober, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.**

1. **Water Tower 6 Coatings & Improvements, Construction Acceptance and Release of Retainage Bond**

   Staff Report 156-21

   *The existing steel water storage structure had internal and external coatings applied as well as improved operator tower access through the work on this project. The access improvements will allow Vancouver water operations staff to safely access the top of the tower. The coating replacements will protect the steel structure, improve water quality marginally and extend the asset's performance life. In August 2020, City Council approved a contract with HCI, Inc. to complete this work.*

   *The contractor has satisfactorily completed this project in accordance with the provided plans & specifications.*

   ***TOTAL CONTRACT COSTS***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Labor, Equipment and Materials* | *$1,466,506.61* |
| *Sales Tax* | *$ 123,186.56* |
| *Total* | *$1,589,693.17* |
| ***RETAINAGE*** | ***BOND*** |

*The final contract amount was significantly higher than the original $1,305,829.76. The largest contract change was approved by the City Manager in June 2021 as it exceeded 10% of the contract cost. A significant interior area inside the tank required extra sandblasting to reach the surface preparation level necessary to apply the new paint coat. The contractor was reimbursed for time and materials to deal with these unforeseen conditions.*

*Apprenticeship Utilization goals of 3%, were not met with under 1% of qualified working hours delivered by apprentice employees. HCI delivered 57 hours of the required 257 hours. Because HCI is a union contractor, their sole source of apprentices is the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Local #10 (IUPAT #10). HCI made multiple apprentice requests to IUPAT #10. During many of the months when HCI needed apprentices, IUPAT #10 was not able to provide any response to HCI requests while IUPAT were focused on resolving a strike. HCI provided City staff with documentation of their IUPAT #10 apprentice requests as the project progressed.*

Request: Accept the Water Tower 6 Coatings & Improvements project as constructed by HCI Inc., of Vancouver, WA. Authorize the release of the retainage bond, subject to documentation receipt as required by law.

*Tyler Clary, Water Engineering Program Manager, 360-487-7169*

**Motion approved the request.**

2. **Shared Equity Consideration for Households at 80% AMI or below**

Staff Report 157-21

***History***

*In 1996, the CDBG funded First Time Homebuyers Program, which was developed to support homeownership for residents of Vancouver earning no more than 80% Area Median Income (AMI). The program was operated through a contractor, Columbia Non-Profit Housing, with additional funding through Clark County and the Washington State Department of Commerce. The program provided loans for households earning no more than 80% AMI using City of Vancouver CDBG funds as a down payment.*

***Loan terms***

*The down payment was provided as a loan, sitting behind the bank loan for the mortgage. The program utilized a shared equity model, with the intention of creating long-term, affordable homeownership opportunities. The program did not require payments until home sale or refinance. The down payments for the remaining 28 loans ranged from $16,500 to $35,000. Upon sale or refinance of the home, program participants are required to pay off the loan for the down payment and include an additional amount of the sale/refinance proceeds based on the property gain in equity. Any payments received from the homeowners are used to support other CDBG activities.*

*In 2011, Columbia Non-Profit Housing ended the program, and the down payment loans reverted to the funders including the City of Vancouver and Clark County. Due to the contract requirements, the state-funded program loans remained with Columbia Non-Profit. The City of Vancouver had approximately 110 loans, all funded with CDBG funds. There are currently 28 loans remaining ranging from 10 to 23 years old. The current notes have a 30 year-term that will trigger repayment of the down payment even if the original homeowner is still living there (forcing sale, refinance, etc.).*

***Issue we are addressing***

*Due to an unprecedented increase in local housing prices, the initial program design no longer meets its goal of long-term affordable housing through the shared equity model. In the past 20 years, the median sale price for a home in Clark County has increased by 204%. This has created many challenges for program participants and has motivated the City to propose a new policy for this program. Key issues include:*

