



## LAKESWOOD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, August 7, 2023

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

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 7 – Mayor Jason Whalen, Deputy Mayor Mary Moss, Mike Brandstetter, Don Anderson, Patti Belle, Trestin Lauricella and Paul Bocchi.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Whalen paused for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

#### **Proclamation declaring August 6 through August 12, 2023 as Farmers Market Week.**

MAYOR WHALEN PRESENTED A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 6 THROUGH AUGUST 12, 2023 AS FARMERS MARKET WEEK TO SALLY MARTINEZ, RECREATION COORDINATOR, CITY OF LAKEWOOD.

#### **Presentation from Lakewood's CHOICE.**

Marcos Sauri and Lisa Watt Banks, Lakewood's CHOICE introduced themselves. Sauri shared that Lakewood's CHOICE is a non-profit organization who works with local community members to achieve goals of reducing youth substance use through increasing awareness, reducing access and building pathways to healthy options for youth. Watt Banks shared that community partners include City of Lakewood, Clover Park School District, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Lakewood Boys and Girls Club and Springbrook Connections. They highlighted the services offered in the community such as Curriculum Based Support Groups, the Incredible Years Program, Guiding Good Choice and a Clover Park School District Mentorship Program. Discussion ensued.

#### **Clover Park School District Report.**

Clover Park School District (CPSD) Boardmember Alyssa Anderson Pearson shared that there was a devastating fire at the Jamestown Mobile Home Park which has impacted 26 students that attend local schools, support is being coordinating for these individuals and families.

She shared that summer school programs concluded on July 21<sup>st</sup>, full day kindergarten will be offered in all elementary schools and begins on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and for all other grades school will begin on August 30<sup>th</sup>. She shared that all students will receive free lunch this school year and Caring for Kids Early Learning Fairs will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Harrison Preparatory School., on August 15<sup>th</sup> in the Springbrook Neighborhood and on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Tillicum Community Center.

### **Jamestown Mobile Home Park Fire Response.**

Chief Jim Sharp, West Pierce Fire & Rescue (WPFR) provided an overview of actions that the fire department took to mitigate the fire that started on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. He shared that 60 firefighters were involved, the fire was put out 2.5 hours after it began. He reported that there were two fatalities, nine mobile homes were destroyed, six vehicles and two ATV's. There is an investigation into what started the fires.

City Manager Caulfield expressed condolences to those who lost their lives and are impacted by the fire. He spoke about actions took by the Red Cross and other community partners who are supporting those who were displaced from this event. He shared that ROC USA is in the process to bring in a generator for remaining residents who are still without power and the city is assessing availability of funds to allocate towards relocation assistance and provide financial assistance. Discussion ensued.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Speaking before the Council were:

*Ebrahim Mirjalili, Lakewood resident*, spoke about diversity, equity and access. Mirjalili spoke about his history of moving to this country and becoming a dentist.

*Jazmin Smith, Lakewood resident*, spoke about global warming, the world being on fire and trees being cut down, specifically in Fort Steilacoom Park.

*Christina Manetti, Lakewood resident*, spoke about the Woodbrook fire and in support of the protection of Lakewood's environment and preservation of trees.

*Dennis Haugen, Sioux Falls resident*, spoke about school test scores, sanctuary states, illegal immigration and residential zoning standards.

*James Dunlop, Lakewood resident*, spoke about Edgewater Park and considering ways to reduce traffic and restrict use of public facilities in the area to small canoes or boats without motors.

*Leslie Galvez, Lakewood resident*, spoke about impacts from Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire and measures that could have been taken to prevent the tragedy.

**C O N S E N T   A G E N D A**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the City Council study session of July 10, 2023.
- B. Approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting of July 17, 2023.
- C. Approval of the minutes of the City Council study session of July 24, 2023.
- D. Approval of claims vouchers, in the amount of \$3,590,718.76, for the period of June 16, 2023 through July 18, 2023.
- E. Approval of payroll checks, in the amount of \$3,086,510.82, for the period of June 16, 2023 through July 15, 2023.
- F. Motion No. 2023-75  
  
Approving the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan.
- G. Motion No. 2023-76  
  
Appointing the 2023-2024 Youth Councilmembers.
- H. Items filed in the Office of the City Clerk:
  - 1. Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board meeting minutes of February 9, 2023.
  - 2. Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board meeting minutes of March 23, 2023.
  - 3. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes of April 25, 2023.
  - 4. Community Services Advisory Board meeting minutes of May 17, 2023.
  - 5. Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board meeting minutes of June 22, 2023.

