



CITY OF
SUMNER
WASHINGTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
City Hall – 1104 Maple Street
March 6, 2023 6:00 PM

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

Staff present: City Administrator Jason Wilson, City Attorney Andrea Marquez, Development Services Director Doug Beagle, Economic & Community Development Director Ryan Windish, Public Works Director Mike Dahlem, Police Chief Brad Moericke, Administrative Services Director Jeff Steffens, Community Services Manager Derek Barry, Associate Planner Scott Waller and City Clerk Michelle 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

Roll Call: Bitetto, Brown, Cole, Hochstatter, Neuman, Reed and Stuard

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY HOCHSTATTER SECONDED BY NEUMAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF:

1. Resolution No. 1654 – Interlocal Agreement for Inmate Housing SCORE
2. Approval of the council minutes from the regular council minutes of February 21, 2023 and February 27, 2023.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing tonight.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business tonight.

2. Public Comment

Maren Clifton addressed the Council regarding her cat and the Sumner Animal Code, “Animals at Large”. (Ms. Clifton’s emailed her comments and those are attached)

3. New Business

a. Design Commission Reappointment (Cheryl Ebsworth)

MOVED BY NEUMAN, SECONDED BY HOCHSTATTER TO REAPPOINT CHERYL EBSWORTH TO THE DESIGN COMMISSION FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

Associate Planner Scott Waller addressed the Council.

Ms. Ebsworth addressed the Council and thanked them to for the opportunity.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

b. Design Commission Reappointment (Brian Franchini)

MOVED BY BROWN, SECONDED BY HOCHSTATTER TO REAPPOINT BRIAN FRANCHINI TO THE DESIGN COMMISSION FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

Associate Planner Scott Waller addressed the Council.

Mr. Franchini addressed the Council.

Council thanked both Commissioners for their service.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

c. Civil Service Commission Reappointment (Brian Anderson)

MOVED BY BITETTO, SECONDED BY NEUMAN TO REAPPOINT BRIAN ANDERSON TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM ON THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Administrative Services Director Jeff Steffens addressed the council.

Mr. Anderson also thanked the Council for the privilege of serving on the Commission.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

d. Ordinance No. 2850 – Updating Sumner Municipal Code 8.04 Cemetery

MOVED BY COLE, SECONDED BY NEUMAN TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2850, REVISING SECTION 8.04 OF THE SUMNER MUNICIPAL CODE SUBSTANTIALLY IN A FORM AS APPROVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.

Community Services Manager Derek Barry addressed the Council.

Discussion ensued.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

e. Resolution No. 1655 – Formation of a Library Capital Facilities Area

MOVED BY HOCHSTATTER SECONDED BY NEUMAN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1655 – CREATING A SUMNER LIBRARY CAPITAL FACILITIES AREA AS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A AND EXHIBIT B IN A FORM AS APPROVED TO BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.

City Administrator Jason Wilson addressed the Council.

Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Library System's Executive Director assisted Mr. Wilson in addressing questions from the Council.

Discussion ensued.

COUNCILMEMBER REED MADE AN AMENDMENT TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED LCFA TO INCLUDE PIERCE COUNTY ELECTION PRECINCTS 31-880, 31-810, 31-889, 25-381 AND 25-87 AND REQUEST THAT EXHIBITS A AND B BE UPDATED ACCORDINGLY.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER STUARD.

Before discussion began, Mr. Wilson made a clarification on precinct number 25-87, it should read 25-871.

COUNCILMEMBER REED CLARIFIED HIS AMENDMENT WITH THE CORRECTED PRECINCT NUMBER.

Discussion ensued.

DEPUTY MAYOR HOCHSTATTER CALLED FOR A POINT OF ORDER COUNCILMEMBER NEUMAN SECONDED.

THE COUNCIL THEN VOTED ON THE AMENDMENT MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER REED. AMENDMENT FAILED 3-4. COUNCILMEMBERS BROWN, REED AND STUARD VOTING YAY AND DEPUTY MAYOR HOCHSTATTER, AND COUNCILMEMBERS NEUMAN, BITETTO AND COLE VOTING NO.

SINCE THE AMENDMENT FAILED, AND THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MAYOR THEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION.

PASSED 6-1 BY ROLE CALL VOTE WITH COUNCILMEMBER REED VOTING NO.

4. Reports

a. Council

Councilmembers Brown, Stuard, Neuman, Cole and Deputy Mayor Hochstatter had no comments tonight.

Councilmember Bitetto reported an unfortunate incident that happened at one of the City's hotels over the weekend. It was the theft of a vehicle which happens all too often.