- *In accordance with the initial terms of the program, homeowners would have to repay the City loan if they are taking out an equity loan or refinancing. In addition to repaying the City loan for the down payment, the homeowners are currently required to pay the City up to 50% of the increase in the value of the home. The combined payoff amount, including the original loan and shared equity, creates significant hardship for the homeowners. They will need to add the initial down payment and the shared equity to their current loan.*
- *The average increase in assessed value for the homes of program participants between 2011-2021 was 148%, according to data from the Clark County Assessor's website. Under the current policy, this would require some participants to pay the City as much as double their original loan amount at the time of loan payoff.*
- *The initial notes have a 30 year-term that will trigger repayment of the City-funded down payment along with the shared equity even if the original homeowner is still living there, which will force a sale or refinance of the home.*
- *The City does allow for a subordination if the homeowner is interested in refinance with no cash out.*
- *The City currently has three requests for consideration of the payoff amount, due to high payoff calculation caused by the shared equity requirement. We anticipate that this will be an issue with more participants seeking to pay off their loans in the future.*

*In a July 2021 telephone survey, City staff was able to collect income and household size data from 22 of the remaining 28 First Time Homebuyers Program participants and learned that 20 of these participants are below 80% AMI with some households at or under 60% AMI. The goal of the housing component of the CDBG program is to support low (<50% AMI)/moderate (50-80% AMI) income households in the City of Vancouver to access affordable, safe, and quality housing. The cost burden created by the requirement of repaying a portion of the increase in equity to the City during home sale of refinancing directly contradicts these goals.*

***OPTIONS***

***Option 1 (staff recommendation): Base the Shared Equity on the Average of the shared equity payments for the past 10 years and adjust the payment based on the income of the household****.*

*How the shared equity payment was calculated:*

- *Staff reviewed the last 20 loans that have paid off since 2012*
- *Two were foreclosed and four had negative equity*
- *For the remaining 14 loans that paid back both the loan and shared equity, the average amount of equity paid to the City is $8,300 (rounded up)*
- *Based on this average, households at 100% AMI would pay $8,300 for the shared equity component. Households earning more or less than 100% AMI would pay a percentage of $8,300 based on their AMI*

*Example:*

| *Shared Equity* | *Household Income* |
|---|---|
| *$8,300* | *100 AMI* |
| *$6,640* | *80 AMI* |
| *$4,980* | *60 AMI* |

***Option 2: Forgive the shared equity component*** – *The City would require the payback of the original down payment but forgive the shared equity component for households at or below 80% AMI, the definition of low-income established by HUD. This option would generate funds for the CDBG program but allow the current household to continue to live in the property with a reduced debt payment. This option provides the greatest relief to cost-burdened home owners and is also in line with the equity forgiveness policies of other loan-holders such as CNPH.*

Request:

Authorize the City Manager to sign revised deeds and notes or other documents for any of the 28 homeowners to implement the cap on shared equity repayment as outlined under Option 1. *Please note, this would not affect current practice in the event that a home is foreclosed or would be in a negative equity position in the future.*

*Peggy Sheehan, Community Development Programs Manager, 360-487-7952*

**Motion approved the request.**

3. **Property Tax Levy for 2022**

Staff Report 158-21

**AN ORDINANCE** relating to the annual property tax levy; authorizing an increase of 1.0% in the City's regular levy from the amount levied the previous year; and providing for an effective date.

*On November 6, 2001, Washington voters approved Initiative 747 (I-747), which limits the allowable increase in the property tax levy to 1.0%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The intent of the Initiative was reaffirmed by the Legislature in November 2007. The measure of inflation used under this law is the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD). The IPD inflation rate for 2022 levy calculations is 3.86%.*

*Staff recommends that City Council approve a 1.0% increase in the property tax levy, which is the maximum increase allowed. Based on last year's General Fund levy of $52,527,179.31, the increase will be $525,271.79. Authorization of this increase requires a simple majority vote of City Council.*

*Staff estimates that the City's general fund property tax levy rate in 2022 will range between $1.73 per $1,000 of assessed value to $1.83 per $1,000 of assessed value, compared to the actual 2021 general fund property tax levy rate of $1.977 per $1,000. The decrease in the property tax levy rate is attributed to assessed values in the City increasing by approximately 12.2% compared to the prior year. Because of the limit on property tax increases, as discussed above, the property tax levy rate declines as assessed value increases. The statutory cap for the City's levy rate is $3.325 per $1,000 of assessed value.*

