



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
City Hall – 1104 Maple Street
May 5, 2025 6:00 PM

The city conducted this public meeting using a hybrid model, in-person and on the Zoom platform.

Staff present: Wilson, Marquez, Ruth, Windish, Kosa, Moericke, Steffens, Naill, Palmer, Beagle, Raymond and Converse

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUMNER CITY COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAYDEN AT 6:00PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation Greg Neuert

Roll Call: Bitetto, Bowman, Clerget, Cole, Elfers, Kenna and Reinke

PROCLAMATION

1. Police Week and Peace Officer Memorial

Police Chief Moericke read the proclamation into the record. He introduced Sergeant Watson and Officer Boone. The Chief ended his comments by inviting the Council and the public to the Memorial Service on May 8, 2025. This event begins at 6pm at OURCHURCH, 5000 67th Avenue West; University Place, WA 98467.

2. Building Safety Month

Development Director Doug Beagle read the proclamation into the record and introduced Building Inspector George Naill.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY BOWMAN SECONDED BY BITETTO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF:

1. Meeting minutes from the regular council meetings of April 7 and April 21st, 2025 and the April 28, 2025 study session.
2. Approval of the check and electronic payments in the amount of \$9,428,999.85.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Partial Right-of-Way Vacation – 142nd Avenue East

Mayor Hayden opened the Public Hearing at 6:10pm.

Deputy City Attorney Doug Ruth spoke to the topic.

Council asked clarifying questions.

Susan Townsend 7015 142nd Avenue East, spoke to the Council. It is her property this Right-of-Way is affecting, and she is unable to sell her property.

With no other comments from the public of the Council, Mayor Hayden closed the Hearing at 6:24pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Unfinished Business

2. Public Comment

John Gamon, 514 Chervenka Avenue. Spoke about the Ryan House.

Randall Adams, 15013 63rd Street Court East. Spoke about the Ryan House

Julie Norris, 514 Chervenka Avenue. Spoke about the Ryan House.

3. New Business

4. Reports

a. Council

Councilmember Bitetto expressed her appreciation to the Police Department and the Building Official, acknowledging the vital roles they play in our community. She attended the graduation ceremony for the City's newest police officer, Officer Leighton, along with a group of others. Councilmember Bitetto concluded her remarks by inviting residents who are not yet members of the YMCA to take advantage of their free Fitness Fest, running from May 12–18, 2025.

Deputy Mayor Bowman echoed Councilmember Bitetto's comments regarding the Police Department. She attended the Coalition for Families on Thursday, April 24, 2025, describing it as a powerful group of volunteers dedicated to supporting individuals and families in need within the community. She encouraged anyone with a free Thursday afternoon to consider attending these meetings. Deputy Mayor Bowman also participated in several other meetings, including the Master Builders Association Breakfast, a meeting with the Sumner Main Street Association, and noted that she will be attending the Pierce County Economic Development Board of Directors meeting in the near future.

Councilmember Clerget thanked the Police Officers and Building Officials.

Councilmember Cole had the pleasure of attending Sumner High School's production of *The Addams Family Musical*. She praised the performance, noting that everything—from the sets and costumes to the performers—was top-notch. She commended the students for their talent and hard work. Sumner High School presents two productions each year—one in the fall and one in the spring. Councilmember Cole shared her excitement and said she can't wait for the upcoming fall production.

Councilmember Elfers thanked the public for speaking at the meeting. He will be attending the Pierce County Prayer Breakfast, on May 8 at 6am at the Washington State Fair Grounds.

Councilmember Kenna echoed the appreciation for City staff expressed by his fellow Councilmembers. He shared a personal story about one of his first interactions with the Police Department, recalling a moment when his toddler became stuck in a chair at a local café. An officer happened to be there and diffused the situation, helping to free his daughter. He acknowledged the evolving nature of police work, especially with the increasing role of technology, and commended the department for being nimble and adaptive in their efforts to keep the community safe.

