

CITY OF LYNNWOOD
CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2021

1
2
3 10. CALL TO ORDER - The March 8, 2021 Business Meeting of the Lynnwood City Council,
4 held via Zoom, was called to order by Mayor Smith at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

5
6 20. ROLL CALL

Mayor & Council:

Mayor Nicola Smith
Council President George Hurst
Council Vice President Jim Smith
Councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby
Councilmember Ian Cotton
Councilmember Christine Frizzell
Councilmember Ruth Ross
Councilmember Shannon Sessions

Asst. City Administrator Art Ceniza
Interim City Clerk Karen Fitzthum
City Attorney Rosemary Larson
Executive Assistant Lisa Harrison

Others Attending:

Corbitt Loch, Acting Finance Director
Jim Nelson, Police Chief
Chuck Steichen, Deputy Police Chief
Robert Mathias, Building Official
Connie Galer, Police Department

Guests:

Chris Collier, AHA
Steven Amano, PFM
Thomas Toepfer, PFM
Stacie Amasaki, Foster Garvey
Nancy Neraas, Foster Garvey

7
8
9 30. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1:52)

10 *Motion made by Council Member Sessions, seconded by Councilmember Cotton, to approve*
11 *the minutes of:*

12 *A. February 16, 2021 Work Session Minutes*

13 *B. February 17, 2021 Work Session Minutes*

14 *C. February 20, 2021 Special Work Session Minutes (Council Summit)*

15 *D. February 22, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes*

16 *The above minutes were approved as written unanimously.*

17
18 40. MESSAGES AND PAPERS FROM THE MAYOR (2:31)

19 Mayor Smith stated that Snohomish County cases of Covid-19 are finally trending down,
20 with less than 100 cases/1,000. A fifth mass vaccination center has opened at the Angel of
21 the Winds stadium in Everett. She recommends residents check with their primary care
22 physician or pharmacy first or go on to the Snohomish County web site.

23
24 50. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS (5:27)

25 The following individuals made comments via Zoom:

- 26 • Elizabeth Lunsford, Lynnwood 98037
 - 27 • Ted Hikel, Lynnwood 98036
- 28

29 60. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

30 None

31

32 70. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (12:21)

33 A written statement from Assistant City Administrator Art Ceniza was read aloud and shall be
34 entered into the records (Exhibit A attached).

35

36 80. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (17:14)

37 Each council member had the opportunity to make comments about happenings around the
38 city. Council member Cotton spoke to the reasons why the Community Justice Center is an
39 important investment for the future and the benefits of this new development.

40 90. BUSINESS ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS

41 90.1 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA (35:02)

42 *Items listed below were distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and were*
43 *enacted with one motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

44 *Council Member Cotton moved for unanimous consent of the following items:*

45 *A. Authorize the Mayor to execute a construction service contract with Permabilt*
46 *Industries in the amount of \$223,587.91.*

47 *B. Authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute on behalf of the City, a supplement*
48 *to the contract with RH2 Engineering Inc. for construction engineering support*
49 *services not to exceed a total contract value of \$621,900.*

50 *C. Voucher Approval*

51 *1. Approve claims in the amount of 2,468,860.52 for the period 2/13/16/2021 -*
52 *2/26/2021.*

53 *2. Approve payroll in the amount of \$1,147,262.27 dated 2/26/2021.*

54

55 90.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

56 None

57 90.3 OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (37:18)

58 A. Presentation: Snohomish County Housing Update

59 Council President Hurst introduced Chris Collier of the Housing Affordability
60 Alliance, who shared an update on the current housing affordability issues in
61 Snohomish County as well as recommendations for the future. Council members
62 participated in a round robin of questions and comments.

63

64 B. Discussion- Community Justice Center Financing (1:31:00)

65 Acting Finance Director Loch introduced the teams from PFM and Piper-Sandler
66 who shared analysis of the city's current financing situation with respect to funding
67 the \$60M development of the Community Justice Center. The bond will be
68 presented for approval by the council on March 22, 2021.