*Example calculation of City Property Tax:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Assessed Value 2021 $389,240* | *Levy Rate 2021 $1.977 (per $1,000 assessed value; General Fund Levy only)* | *2021 City Property Tax = $769.53* |
| *Assessed Value 2022 $436,709 (assumes assessed value increases 12.2%)* | *Estimated Levy Rate 2022 $1.78 (per $1,000 assessed value; General Fund Levy only)* | *2022 City Property Tax (hypothetical) = $777.34* |
| *AV increases 12.2%* | *Levy Rate declines* | *Annual tax increase $7.81 for this example taxpayer** |

**If the assessed value of the resident's property as a percentage increased by less than 12.2%, the resident's annual taxes would be equal to or slightly less than the taxes paid to the city in 2021. If* *the assessed value of the resident's property increased by more than 12.2% from the previous year, the increase in the annual taxes would be slightly higher.*

*Some citizens may qualify for tax relief, or qualify for a deferral program. To find out more information about this, residents should contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 564-397-2391 or visit their website at http://www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/taxrelief/index.html.*

*In addition to the base levy, the City collects new property tax revenue based on the value of new construction added to the assessment rolls during the prior year. The revenue to the City is calculated using the assessed value of new construction multiplied by the prior year's levy rate. The value of new construction is still being finalized by the County Assessor's Office and includes the value of utility new construction provided to the County Assessor by the State. The most recent estimate from the County Assessor's Office indicates more than $453 million of new construction, which translates into $897,000 of additional City property tax revenue, which is slightly more than the $675,000 received for new construction values for 2021 taxes. The City's ordinance states the percentage and dollar amount increase in the City's base property tax levy as required by RCW 84.55.120. The County Assessor will determine the levy amount for new construction based on their final calculations.*

Request: On October 25, 2021, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for November 1, 2021.

*Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482*

**Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.**

**Motion approved the request.**

4. **Property Tax Affordable Housing Levy for 2022**

Staff Report 159-21

**AN ORDINANCE** relating to the annual property tax levy; authorizing an increase of 0.0% in the City's Affordable Housing Fund levy from the amount levied the previous year; and providing for an effective date.

*Proposition 1 was approved by the citizens of Vancouver in November 2016, and authorized a $6,000,000 annual property tax levy for 7 years, beginning in 2017. Information provided by the Washington State Department of Revenue states that the dollar amount stated in the ballot title is limiting amount, and the highest lawful levy amount is $6,000,000.*

*Staff recommends that City Council approve a 0.0% increase in the property tax levy for the Affordable Housing Levy. Based on last year's Affordable Housing Fund levy of $6,000,000, the increase will be $0.00. Authorization of this requires a simple majority vote of City Council.*

*Staff estimates that the City's Affordable Housing Fund property tax levy rate in 2022 will range between $0.20 per $1,000 of assessed value to $0.21 per $1,000 of assessed value, compared to the actual 2021 affordable housing fund property tax levy rate of $0.2258 per $1,000. The decrease in the property tax levy rate is attributed to assessed values in the City increasing by approximately 12.2% compared to the prior year. Because of the limit on property tax increases, as discussed above, the property tax levy rate declines as assessed value increases. The statutory cap for the City's levy rate is $3.325 per $1,000 of assessed value.*

*Example calculation of City Property Tax:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Assessed Value 2021 $389,240* | *Levy Rate 2021 $0.22586 (per $1,000 assessed value; Affordable Housing Levy only)* | *2021 City Property Tax = $87.91* |
| *Assessed Value 2022* | *Estimated Levy Rate 2022* | *2022 City Property Tax* |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *$436,709 (assumes assessed value increases 12.2%)* | *$0.20131 (per $1,000 assessed value; Affordable Housing Levy only)* | *(hypothetical) = $87.91* |
| *AV increases 12.2%* | *Levy Rate declines* | *Annual tax increase $0.00 for this example taxpayer** |

**If the assessed value of the resident's property as a percentage increased by less than 12.2%, the resident's annual taxes would be equal to or slightly less than the taxes paid to the city in 2021. If the assessed value of the resident's property increased by more than 12.2% from the previous year, the increase in the annual taxes would be slightly higher.*

*Some citizens may qualify for tax relief, or qualify for a deferral program. To find out more information about this, residents should contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 564-397-2391 or visit their website at http://www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/taxrelief/index.html.*

Request: On October 25, 2021, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for November 1, 2021.

*Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482*

**Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.**

**Motion approved the request.**

5. **Ad Valorem Taxes for 2022**

Staff Report 160-21

**AN ORDINANCE** fixing and levying the amount of ad valorem taxes necessary to balance estimated revenue with estimated expenditures for the 2021/2022 Budget for the City of Vancouver; providing for an effective date.

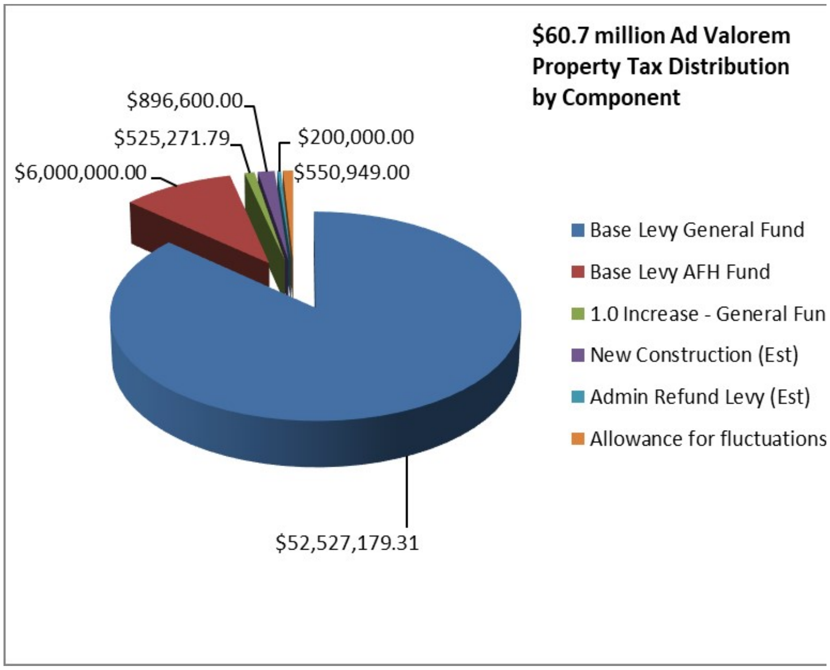
*Pursuant to RCW 35.33.135, Council must approve an ordinance to fix and authorize the Clark County Assessor's Office to levy ad valorem taxes necessary to fund the City of Vancouver's 2021-2022 Biennial Budget.*

*An ad valorem tax (Latin for "according to value") is defined as a tax based on the value of real estate or personal property. An ad valorem tax is typically imposed at the time of a transaction(s) (a sales tax or value-added tax (VAT)), but it may be imposed on an annual basis (real or personal property tax) or in connection with another significant event (i.e. inheritance tax).*

*Staff currently estimates the 2022 real and personal property tax levy as $60.7 million, which includes a preliminary estimate of $897,000 in property tax revenue from new construction. The estimate of property tax from new construction will be updated based on the final new construction valuation provided by the Assessor's Office. The estimate of property tax revenue does not include the change in value of state-assessed utility property. Both of these amounts will not be final until December 2021.*

*City staff recommends that Council approve ad valorem taxes in the amount of $60.7 million, which is needed to fund the City's 2021-2022 biennial budget. Of the total, $54.7 million is for general fund purposes, and $6 million is for the affordable housing fund. Approving ad valorem taxes of $60.7 million allows the County Assessor's Office to levy real and personal property taxes to the full extent allowed under Washington State law. Staff anticipates that the final certified levy will be between $60.1 million and $60.3 million in 2022. If Council authorizes the ad valorem tax amount too low, the County Assessor's Office will only be allowed to levy up to the amount authorized by Council.*

*Staff recommends that City Council approve ad valorem taxes in the amount of $60.7 million for the 2022 real and personal property tax levy within the city limits of Vancouver. This estimated revenue source is necessary to fund the 2021-2020 Biennial Budget for the City of Vancouver.*




Request: On October 25, 2021, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for November 1, 2021.

*Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482*

**Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.**

**Motion approved the request.**

6. **Approval of Claim Vouchers**

Request: Approve claim vouchers for October 25, 2021.

**Motion approved claim vouchers for October 25, 2021, in the amount of $5,166,652.96.**

## Community Forum

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened the Community Forum and received the following testimony:

- Craig Lindell, Vancouver, urged the City to add cameras at intersections to capture traffic violations.
- Teresa Hardy, Vancouver, expressed concerns about a lack of clarity about how much of the forested area on the Vancouver Innovation Center site will be preserved when the land is developed.
- Cathryn Chudy, Vancouver, urged the City to extend the moratorium on large scale fossil fuel facilities.

- Don Steinke, Vancouver, spoke regarding actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions and support clean energy and resilience projects.
- Anita Thomas, Vancouver, urged the City to extend the moratorium on large scale fossil fuel facilities.
- Glen Yung, Vancouver, urged the City to explore a tiered rate system for utilities, and ensuring any business license surcharge program does not favor large businesses over small.
- Laurel Pascual, Vancouver, expressed concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine and state and federal mandates.
- Justin Forsman, Vancouver, urged the City to reopen City Hall and expressed concerns about state and federal pandemic-related mandates.

There being no further testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed the Community Forum.

## Adjournment

6:58 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
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Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Natasha Ramras
BCF6734E40E94AE...
Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Meetings of the Vancouver City Council are electronically recorded on audio and video. The audio records are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

To: Vancouver City Council and Staff
Citizen Forum/10/25-21/Cathryn Chudy

In 2020 you wisely put in place a Moratorium on large-scale fossil fuel facilities here in Vancouver, demonstrating that you take the health and safety of our community seriously. This was not a radical local action, but an extension of an ordinance that Vancouver has had in place since 2016, keeping us safe from large-scale crude oil facilities.

In spite of dire warnings from the fossil fuel industry of “unintended consequences” back then, Vancouver has done quite well without having to spend staff time and city resources on vetting proposed crude oil facilities. And, our city has moved instead in the direction of recognizing that our local economy will better serve our citizens by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and turning instead to energy sources that are clean and renewable.

The current Moratorium seeks to add other forms of bulk volatile fossil fuels to the current crude oil ordinance, and it is no surprise that the process to bring an updated ordinance to the City Council has been delayed by Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) raising objections that clearly are not centered in protecting our health and safety, but rather in keeping the door open to an industry that intends to stall Vancouver’s forward movement in a necessary transition away from fossil fuels.

In 2019, the Port of Vancouver put in place a Renewable Energy Policy that determined our Port would not pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals on port-owned industrial property. The Port heard the same dire predictions of “unintended consequences” back then, and has thrived instead in the two years since. An updated city ordinance, as proposed in the Moratorium, is the logical next step for Vancouver, and joining the Port in taking this action is clearly in the best interest of Vancouver’s future health, safety and well being.

WSPA’s objections mean that in order to continue protecting our community, the Moratorium must be extended to give city staff the necessary time to address those objections which can then clear the way for the protective updated ordinance to be completed and brought to you for a final vote. I urge you to extend the Moratorium one more time to accomplish this outcome.

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| **From:** | Don Steinke |
| **To:** | City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager |
| **Cc:** | Ace Vancouver; Climate Action of Southwest Washington; Coal-WA-SW-Leaders; Editor Craig Brown; Greg Jayne; Shari Phiel; anthony.macuk@columbian.com; Kerri Altom; Lande, Aaron; Tristan Smit; P.J. Tillman |
| **Subject:** | Don Steinke"s Clean Energy Comments for Oct 25, 2021 |
| **Date:** | Monday, October 25, 2021 11:42:42 AM |



For the Vancouver City Council, Oct 25, 2021

Hello everyone, my name is Don Steinke
I attended the County Council meeting six days ago to speak in support of the C-PACER ordinance proposed by staff.

C-PACER is a lending tool that can be used to enable owners of commercial properties to borrow money for conservation, clean energy and resilience projects. As I understand it, the loan obligation stays with the property rather than with the loan applicant.

Some of the testimony was read into the record by staff, including one comment made by the general manager of the Port of Camas Washougal. He said he had several tenants that asked for the C-PACER loan option. Council approved unanimously.

