



LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023

City of Lakewood

6000 Main Street SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoflakewoodwa>

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Participant ID: 868 7263 2373

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 5 – Mayor Jason Whalen, Deputy Mayor Mary Moss (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Councilmembers Mike Brandstetter, Don Anderson and Patti Belle.

Councilmembers Excused: 1 – Councilmember Paul Bocchi.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

United Way of Pierce County Presentation.

Dona Ponepinto, President and CEO, United Way of Pierce County shared that in 2021 the organization celebrated its 100 year anniversary. She shared that in 2021 \$6 Million was invested in the community and overall \$350 Million has been invested in Pierce County over the last 100 years. She spoke about Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) families and shared that 1 in 3 households struggle with poverty. She shared that South Sound 211 connected more than 80,000 individuals to resources last year and spoke about the impact of the Center for Strong Families. She highlighted partnership organizations, the Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT) program and volunteer opportunities. Discussion ensued.

Opioid Litigation Update.

City Attorney Heidi Wachter shared that the city is a participating litigant in one case among many nationwide seeking recovery for damages associated with the opioid epidemic. The first allocation received by the City totaled \$80,000 and it is recommended that the funding be directed to offset costs associated with the Behavioral Health Contact Team. A second allocation agreement related to a settlement with Walgreens, Walmart, CVS and others will come forward for City Council approval on March 6th. Discussion ensued.

Review naming process for Motor Avenue Plaza.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Dodsworth highlighted the history and recommended process for choosing a name for the plaza area at Motor Avenue. Discussion ensued and the City Council has directed that a community survey be conducted to gather feedback as to what to call the area. Options to consider on the survey will be Colonial Plaza, Unity Plaza, Theater Square and Motor Ave.

Parks Capital Improvement Program Update - American Lake Park and Wards Lake Park.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Dodsworth was joined by Stacey Reding, Capital Projects Coordinator.

Dodsworth highlighted American Lake Park beach and parking lot improvements. She shared that the project is estimated to cost \$4.1 Million of which \$2.3 Million in funding has been secured. She shared that the design began in 2022, contract approval will come forward in September 2023 following by construction completion in October, 2024.

Dodsworth then highlighted the Wards Lake Park Phase 1 project final design which is currently in the permitting process. She shared that total project is estimated at \$3.9 Million of which \$2.4 Million of funding has been secured.

Reding then reviewed the Wards Lake Park Phase 2 design which includes new restrooms, shelters, trails, a BMX track, new neighborhood park, play areas and increased parking. She shared that phase 1 is currently in the permitting process, phase 2 design will be completed by November 2023, and construction of both phase will be completed from May 2024 through February 2025.

Dodsworth then shared that City Council approval of the contracts associated with the projects will come forward at the March 6th regular meeting. Discussion ensued.

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE MARCH 6, 2023 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Business Showcase. – *Bite Me Cookies, Deborah Tuggle*
2. Proclamation recognizing March as Women's History Month.
3. Proclamation recognizing March as American Red Cross Month.
– *Larry Smith and Yvette Wilson, American Red Cross*
4. Youth Council Report.
5. Clover Park School District Report.
6. Authorizing the execution of an amendment to the purchase and sale agreement related to Wards Lake Park. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)

7. Authorizing the execution of an amendment to the agreement with Tangram Design, LLC, for parks way finding signs. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
8. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Public Restroom Company for the American Lake Park Access Improvements. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
9. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for the military installation resiliency review project. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
10. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Matrix, for the military housing study project. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
11. Approving the disposal through surplus of vehicle 42221, a boom truck formerly used to maintain the City of Lakewood's traffic signal system. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
12. This is the date set for public hearing on the request to vacate 113th Street SW, west of Kendrick Street SW. – (Public Hearings and Appeals – Regular Agenda)
13. Update on Lakewood's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategic Plan Development. – (Reports by the City Manager)

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Caulfield shared the dates to visit Sister City, Gimhae City, Republic of Korea is now to leave on Wednesday, May 3 and arrive in Gimhae on Thursday, May 4 and arrive back in the U.S. on Monday, May 8 however there is an option to return on Sunday, May 7 if the city missing the closing ceremonies of the weekend event.

He shared the City has been recognized by Association of Washington Cities as a WellCity resulting in a 2% discount on all medical premiums in 2024.

He shared that in 2022 new construction totaled \$89.7 Million and as a follow-up to last week's City Council meeting, Springbrook Connections is a registered 501(c)(3) entity and is its own fiscal agent and has requested \$50,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to cover the cost for its lease of the Centerforce Building.

He then reported that KITE Realty is working to build a 350 housing unit and commercial space in the Town Center and he will be recommending to the City Council that the City undertakes a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project analysis to consider whether the to create a TIF increment area in the downtown area and the city is reaching out to KITE Realty to learn more about one of their vacant spaces as a potential location for a Senior Activity center.

He shared that the City submitted the 2023 RAISE grant request totaling \$850,000 for the Lakewood Downtown Transportation Network and the City continues to work with federal delegation to have language incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

He then announced the following upcoming meetings and events:

- March 1, 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M., Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity Annual Changing Lives Luncheon, Hotel Murano
- March 3, 6:00 P.M., 1st Annual Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Award Gala, McGavick Conference Center
- March 18, 10:00 A.M. to noon, 29th Legislative District Town Hall with Senator Steve Conway and Representative Sharlett Mena, Local 31 Firefighter's Hall, 1109 S 50th St, Tacoma, WA 98408

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Brandstetter shared that he attended the meeting with the Pierce County Library System Executive Director and Pierce County Councilmember Jani Hitchen regarding the Lakewood libraries. He shared that this week he will attend the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHA³P) meeting.

Councilmember Belle thanked those for their presentations this evening and shared she will attend the 1st Annual Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Gala.

Councilmember Anderson shared that he will be attending the Association of Defense Communities meeting and will be absent from the March 6th City Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Moss shared that she attended the Asia Cultural Center New Year Celebration and looks forward to the 1st Annual Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Gala.

Mayor Whalen shared that the Rotary Wine and Beer Fest will be held on March 24th and he looks forward to the 1st Annual Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Gala.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



BRIANA SCHUMACHER
CITY CLERK



JASON WHALEN, MAYOR