DEPUTY MAYOR MOSS MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.  
SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BELLE. VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**R E G U L A R   A G E N D A**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

### Information Technology Plan Update.

Mehdi Sadri, Chief Information Officer shared that the City's information technology network has been rebuilt in 2023 with a focus on security, two-factor authentication has been installed on all network devices, audio and video upgrades have been installed in the Lakewood Municipal Court. He shared that Information Technology is focusing on a citywide computer replacement program, rental housing program software, and an asset management system. He shared that a roll out of Microsoft 365 will begin in 2024 as well an update to the Information Technology Strategic Plan.

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City Manager Caulfield shared that on July 25, 2023, the City was notified that the Metropolitan Development Council (MDC) has six Lakewood clients that are at risk of eviction because they did not submit a timely application for rental assistance and as a result had lost funding for these apartment units. It is recommended that the City Council provide MDC a one-time use of Lakewood's 1406 funds to provide this rental assistance for Lakewood clients.

He reported that last week he met with representatives to discuss Historic Fort Steilacoom. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the City agreed to support and pursue the ownership transfer of the four buildings and equipment such as the cannon to the City. A presentation will come forward for City Council discussion at a future meeting.

He shared that Tax Increment Financing may be a tool that could provide some benefit in assisting the City of Lakewood to finance capital improvements in the downtown area, specifically a downtown park. A presentation will come forward for City Council discussion followed by a presentation and proposed Resolution that will allow us to proceed further.

He then shared that Public Works Engineering representative met with the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to discuss the city's TIB grant submittals and the city issued 9 demolition permits for structures at Western State Hospital.

He then shared that a request for Proclamation has been received from Blue Star Families, requesting the City designate September 23, 2023 to October 1, 2023 as Blue Star Welcome Week and the proclamation will be presented at the September 18, 2023 regular meeting.

He requested that the City Council consider October 7th, October 14th or October 28th as the date for a City Council Legislative Retreat.

He then reported that Assistant City Manager Dave Bugher has announced his retirement effective February 29<sup>th</sup>.

He then announced the following upcoming meetings and events:

- August 8 to September 19, 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Farmers Market, Fort Steilacoom Park
- August 8 to August 29, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Summer Concerts, Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion
- August 12, 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Street Festival, Motor Avenue, Colonial Plaza
- August 19, noon to 5:00 P.M., 2023's End of Summer Celebration Event hosted by Springbrook Connections and Lakewood's Choice, Springbrook Park
- August 26, 10:00 A.M., Wall Raising for Dr. Claudia Thomas, Habitat for Humanity, 15210 Portland Ave SW

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Belle expressed condolences to those impacted by the Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire. Belle shared that last week she participated in National Night Out, the Youth Council Kick-Off Event and the Lakewood Arts Commission meeting this evening.

Councilmember Lauricella expressed condolences to those impacted by the Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire. He shared that he participated in National Night Out, complimented Lakewood Police Department for their speed patrol emphasis, spoke about considering distribution of MDC funds overtime and shared that the 112<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalks are progressing.

Councilmember Bocchi expressed condolences to those impacted by the Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire. He commented on the 112<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk improvements, National Night Out event and the success of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Washington State.

Councilmember Brandstetter complimented the effort put into National Night Out events and the success of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Washington State. He shared that donations are being accepted for Lakewood Lions Scholarship, he attended the South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership (SSHA<sup>3</sup>P) meeting and spoke about the representation of schools on Youth Council.

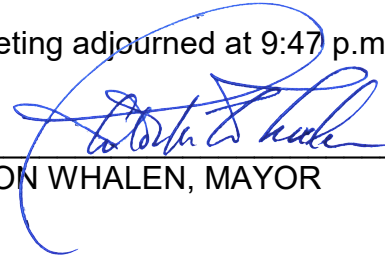
Councilmember Anderson shared that he attended the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board meeting, the Groundbreaking event for ballfields at Fort Steilacoom Park and a meeting with JBLM Garrison Commander.

Deputy Mayor Moss expressed condolences to those impacted by the Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire. She shared that she participated in National Night Out, Youth Council Kick-Off event and the Leaders of Change Presentation at Clover Park High School.

Mayor Whalen shared that he attended the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners meeting, the Groundbreaking event for ballfields at Fort Steilacoom Park, the Samoa Cultural Week dinner, Mayor Emeritus Bill Harrison's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Lakewold Gardens Dinner and Auction, Lakewood Library Story Time with Children, National Night Out and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lake City Community Church. He spoke about various transportation and sidewalk projects throughout the community and expressed condolences to those impacted by the Jamestown Mobile Home Park fire.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.



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JASON WHALEN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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BRIANA SCHUMACHER  
CITY CLERK