



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall | Council Chambers | 415 W. 6th St.
PO Box 1995 | Vancouver, WA 98668-1995
www.cityofvancouver.us

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Bart Hansen • Ty Stober • Erik Paulsen • Sarah J. Fox • Diana H. Perez • Kim D. Harless

February 14, 2022

WORKSHOPS

To be conducted remotely.

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.

View the CVTV video recording, including presentations and discussion, for workshops at:

https://www.cvtv.org/vid_link/34303?startStreamAt=0&stopStreamAt=1969

Mayor McEnery-Ogle absent from workshops. Mayor Pro Tem Stober presided.

5:30-6:00 p.m. Washington State Legislative Mid-Session Update

Brian Enslow, Arbutus Consulting; Aaron Lande, Policy and Program Manager, 360-487-8613

Summary

Staff led Council through a discussion of the legislative session for 2022, which included information on the different House and Senate Bills and important upcoming dates.

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.

View the CVTV video recording, including presentations and discussion, for this meeting at:

https://www.cvtv.org/vid_link/34305?startStreamAt=0&stopStreamAt=5081

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 Pro Tem Ty Stober. This meeting was conducted remotely over video conference.

Present: Councilmembers Harless, Perez, Fox, Paulsen, Stober, Hansen

Absent: Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

Motion by Councilmember Hansen, seconded by Councilmember Harless, and carried unanimously to excuse Mayor McEnerny-Ogle.

Community Communication (Items 1-7)

City Manager, Eric Holmes addressed an incident that occurred leading up to the Council meeting on February 14, 2022. He explained that a member of the public called for public testimony and overheard a member of staff speaking about the member of the public after the call was not properly ended.

Mayor Pro Tem Stober opened Community Communication and received the following testimony:

- Glen Yung, Vancouver, spoke about item 4 and asked questions surrounding the building fees and research done beforehand.

- Kimberlee Elbon, La Center, stated their mistrust with the City for the association with the ICLEI.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Pro Tem Stober closed Community Communication.

Consent Agenda (Items 1-7)

Council requested Items 1, 2, and 4 be pulled for discussion.

For item 1, Mayor Pro Tem Stober asked staff about the ramps and whether staff has been able to communicate with differently abled communities about how the City is constructing curb cuts. Jennifer Belknap Williamson, Public Works Director, explained that Public Works has done a lot of engagement over the years with people with different disabilities. The design standards used are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In situations where space is limited when updating right-of-way, the City works with community members to understand what the best option would be for that area. Ryan Lopossa, Streets and Transportation Manager, explained that there are two people with different disabilities that have been very helpful in different projects by giving feedback on how the changes would affect them. He stated that Public Works receives regular training from the US Access Board and Federal Highways on the latest regulations around the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Councilmember Hansen asked about installing curb ramps on Columbia, but not on Daniels Street, and how that will affect those in wheelchairs needing to get access down Daniels too. He wondered if there was any federal funding for adding curb ramps. Ryan Lopossa explained that Public Works has been working with the ADA policy to try and utilize funds on ramps that need it most before using the funds on ramps very close in compliance.

Mayor Pro Tem Stober asked staff about a comment in the staff report for item 2 about the City reviewing this item through a DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) lens. Jennifer Belknap Williamson explained that she spoke with the DEI Director, Alicia Sojourner, to talk through open ended questions. Jennifer Belknap Williamson explained that the Restitution Program is for low level offenders who likely are being issued a fine for what their offense has been to have the ability to work to pay off the fine, as opposed to contributing money toward the fine. The Restitution Program offers a way for people convicted of a crime to keep from going to jail if they are unable to pay the fine. The City identifies labor work that cannot be done by Union employees due to time and financial limitations. The work of the Restitution Crew is safe and can be accomplished with limited training, like litter pick up. The first question that Jennifer Belknap Williamson and Alicia Sojourner asked was whether the City's participation in the program burdens or benefits a particular population. The answer is there is a benefit to anyone convicted of an infraction, because it provides an alternative to incarceration and fines. The people are also able to work on the weekends so it does not interfere with their regular work week. Staff discussed the disadvantages of the program and were unable to identify any particular groups that would be disproportionately burdened. Staff does recognize

that there are systematic issues with our criminal justice system, which are currently being actively worked on. After speaking with the County about options in the program to better serve all people, staff learned that the County does have alternative assignments to support a more diverse group of people.

Mayor Pro Tem Stober asked about the availability of options for people currently working jobs on weekends. Jennifer Belknap Williamson stated that there are a variety of different jurisdictions and groups that contract with Clark County. They have found there to be more availability for the work crews on the weekends compared to the work week. They also offer multiple times of the day.