**Topic 2** Several weeks ago, I attended a meeting of the State Building Code Council where I spoke in support of a proposal to move forward with a new code that would require new construction to provide heat pumps for water and space heating, and if a large commercial property needed a permit to replace its old gas heating systems with a new system, it also would be required to go all electric.

The State Building Code Council agreed with the advocates to advance that proposal to public comment. It's not a done deal yet and the earliest it would take effect if approved is 2023.

**Topic 3** According to the Guardian News Service, here

When the city of Austin drafted a plan to shift away from fossil fuels, the local gas company was fast on the scene to try to scale back the ambition of the effort.

The company asked customers to oppose the city plan and escalated its concerns to top city officials. The company drafted line-by-line revisions to weaken the plan,

In its suggested edits, the company struck references to "electrification", and replaced them with "decarbonization"– a policy that allows 1 part of dairy gas to be mixed with four parts of fossil gas and call it net zero. It offered to help the city to plant more trees to absorb climate pollution which might help it to keep burning gas.

The American Gas Association in a statement for the Guardian said it "will absolutely oppose any effort to sideline our infrastructure anywhere the effort materializes, state house or city steps".

I say this because I'm concerned that the gas industry is allowed to be in your stakeholder roundtable discussions for your climate action plan. The same applies to the builders. Links and more in my written comments. Thanks.

**Topic 4 Builders**

The National Home Builders association with the help of the American Gas Council sabotage efforts by city planners and architects to strengthen the National building Codes. They claimed that stronger building codes drive up the cost of housing.

Ever since the oil embargo of 1973, local governments has sought for and obtained grants to help residents conserve energy. You'd think by now, we'd be caught up, but we never are because the builders always oppose strong conservation measures. The low hanging fruit keeps growing back, and it is cost prohibitive to redesign the building to make it more efficient.
Energy Department research found that aggressive codes dramatically lowered homeowners' energy bills, and advocates say the cost of retrofitting already-built structures to make them more efficient down the road is even more expensive. It's also politically challenging.

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager |
| **To:** | Delapena, Amanda |
| **Subject:** | FW: Dan Serres Comment for forum, in support of continuing moratorium |
| **Date:** | Monday, October 25, 2021 2:41:41 PM |
| **Attachments:** | image001.png |

For council tonight

**Kerry Peck** | Administrative Assistant

CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
City Manager's Office/Administrative Assistant
**P:** (360) 487-8616
www.cityofvancouver.us | www.cityofvancouver.us/socialmedia

**LEARN ABOUT VANCOUVER'S COVID-19 RESPONSE HERE**

**From:** Dan Serres <dan@columbiariverkeeper.org>
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 1:38 PM
**To:** City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager <CMO@cityofvancouver.us>
**Subject:** Dan Serres Comment for forum, in support of continuing moratorium



*(Please note - This request is late for the 12 noon cutoff for signing up for testimony. The statement would have to be curtailed, anyway, because it's longer than 2 minutes. Please enter this into the record, if I am unable to offer a portion of this statement tonight during the Citizen's Forum. I understand that there may not be time for me to speak, and that is okay with me. I will listen. Thank you. - Dan Serres)*

October 25, 2021

Dear Mayor McEnerney-Ogle, Councilmembers, and Staff:

My name is Dan Serres. I am the Conservation Director for Columbia Riverkeeper, and I have many friends, family members, and colleagues who live and work in Vancouver. I want to begin by expressing my alarm and concern at the spate of violence that has impacted Vancouver communities, including BIPOC communities in Vancouver who have experienced violence from law enforcement officers.

I support the efforts of community members to demand accountability, transparency, and actions to reduce harm caused by gun violence in the Vancouver area. The loss of life and injuries have ramifications on both sides of the Columbia River, particularly for those with marginalized identities who bear the brunt of violence most often.

I also write to support the continuation of Vancouver's moratorium on the establishment or expansion of large-scale fossil fuel facilities. Communities on both sides of the Columbia River are already grappling with the risks imposed by current fossil fuel storage and export facilities as well as shipments that often move through Vancouver to other locations.

