



## **LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 26, 2024

City of Lakewood

6000 Main Street SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

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

Telephone via Zoom: +1(253) 215-8782

Participant ID: 868 7263 2373

---

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: 6 – Mayor Jason Whalen, Deputy Mayor Mary Moss, Councilmembers Mike Brandstetter, Patti Belle, J. Trestin Lauricella and Paul Bocchi.

Councilmembers Excused: 1 – Councilmember Ryan Pearson.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

#### **Review of 2023 Social Media and Website Analytics.**

Communications Manager Brynn Grimley and Communications Coordinator Derek Gibson presented a comprehensive year-in-review for the City's social media interactions. The analysis looked at the top pages visited, the number and location of unique visitors, as well as other statistics on the types of interactions and users. They presented goals for 2024 including higher quality video, a higher engagement rate, and continued fine-tuning to followers. Discussion ensued.

#### **Review of International Building Code Amendments.**

Assistant City Manager for Development Services Dave Bugher presented on the adoption of the 2021 international construction codes with emphasis on the revised energy codes and new wildland-urban interface codes. He covered eight sections of the code amendments, explaining that the City Council is required to adopt an Ordinance by March 4, 2024. Building Official Rafik Gindy joined to discuss the impact of the code updates on new and existing residential structures. Discussion ensued.

**Review of Ordinance related to Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentences.**

City Attorney Heidi Ann Wachter presented information regarding repeat misdemeanor offenders. She brought a recommendation for additional work with current court statistics to either bring a more comprehensive plan, or simply continue with the status quo if the numbers are not deemed significant. Discussion ensued.

**ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE MARCH 4, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. Proclamation recognizing March 2024 as American Red Cross Month. – *Larry Bleich, Community Volunteer, American Red Cross*
2. Recognizing the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program Participants.
3. Youth Council Report.
4. Clover Park School District Report.
5. Authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the Pierce County Rural Library District to identify the roles and responsibilities of the City and the Library as they relate to the ownership, transfer, handling, and storage of the Douglas Fir section of tree. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
6. Authorizing the execution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in support of the Pierce County Village for chronically homeless. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
7. Approving the International Building Code Amendments. – (Ordinance – Consent Agenda)
8. This is the date set for a public hearing to consider the vacation of the 20-foot-wide alley abutting Lots 1 through 14, Block 69 Town Plat of Lakeview. – (Public Hearings and Appeals – Regular Agenda)
9. Adopting a new section of the Lakewood Municipal Code, Chapter 1.22 City Flag Policy. – (Ordinance – Regular Agenda)
10. Creating a new section of the Lakewood Municipal Code, Section 9.16, Setting Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Certain Crimes. – (Ordinance – Regular Agenda)

**REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

Communications Manager Brynn Grimley shared materials and information regarding an invitation received from City's Friendship City, Danzhou in Hainan Province, China, regarding having the Councilmembers visit this year. Her report included price breakdowns and information on additional trip logistics. Discussion ensued.

Acting City Manager Kraus shared that Partners for Parks has now raised more than \$1.6 million of the \$3.5 million goal for restoration of the H-Barn project at Fort Steilacoom Park.

She then announced the following upcoming meetings and events:

- February 27, 6:00 P.M., Mayor's Coffeehouse, Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion rescheduled to March 27, 6:00 P.M.
- February 28, 2024, 5:30 P.M., Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, Clover Park Technical College Rotunda
- March 12, 11:30 A.M., Habitat for Humanity Changing Lives Luncheon, Hotel Murano Bicentennial Pavilion
- March 15, 4:00 P.M., American Lake Veterans Medical Center Centennial Event
- March 15, 7:00 P.M., Lakewood Multicultural Coalition Dr. Claudia Thomas Award Gala, McGavick Conference Center
- March 20, 11:30 A.M., Tacoma Pierce County Economic Development Board Annual Meeting, Greater Tacoma Trade and Convention Center
- March 22 10:00 A.M., VIP Walking Tour
- March 27 11:30 A.M., Community Health Care 2024 Annual Lunch and Laughter Luncheon, Hotel Murano
- March 27, 6:00 P.M., Mayor's Coffeehouse, Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion
- April 6, General William "Bill" Harrison Memorial Service, First Baptist Church

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Lauricella attended a meeting and tour of the South Sound 911 facility. He shared that he will be attending the Lakewood Water District Tank Dedication and Retirement Reception. He also shared that he recently learned about a group called Pierce County Climate Conversation and is interested in bringing their work to Council.

Councilmember Bocchi shared that he attended the Planning Commission meeting last week and heard little to no public comments on multifamily tax changes. He then asked Councilmember Brandstetter to attend the SSHA<sup>3</sup>P meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 A.M.

Councilmember Belle thanked the Communications Team for their presentation and efforts in the last year. She then shared that she will not be attending Dave Bugher's Retirement Ceremony but thanked him for his service.


Councilmember Brandstetter shared that last Wednesday he attended the Community Services Advisory Board Public Hearing regarding the 5-Year Annual Action Plan.

Deputy Mayor Moss shared that she attended the Lakewood Chamber's Military Meeting last week. She then shared that the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is getting more involved and will put any City business on their website if requested.

Mayor Whalen shared that he attended the Tacoma-Pierce County Clean Building Symposium Panel about climate planning and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center Year of The Dragon Celebration which featured Taiwan. He shared that, on Wednesday, he is going to testify to the legislature regarding vehicle pursuit changes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.



---

JASON WHALEN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



---

AMELIA HERNANDEZ  
ACTING CITY CLERK