



On June 30th, Governor Inslee issued his “Washington Ready” guidelines, effectively re-opening the State of Washington and removing most of the Covid-19 restrictions. The City has been working hard to upgrade both the layout and technology in the City Council chambers and meeting rooms, to accommodate both in-person and remote attendance. The Finance & Personnel Committee was held virtually via Zoom. The public was invited to attend the meeting virtually or telephonically using the call-in instructions in the published agenda.

Members Present: Kathy Hayden, Cindi Hochstatter, Patrick Reed (Chair)

Staff Present: City Administrator Jason Wilson (CA), Administrative Services Director (ASD) Jeff Steffens, and Community Development Director Ryan Windish (CDD)

The meeting convened at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom by Councilmember Reed.

Committee Business

Pierce County Business Accelerator: Pierce County Economic Development Director Betty Capestany presented on the Pierce County Business Accelerator Program. The program is open to small or start up businesses located throughout the county. The focus is on BIPOC, rural, women or veteran owned businesses. The program provides mentorship on business management skills, connection with financing opportunities, and direct support for rent and associated start up costs. The City could partner with the county to help entice businesses to locate in Sumner.

Betty also discussed several other County ran programs to support businesses. She indicated which ones were limited to unincorporated versus open to all.

This was information only and there was no further action requested by the committee at this time.

Coworking Study: CCD Windish provided the committee with information on coworking spaces including office, makers spaces and cooperative kitchens. Coworking spaces provide opportunities for small businesses or work from home employees the opportunity to have a brick-and-mortar location. They can be useful for transitioning from home-based businesses as they scale up. CCD Windish has been in discussion with the City of Puyallup and a coworking consultant on a possible study to see if the area is in need of such services.

The Committee had several questions regarding ongoing costs of operating and what the business model would look like. These concerns would be answered as part of the study. The scope is currently lacking sufficient detail and would require an RFQ to select a consultant.

The Committee was interested in the idea; however, this was information only and there was no further action requested by the Committee at this time. CCD Windish will continue to work with the City of Puyallup to determine their interest and bring back to the Committee if and when an RFQ is ready.

Pierce County Collaboration Projects: CA Wilson provided the Committee with one-page summaries of the joint ARPA asks of Pierce County. Wilson will be meeting with the Pierce County ARPA budget manager to discuss the process and will also be sharing the asks with Pierce County Councilmember Zeiger. The committee was supportive of the asks.

Utility Assistance Program Overview: ASD Steffens reviewed our current utility arrearages and what the city has been doing to refer customers for assistance. Steffens also reviewed the process for bringing accounts current after the shutoff moratorium expires.

ARPA Fund Future Allocations: ASD Steffens discussed a new potential ARPA project for funding. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) does not have the capability of operating in a hybrid or remote environment. The proposal would be to add cameras, microphones, and replace outdated technology to allow for remote or hybrid EOC attendance. The technology could also be used to facilitate hybrid police in service training—protecting the health of our officers by limiting interaction between patrol teams. The estimated cost is \$70,000.

The Committee was supportive of this ask and recommended that it be included in the next funding allocation.

With no further items, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Prepared by City Administrator Jason Wilson