Councilmember Reed thanked the Commissioners for their service – he started out on the Design Commission, so you never know where it might take you.

b. City Administrator

City Administrator Jason Wilson shared the following:

Upcoming Policy Issues:

- March 13, 2023 – Study Session
 - Dig Once Ordinance and Fiber Plan Update
 - 2022 Financial Report
- March 20, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting
 - Public Hearing regarding 24th St. E. Partial Right of Way Vacation
 - Stewart Road Bridge PSE Agreement
 - Resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for changes to the Police Tactical Response Team
 - Main & Wood Intersection Improvements - Consultant Agreement Supplement
 - Town Center Utility Woonerf Project Consultant Agreement Supplement
 - Cultural Arts Commission Appointment (Nolan Bailey)
 - Two Cultural Arts Commission Reappointments (Donna Hardtke, Ben Haines)
 - Parks & Forestry Commission Reappointment (Ben Bridges)
 - Ordinance declaring Real Property South of 24th Street as surplus
 - Ordinance Approving Franchise Agreement with Fatbeam
 - Ordinance Vacating a Portion of 24th St. E. Right of Way
 - Ordinance Amending the 2023-24 Budget for Quarter

Commission Updates:

The Planning Commission completed their review of proposed changes to small subdivisions and pipestem lot code. These were priorities identified in the Housing Action Plan. Council will be reviewing the proposed changes on March 27th.

Policy Follow-Up:

- Last year Council approved a master settlement agreement that set forth the groundwork for future Opioid Settlements with manufacturers, distributors and resellers. The city is anticipated to receive approximately \$200,000 over the next 20 years. The master agreement restricts how funds can be used and encourages regional partnerships. The Mayor and staff are beginning discussions with regional partners including neighboring cities, Pierce County and the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department on the best use of these funds.

Miscellaneous:

- Well City Award: The City received its WellCity Status through AWC. Sumner is one of 112 cities that received recognition this year. The AWC Employee Benefit Trust's WellCity program recognizes members that achieve quality standards in employee health promotion. Importantly this designation entitles the City to a 2% premium savings on employee medical costs. I want to thank the entire wellness committee for championing this effort and a special thank you to Legal Coordinator Noel Clark for tracking all of our efforts and submitting the application.

c. Mayor

Mayor Hayden invited the public to a Town Hall meeting in the Council Chambers on Saturday, March 11th, at 2pm, where you can meet your state legislators Rep Drew Stokebary and Rep Eric Robertson.

5. Executive Session

There was no one tonight.

6. Adjournment

With no additional business before the council, Mayor Hayden adjourned the meeting at 6:34pm. Councilmembers concurred.

ATTEST:

Michelle Converse, CMC City Clerk

Kathy Hayden, Mayor

My name is Maren Clifton, this is my husband Kyle and our daughter, Freya.

I was born and raised in Sumner, graduated class of 2003, lived in Tacoma while Kyle was stationed at JBLM, and move back in 2018.

For the entirety of my experience in Sumner, cats getting some time outdoors has always been a cultural norm. Take a walk around any block on a sunny afternoon, and you'll see that it's still a cultural norm.

When our municipal code was written, I don't believe it was trying to suddenly change that cultural norm with a broad definition "Animals At Large." In fact, it appears to be a copy/paste of Tacoma's Code, and I know that that's not their intention, because they explicitly call out that cats are exempt from their leash laws on their complaint page.

Our ask this evening, is that Sumner simply mirror the same language to explicitly exempt cats from the leash law, and not designate a cat "At Large" for walking across a driveway past a Ring doorbell.

I'd like to provide some context for this ask.

For the past 2 years, we have endured ongoing harassment from a disgruntled neighbor. Not because she's seen our cats out, but because she has a misguided belief that ours are the only cats in the neighborhood, and she's become increasingly hostile about us "lying" when we've informed her when the videos and texts she sent are about other cats.

She has made numerous complaints to Metro Animal Services. And submitted 6 videos; four of which are decidedly NOT our cats. The 5th is hard to tell and frankly, I don't remember if he got out on February 7th.

It's bad enough to endure her angry texts and vague threats, her yelling at my husband, bringing our child to tears. But Metro Animal Services has been complicit and even a party to her harassment. In fact, an Animal Control Officer went so far as to warn her that I might throw poisoned hot dogs over her fence to kill her dogs. Pam threatened a restraining order and the Sumner Police came to MY door.

Our neighbor has a misplaced vendetta against us. And it seems Metro Animal Services does too. We did a public records request and found—exempting specific incidents and irresponsible animal husbandry—there were 56 records of "information only"—the 4 calls against us are the ONLY "Enforcement" for a cat AT LARGE.

But that's a small data set, so we asked Tacoma for their records as well. In more that 2600 calls to Metro Animal Services across Sumner and Tacoma, we are the ONLY infraction for a cat outdoors that was issued a \$513 ticket. We've been amenable to requests and have—for the most part—tried to keep our cats indoors for the past two years. But cats do get out sometimes. And frankly, I think it's good for them when they do. Moreover, keeping my cats inside doesn't stop other neighborhood cats from walking past her doorbell. And I shouldn't have to take the blame.

I would like the harassment to stop. I would like to not stress that a cat will get out and make us late for school. I would like cats off leash to remain a cultural norm.

Luckily, the fix is easy. Please, mirror the language used on Tacoma's site, and direct Metro Animal Services to stand down.

Thank you.