The public health and safety risks of large-scale fossil fuel facilities are significant and impose major environmental justice concerns on Vancouver neighborhoods close to the Port and major transportation corridors. Vancouver's moratorium is, first and foremost, a necessity for planning a healthy, safe, equitable transition away from highly polluting and hazardous fossil fuel developments.

Washington Department of Health's recently developed tool, the Environmental Health Disparities Map, provides useful, clear data and maps to support your ongoing work. We look forward to engaging in the process of evaluating these impacts further.

Thank you to Vancouver's staff, who are currently working to address issues raised by the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA). WSPA and Vancouver are on different pages about the necessity to limit fossil fuel risks to Vancouver communities' health, safety, and climate stability.

Several years ago, WSPA unsuccessfully pushed for Vancouver to allow a major increase in oil train traffic by establishing new oil train unloading capacity in Vancouver. And it's no secret that WSPA promotes the agenda of its members, which include some of the world's largest petroleum producers and refiners, such as Chevron, Exxon, Shell, and Marathon, which now owns what was once Tesoro.

I encourage the City Council and staff to consider WSPA's assertions carefully, acknowledging that WSPA and the City do not share common goals. The Port of Vancouver received harsh objections from WSPA when it developed its own resolution on these issues. Port Commissioners Eric LaBrant and Don Orange ultimately departed from WSPA's approach and listened to their community members instead, establishing a Port policy not to pursue large-scale fossil fuel terminals. The Port's policy would be strongest if paired with a permanent ordinance from the City of Vancouver.

This history is important: WSPA has stood in the way of reasonable policies to reduce fossil fuel risks. Let's not let them set the agenda, now.

According to Investigate West, WSPA even argued against an effort to increase tug escorts when the issue was discussed at the WA State Capitol in Olympia. Tug escorts can significantly reduce oil spill risks, according to the Department of Ecology. This is an example of how WSPA sought to prioritize the monetary interests of major oil companies over tangibly reducing oil spill risks in our communities.

Please continue the moratorium. I appreciate your careful diligence on such an important policy.

Thank you,

Dan Serres, Conservation Director, Columbia Riverkeeper
15506 SE La Bonita Way. Oak Grove OR. 97267.
503.890.2441
dan@columbiariverkeeper.org

**From:** Jean M. Avery
**To:** City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager
**Subject:** Fwd: Comment for 10/25 Citizen Forum
**Date:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 4:50:36 PM



---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jean M. Avery** <jeanmavery@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 24, 2021 at 4:48 PM
Subject: Comment for 10/25 Citizen Forum
To: JMA <JeanMAvery@gmail.com>

Please consider trash clean-up work as a way to provide money to people experiencing homelessness. This link tells more:

https://clbn.us/GyWTu

The article states that this type of program is operating in Oakland, CA, Portland, OR, Tacoma, WA, and other cities. Please consider this win-win solution to two urban problems.

Thank you,
Jean M. Avery, Vancouver

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager |
| **To:** | Delapena, Amanda |
| **Subject:** | FW: City safety |
| **Date:** | Monday, October 25, 2021 2:42:28 PM |
| **Attachments:** | image001.png |

Can you forward to council?

**Kerry Peck** | Administrative Assistant

CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
City Manager's Office/Administrative Assistant
**P:** (360) 487-8616
www.cityofvancouver.us | www.cityofvancouver.us/socialmedia

**LEARN ABOUT VANCOUVER'S COVID-19 RESPONSE HERE**

**From:** Margot Rice <mrd303@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 2:39 PM
**To:** City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager <CMO@cityofvancouver.us>
**Subject:** City safety



Please add my comments below to the City Council meeting under the Community forum.

Dear Madam Mayor and Council members,

One of your greatest responsibilities to the citizens of Vancouver is to keep them safe.I have never felt less safe in the 8 years that I have lived here than I do now.Shootings, car theft, and so much more are now daily and not rare occurrences.

Our officers are under staffed and have been for far too long. The pandemic has  been cited as the reason for not being able to hire and train offices. Other than wearing a mask, the previous restrictions are no longer a factor and have not been a reason for the past several months.

I think you owe your citizens communication on specific actions you are taking to improve safety in Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Margot Rice