In regard to item 4, Councilmember Fox asked for some understanding with the nature of the updates to the fees, what sort of Council action was needed, and how often the fees are reviewed. Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to provide a clear and consistent interpretation of what the consumer price index means for the purposes of increases. The financial policy requires periodic reviews of the cost of service and to make sure the fees the City is charging are consistent with the underlying cost of each area. One of the major reasons for needing this administrative update is due to the Portland consumer price index is no longer being calculated by the federal government. The updates to the various sections of City code were needed to define the applicable consumer price index for the City.

Councilmember Fox asked, in reference to attachment A, whether based on the language if the Council could adopt a lower increase than what is proposed. Natasha Ramras stated that the Municipal Codes allow the City to keep up with inflation. On January 1st, an increase went into effect mostly related to permitting fees that were lower than the consumer price index. In that situation, an additional approval by City Council is required, because the City Council has approved the increases that are consistent with the consumer price index. Any increases that deviate away from the standard increase would have to come back for Council approval. The proposal contained in the Ordinance is proposing to adopt the increases that went into affect on January 1, 2022, and then follow up with a second increase on July 1, 2022, to bring the overall increase into consistency with the consumer price index.

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

1. Award construction contract for the 2022 Central Curb Ramps project (#072822)

Staff Report 017-22

Summary

The City is issuing three separate curb ramp contracts this year as part of its 2022 pavement management program. These contracts include the "2022 East Curb Ramps", the "2022 Central Curb Ramps" and the "2022 West Curb Ramps. The purpose of splitting the work into three contracts is

to reduce each contract to a manageable size, which helps expedite ramp construction. From a construction sequencing standpoint, it is far more efficient to construct the new curb ramps in advance of the on-street pavement management resurfacing work.

This staff report and recommended action is to award the 2022 Central Curb Ramps contract only. Recommendations to award the the West Curb Ramps project and the East Curb Ramps project will follow at a later date.

On January 11, 2022, the City received five bids for the subject project. The bids ranged between \$491,000 to \$747,000. The low bidder was responsive. The bids are as follows:

SUMMARY OF BIDS	
BIDDER	AMOUNT
<i>Hedval Sitework Specialties, LLC, La Center, WA</i>	<i>\$490,949.76</i>
<i>Western United Civil Group, LLC, Yacolt, WA</i>	<i>\$524,035.00</i>
<i>Halme Excavting, Inc., Battle Ground, WA</i>	<i>\$614,335.00</i>
<i>Advanced Excavating Specialists, LLC, Kelso, WA</i>	<i>\$618,518.00</i>
<i>Clark & Sons Excavating, Inc., Battle Ground, WA</i>	<i>\$747,331.00</i>
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$600,000.00</i>

There is a minimum apprenticeship goal of 3% of the utilized labor hours for this project. Hedval Siteworks Specialties, LLC of La Center, Washington, has submitted an Apprenticeship Utilization Plan to meet or exceed this goal by using approximately 90 hours of apprentice time of the estimating a total of 2,888 applicable labor hours for the project.

Request: Award a construction contract for the 2022 Central Curb Ramps project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and authorize the City Manager or his designee to sign a contract with Hedval Siteworks Specialties, LLC of La Center, WA, at their bid price of \$490,949.76, which includes Washington State sales tax.

Chris Sneider, Senior Civil Engineer, 360-487-8239

Motion approved the request.

2. **Interlocal Agreement for Supervisor Offender Restitution Labor Services**

Staff Report

018-22

Summary

The City of Vancouver (Public Works/Operations) has contracted with Clark County Corrections for offender restitution labor maintenance services for more than twenty years. This alternative contract partnership has provided the City with an additional resource to complete non-skilled maintenance tasks within available budget.

The attached Interlocal Agreement provides five crews that can be used for up to 988 crew days over the term of the one-year agreement. Activities include, but are not limited to, general litter removal, landscape maintenance and weeding, road right-of-way and median maintenance, general park and recreation area maintenance for four full-time crews. A fifth crew will be assigned to the Greenway Sensitive Lands program for removal of non-native plant species, assistance in plantings, and general shrub bed maintenance generally within the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway and at other sensitive lands within the City of Vancouver.

The attached agreement is one year in duration.

Request: Authorize the City Manager or his designee to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Clark County Correction Services for offender restitution crew labor/maintenance services.

Bill Bjerke, Public Works Operations Superintendent, 360-487-8245

Motion approved the request.