69

70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94

C. Resolution - Confirmation of Emergency Declaration - Utility Billing Special Rate
Deadline Waiver (1:57:00)

A motion was made by Council Member Cotton, seconded by Council Member Frizzell, to adopt resolution #21-04, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, RATIFYING, CONFIRMING AND ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS STATED IN THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY – CITY OF LYNNWOOD COVID-19 RESPONSE DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken. The resolution was passed unanimously.

100. NEW BUSINESS (2:05:00)

A brief discussion was had about next steps on the Race and Social Justice position. It was recommended by the attorney that any discussions requesting legal counsel be conducted in executive session.

110. ADJOURNMENT (2:19:00)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Nicola Smith

Nicola Smith (Mar 23, 2021 17:26 PDT)

Nicola Smith, Mayor

EXHIBIT A- Written Communications

95 March 8, 2021

96

97 To: Karen Fitzthum, City Clerk

98 From: Art Ceniza, Assistant City Administrator

99 CC: Mayor Smith, Councilmembers

100 Subject: Message to be Read at Council Business Meeting, March 8, 2021

101

102 Comments on Race and Social Justice Coordinator Position

103 I respectfully request that at the Council's Business Meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021, under
104 Written Communications, that the following comments on the Council motion related to the
105 hiring of the Race and Social Justice coordinator position be read into the record.

106 These comments were shared at the Mayor's weekly meeting with Council President and Vice
107 President on Tuesday, February 23, 2021:

108 On November 23, 2020 the Council voted to adopt the 2021-2022 budget for the City of
109 Lynnwood. Included in the budget was the approval and funding for a Race and Social Justice
110 Coordinator position or RSJ for short. Given the current racial and social tension in the country
111 the RSJ coordinator position is urgently needed and in alignment with Council Resolution 2017-
112 03 that reaffirms the city's commitment to be a safe, welcoming and equitable community for
113 all.

114 The position is supported by the city's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, the city's
115 Racial Equity Advancing Lynnwood team and the city's Lynnwood Employees Embracing
116 Diversity Committee.

117 Since the adoption of the budget, the Council passed two motions to delay filling the position.

118 The first motion was passed on November 23, 2020 and reads "to delay the hiring of the Race
119 and Social Justice Coordinator until further research is done in 2021"

120 To comply with that motion, further information was provided to Council via a presentation by
121 staff and consultants at a Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Council was also
122 asked by staff for input on outcome measures and what success for the position looked like.

123 After the presentation and good discussion between Council and staff, it appeared that a
124 majority of the Council felt the intent of the motion was satisfied and that the Executive should
125 move forward to begin the process to advertise and fill the position

126 However, at a Council Business meeting on Monday, February 22, the Council passed by a 4-3
127 vote a second motion to further delay filling the RSJ position that said “the hiring of the Social
128 Justice Coordinator be delayed until outcome measures, based on the budgeting for outcomes
129 model, be defined for this position and the results of the Lynnwood Community Equity Survey
130 be presented to the City Council for deliberation”

131 As a member of the city’s employee diversity committee, I was very disappointed in the
132 Council’s motion to further delay filling the RSJ position and expressed my concerns to Council
133 leadership at our weekly meeting with them the following morning. I was also concerned that
134 the Council was getting too far into the weeds on the details of filling a coordinator position
135 which the RSJ position is. Council hasn’t done this on any other position I am aware of.

136 However, my primary concern is that the vote to delay may send a wrong message. That
137 addressing the race and social justice issue is not an urgent priority of the city. And It gives the
138 impression of the city dragging its feet on addressing an important social issue. The effect of
139 the motion also means that the position may not be filled til the second half 2021 resulting in a
140 significant delay in starting the important work that must be done by this position.

141 While I recognize and respect the role of the Council to make policy and budget decisions, my
142 hope is that Council also recognizes and appreciate the role of the Mayor to implement those
143 policy and budget decisions. In this case, the Council made the policy and budget decision to
144 hire an RSJ Coordinator. And now , it should fall on the Mayor to do just that without delay.

145 I believe that the development of outcome measures and conduct of the community equity
146 survey can be done simultaneously with the hiring of the RSJ position.

147 Finally, I want to thank you Council for allowing my comments to be read tonight.