

**Snohomish City Council Workshop Minutes
January 2, 2018**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council workshop to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2018, in the Snohomish School District Resource Service Center, George Gilbertson Boardroom, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, Washington.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Countryman
Steve Dana
Karen Guzak
John Kartak, Mayor
Tom Merrill
Linda Redmon
Jason Sanders
Lynn Schilaty

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Adams, HR Manager/City Clerk
Debbie Burton, Finance Director
Glen Pickus, Planning Director
Steve Schuller, Interim City Administrator
Grant Weed, City Attorney

2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. Representative Mark Harmsworth, 44th State Legislative District Update

Mayor Kartak introduced Representative Mark Harmsworth. Representative Harmsworth stated the workshop serves as an opportunity for the Council to communicate important priorities from the City's perspective and provide direction to him on what he may be able to assist the City in achieving during 2018.

Councilmember Guzak mentioned the Carnegie building project and noted the City is asking for state funding in the amount of \$1.9 million. This will be beautiful addition to the City's downtown. She is happy to have state support.

Councilmember Dana commented on regional transportation and infrastructure issues. He noted the Burlington Northern Railroad's rail line along the water front and related landslides creates closures for both passenger and freight. He asked about alternative rail routes in East County in order to carry the rail load up from King County. He asked for thoughts related to a regional proposal to create a second rail line as a fall back for the main line.

Councilmember Dana also discussed capital projects related to the Hwy 9 Bridge across the river and the Bickford Avenue across Hwy 9. He would like to review these projects with the state in the future.

Representative Harmsworth is supportive of discussing these projects.

Councilmember Merrill commented there will be a state related study to help address Second Street configuration and traffic congestion through town.

Councilmember Guzak commented draft plans are currently available related to this study.

Mr. Schuller explained the Second Street study will be brought to Council at an upcoming meeting by the engineering team. The study was a \$323,000 grant. The City had to provide \$2,000. The grant was through Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The focus was on Second Street which was designed as freeway. There are a lot of issues with pedestrian crossings. The study reviews the entire corridor within the City limits and how it can be improved related to pedestrian safety, businesses and capacity.

Councilmember Guzak noted there will also be aesthetic improvements related to compatibility within the Historic Downtown.

Councilmember Sanders commented Hwy 2 and Hwy 9 are becoming increasingly congested. The City needs to work regionally on addressing these problems. He also spoke to Avenue D congestion. Transportation concerns are major issues.

Councilmember Dana commented when looking at transportation issues, the state should re-consider the study from many years ago related to installing an exit off of Hwy 2 on to Three Lakes Road. This would help mitigate traffic flow through Snohomish. The City will need to look at creative ways to solve these problems.

Mr. Schuller asked when the State would begin to have discussions about another transportation package.

Representative Harmsworth indicated it would be another ten to fifteen years. Transportation is changing so rapidly. He referenced ride shares (Uber) and driverless vehicles, which may result in a major shift in how these issues are handled.

Councilmember Dana believes it's not too soon to get the discussion started.

Councilmember Dana inquired about state statutes regulating how opioid injection sites are managed. There needs to be leadership from the state in these matters to create common standards.

Representative Harmsworth is not aware of any state statutes at this time.

Councilmember Merrill asked how the state can help with addiction and homelessness. The problem in our state is bigger than safe injection sites.

Representative Harmsworth noted the City can also adopt local policies surrounding these public health issues.

Councilmember Guzak noted the City partners with Snohomish County to help with homelessness and addiction.

Attorney Weed noted there are an array of different ordinances on the books to help address some of these issues, such as public nuisance, trespass and public disturbance, but none of these ordinances deal directly with homelessness.

Councilmember Redmon noted there are not a lot of resources available in town.

Mayor Kartak has seen an outreach aspect with the Snohomish County Office of Neighborhoods Unit. They are available and do come into the City to assist and provide resources to the homeless population. However, police cannot be the only solution.

Councilmember Sanders commented it will take a number of resources coming together to address these complicated regional issues.

Councilmember Guzak mentioned that Everett is taking the lead in addressing the homelessness problem and has implemented a program called "Housing First." The program offers affordable housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, and then provides services and connections to community-based support to help keep people from returning to homelessness. The City of Snohomish partners with Snohomish County and the Alliance for Housing Affordability (AHA). Housing for low income people and homelessness is a regional problem.

Mayor Kartak commented that Everett and Granite Falls have a Family Center, which is an organizational center where community services are offered and coordinated so there are no overlaps or gaps.

Councilmember Schilaty is interested to know what the state is doing to urge the medical community to review their prescribing methods and implement a regional database to help control doctor shopping for pain killers.

Representative Harmsworth noted the state is reviewing current statutes related to the prescribing of opiates.

Councilmembers further discussed with Representative Harmsworth additional issues of regional concern related to transportation, homelessness and addiction.

Ms. Burton appreciates what Representative Harmsworth has done to assist in funding statewide tourism.

b. Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Public Records Act (PRA) Highlights

City Attorney Weed stated he would like to focus on the main aspects of the OPMA and PRA. He understands most Councilmembers have already completed the

required comprehensive training. This time has been scheduled to allow Councilmembers to have questions answered and to provide additional emphasis on important issues related to the OPMA and PRA.

3. **ADJOURN** at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED this 16th day of January 2018

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John Kartak, Mayor

Pat Adams, City Clerk