3. Award of contract for Brokerage Services - RFP 48-21

Staff Report 019-22

Summary

The City of Vancouver, through its Risk Management Department, issued an RFP to secure a contract with a firm to provide broker of record and other Risk related services on an as-needed basis. The current contract expires on 3/31/22. Willis Towers Watson has been the City's TPA for the past 14 years and has been chosen to be the City's broker of record for the next 5year. Over the five years of the contract, the City will pay the broker approximately \$230,000 in total. In addition to being the broker of record, the broker handles the City's insurance premiums on a pass through basis.

Request: Authorize the City Manager or their designee to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Willis Towers Watson for broker of record services for a term of 5 years and in an amount not to exceed \$230,000. Authorize the City Manager or their designee to approve the procurement of policies of

insurance negotiated by Willis Towers Watson during the term of the contract. The additional amount for the premiums and retained commissions shall not exceed a total of \$20,000,000 USD over the next five years.

Brent Waddle, Interim Risk Manager, 360-487-8436

Motion approved the request.

4. An Ordinance adding Section 3.08.100 to the Vancouver Municipal Code (“VMC”), amending other sections of the VMC to provide a uniform methodology for adjustment of certain City fees and charges pursuant to the consumer price index

Staff Report 020-22

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Vancouver relating to the annual adjustment of certain City fees and charges to reflect changes in the consumer price index; adopting legislative findings, adding Section 3.08.100 to the Vancouver Municipal Code to provide a uniform methodology for adjustment of certain City fees and charges pursuant to the consumer price index, effective in 2023; amending Section 1.01.080 of the Vancouver Municipal Code to clarify that the City Clerk may update fees and charges to reflect Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments authorized by the VMC, amending Sections 11.60.160, 14.04.090, 16.40.070, 17.08.130, 19.11.040, 20.180.050, and 20.915.050 of the Vancouver Municipal Code to incorporate by reference the methodology set forth in new Section 3.08.100; approving and ratifying adjustment of certain City fees and charges for 2022 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for 2021, providing for severability; and setting an immediate effective date.

Summary

The VMC currently provides several differing and inconsistent methodologies for the annual adjustment of fees and charges to reflect changes in the consumer price index. In addition, the regional Consumer Price Index for the Portland-Salem, Oregon-Washington Metropolitan Area for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) referenced in Sections 11.60.160 and 20.180.050 of the VMC no longer exists. Harmonizing these provisions will ensure consistent application of CPI adjustments in future years. Additionally, implanting the 2022 adjustments in a series of two steps (one in the first fiscal quarter, with a second increase in the third fiscal quarter) will afford City Staff time to communicate these changes to effected businesses.

Request: On Monday, February 14, 2022, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for

Monday, February 28, 2022.

*Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, 360-487-8484;
Taylor Hallvik, Assistant City Attorney, 360-487-8500*

Mayor Pro Tem Stober read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

5. Evergreen and Grand Commercial Corridors Strategy

Staff Report 021-22

AN ORDINANCE relating to Comprehensive Plan and Zoning for the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Title 20; adopting the Evergreen and Grand Commercial Corridors Strategy document, intended to guide future zoning code text changes and other land use, community development and transportation implementation; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Summary

Adopt Evergreen and Grand Commercial Corridors Strategy, a 46-page document with policy direction for properties located along lower Grand Boulevard and Evergreen Boulevard. The Strategy identifies three subdistricts, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) hub surrounding the intersection of Grand and Mill Plain Boulevards; a commercial and mixed-use corridor directly south alongside Grand Boulevard, and a residential and mixed-use corridor along Evergreen Boulevard. Specific land use policy direction is provided in the following areas:

- *Mixed-use commercial and residential building requirements. The current standard requiring first floor non-residential uses is recommended to be maintained along Grand Boulevard, with additional flexibility recommended along Evergreen Boulevard and the BRT hub, to be determined at the implementation stage*
- *Building heights. The current 50 foot maximum is proposed to be modulated, increased heights up to five stories allowed on the west side of the BRT hub, four stories allowed on most of Grand and Evergreen Boulevards, and a three story limit on other portions of Evergreen.*
- *Minimum Parking. One space is proposed to be required per 1,000 feet of commercial floor area. No minimum is proposed for ground floor retail in mixed-use buildings. One space is proposed per residential dwelling unit.*
- *Active edges are required along street fronts.*

A series of other high level regulatory and non-regulatory measures are proposed related to land use and transportation. See Attachment A.

Community outreach occurred through one in-person and three virtual community meetings, direct communications with individual stakeholders, the project website, surveys and communication through the City of Vancouver Be Heard page, City social media and newsletters, and direct mailings to residents, businesses and property owners in the area. Appendix A of the Strategy Document summarizes outreach, community input, and associated changes made in response.