Councilmember Reinke had no comment tonight.

b. City Administrator

City Administrator Jason Wilson shared the following:

Upcoming Policy Issues:

- May 12, 2025 – Study Session
 - Sumner Municipal Court Update
 - Vehicle Miles Traveled / Green House Gas reduction plan
 - Senior Center Contract Amendment
- May 19, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting
 - Presentation from SSHAP Capital Fund
 - Proclamation National Public Works Week
 - Consultant Contract Award Safe Built
 - Senior Center Contract Amendment
 - PSE Agreement for Operations Facility Power Service
 - PSE Agreement for 29th St E Street Lighting
 - Phase 2 Cemetery Irrigation Improvements - Construction Contract Award
 - Heritage Park Remediation - Consultant Services Amendment
 - PSE Conservation Grant Agreement Years 4-6
 - Resolution – Setting Public Hearing for the Surplus of Bill Heath Sports Complex Property

Personnel Issues:

- The City hired a new Wastewater Treatment Superintendent, and two new operators. The superintendent replaces Ron Basinger who retired from the City after 21 years of service. The new superintendent, Jeremy Carnahan, comes to us from Pierce County and will start at the end of the month. The two new operators, Matthew Evans and Luke Nedney come from Orting and Puyallup respectively. With these three new hires, the wastewater treatment plant is now fully staffed.

c. Mayor

Mayor Hayden announced the downtown business will be holding a sidewalk sale on May 17, 2025. Please be sure to shop local and show our support to the independent stores and restaurants.

At 6:47pm, Mayor Hayden adjourned the regular meeting into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing with legal counsel pending or threatened litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a period of 15 minutes, there will be no action to follow.

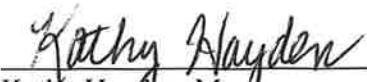
5. Executive Session

Beginning at 6:55 until 7:10pm, it was extended once for 10 minutes.

6. Adjournment

With no additional business before the council, Mayor Hayden adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm. Councilmembers concurred.

ATTEST:


Kathy Hayden, Mayor


Michelle Converse, CMC, City Clerk

Thank you for speaking for 35 minutes last Council Meeting and letting us know what the logic behind your thoughts regarding the Ryan House are. Let me openly state that at no time have I ever believed or stated that you are a group of heartless people.

I could stand here for 35 minutes too & dissect what I believe are the numerous inaccuracies in your statements & beliefs to try and set the record straight, yet I will address only a few of them. 1) By acknowledging that the city has not complied with the Deeds, the property reverts back to the heirs (This is the only way for the city to justify its previous offer to Nancy Ryan Dressel) & that factual basis still remains, noncompliance with the deed is why the ~~deed~~ ^{PROPERTY} can be transferred: 2) As to why Nancy Ryan Dressel did not accept the city's quick offer to take back the Ryan House shortly after the first lawsuit was filed, I ask why would she be expected to do so knowing the city had 1.5M in grants in hand at that time w/another 400K already approved by the state legislature? I instead ask you why didn't you use the 1.9M that was available? Its all about the money isn't it! Evidently not when you have the money: 3) The Ryan heirs are the only ones that have a right to that property, no other group does: 4) Regarding processes, they do matter. You have already been determined to have acted illegally and agreed to pay a penalty for not following your 2023 Comp Plan. Process matter. You continue to violate the Court's Order by following 1663 despite being told: "The GMA precludes the city from pursuing activities that do not conform with its Comprehensive Plan.". 1663 was approved during the 2023 Comp Plan and therefore was a budgetary decision that was not consistent with that Comp Plan & is not allowed. You need to remove 1663, by whatever action you follow to do so, in order for your process to comply with the Court Order. Process Matters.

Contrary to the city telling you the sky is falling regarding the Ryan House in their best chicken little impersonation, the lawsuit is 1) Mainly about the city's decision to not do an Environmental Impact Study. Your own SEPA questionnaire states that the Ryan House has been designated on the National Historic Registry, yet you self-conclude there is no historic significance to that. Please revisit the settlement from the original lawsuit, it states you must have an Environmental Impact Study in place so you can't skip that step. Process matters. 2) City statute requires you to have a Sumner Historic Preservation Commission, which you do not have. Therefore, you must either go through the process of initiating the Commission to hear the application made in front of the Council for the Ryan House to be added or not by that commission to the Sumner Historical Register OR you must change your city statute & go through that process of removing that commission. Process matters.