A final virtual community workshop was held on October 21, 2022, at which participants expressed a desire for small scale commercial, retail, service-oriented neighborhood development, and traffic calming measures on Grand Boulevard. One person suggested creating a Grand-Gillis road couplet of two one-way streets. Concerns were also voiced about parking spillover into surrounding neighborhoods, and that mixed-use requirements along Evergreen should not be eliminated as proposed to no longer require first floor commercial uses. In response to the last concern about Evergreen Boulevard mixed-use development, staff subsequently adjusted the proposed Strategy to indicate that mixed-use requirements on Evergreen should be relaxed rather than eliminated, with details to be determined when implementing standards are developed in spring or summer 2022. No change to existing mixed-use requirements is recommended along the commercial core of the project area on Grand Boulevard.

Request: On Monday, February 14, 2022, approve ordinance for first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, February 28, 2022.

Bryan Snodgrass, Principal Planner, 360-487-7946

Mayor Pro Tem Stober read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

6. Reappointment to the Vancouver Housing Authority

Summary

The Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) Board is appointed by the Mayor to provide opportunities to people who experience barriers to housing because of income, disability or special needs in an environment which preserves personal dignity, and in a manner which maintains the public trust.

On August 2, 2021, Dominique Merriweather was appointed to the VHA for

a mid-term appointment set to expire February 1, 2022. Per Council Policy 100-06, this appointment could have been for the mid-term length and another, full term because the original term was for less than six months. Given that the mid-term appointment has an expiration, it is appropriate to reappoint Dominique Merriweather to serve for the full term. His new term would begin immediately and expire February 1, 2027.

Request: Reappoint Dominique Merriweather to the Vancouver Housing Authority Board of Directors, term beginning immediately and expiring February 1, 2027.

Mayor McEnemy-Ogle

Motion reappointed Dominique Merriweather to the Vancouver Housing Authority for a term beginning February 14, 2022 and expiring February 1, 2027.

7. Approval of Claim Vouchers

Request: Approve claim vouchers for February 14, 2022.

Motion approved claim vouchers in the amount of \$4,576,180.76.

Community Forum

Mayor Pro Tem Stober opened the Community Forum and received the following testimony:

- Cathryn Chudy, Vancouver, spoke in support of the climate action plan and talked about the climate action workshop and House Bill 1767, which they would like Council support on.
- Glen Yung, Vancouver, spoke about attending the Planning Commission retreat and the discussion of the displacement of current residents, and the need to discuss this topic further.
- Peter Bracchi, Vancouver, spoke about the homeless camp near Burnt Bridge Creek Trail and the extended period of time it has existed, as well as the environmental impacts of the encampment.

- Siobhana McEwen, Vancouver, spoke about how the City press release with Officer Sahota's family being quoted was inappropriate and asks for an apology to be issued.
- Audra Houston, Vancouver, asked what the process was for the communication channel for Councilmembers to provide feedback to community members and stated support for Glen Yung's nomination for Planning Commission be moved forward.
- Philip Englund, Vancouver, stated they support the City Council, they are disheartened hearing the conspiracy theories on the community forum, and hopes the City code can be reviewed concerning structures outside of the home.
- Monica Zazeuta, Vancouver, would like the Council to change codes restricting outdoor structures, they do not feel their voice was heard when they spoke in support in Glen Yung, and they would like to hear back from the Council regarding Glen Yung.
- Teresa Hardy, Vancouver, explained they reviewed the Planning Commission handbook and are concerned that having a vacancy for this long creates more issues, and they support Glen Yung.
- Alona Steinke, Vancouver, attended the WSU green transportation webinar and gave information provided during the webinar, and would like Council to consider planning to change the City busses and public vehicles to the electric.
- Alex Stein, Vancouver, stated he does not want what is occurring in Ottawa, Canada to happen here and that he would like for the community to get vaccinated.
- Wynn Grcich, Vancouver, spoke about House Bill 1684 from Representative Paul Harris that they would like stopped for fear of health concerns to the community due to fluoride in the drinking water.
- Justin Forsman, Vancouver, spoke about their worries with fluoride dangers to the community's health and spoke in support of Glen Yung for the Planning Commission.
- Michele Rudi, Vancouver, explained as a business and property owner how they are concerned with the increase in property crime, retail theft, and violent crime, and spoke about their concerns with House Bill 1310 and the overall priority of public safety.
- Kimberlee Elbon, La Center, spoke in support of Glen Yung for the Planning Commission, would like in person assembly, was dismayed about staff members speaking about her, and would like to see Governor Inslee out of office.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Pro Tem Stober closed the Community Forum.

Adjournment

7:53 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Anne McEnerny-Ogle

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Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Natasha Ramras

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Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

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