

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, November 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
In-Person & Zoom Online Meeting
MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Sid Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Schmitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

City Clerk Lisa Sokolik called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Dani Gaumond, Marcus Metz, Darren Robb, Tim Pearce, Steve Shepro, Andreena Bergman, and Tim Schmitt. The meeting was quorate.

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Finance Director David Hammond, Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen, Sgt. Karl Gilje, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, Economic Development and Marketing Manager Sarah Cho, Assistant to the Administrator/Communication Manager Krista Hintz, City Clerk Lisa Sokolik and Utility Supervisor Leigh Danielson attended via Zoom.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Robb to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation - None

5. Public Comments

The Clerk did not receive written comments or requests to verbally address the Mayor and City Council. Written comments must be provided to the Clerk by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Verbal comments may be provided by attending the meeting in person or via Zoom.

6. Staff / Department Reports - None

7. Council Committee Reports

- a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2022
- b. Planning Commission Public Hearing Minutes – September 19, 2022
- c. Planning Commission & Community Development Committee Joint Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2022

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Vouchers and Payroll Checks.
- b. Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2022.
- c. Approve City Council Special Workshop Minutes – November 3, 2022

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Shepro to approve the consent agenda items A - C. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business

Second Reading and Adoption, Resolution 2022-16, 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (Update CIP)

Hushagen said that Council has reviewed and discussed the proposed CIP several times. He asked Council if they had any questions before their vote on whether to adopt Resolution 2022-16, 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan.

Council had no questions.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Gaumond to approve the second reading and adoption of Resolution 2022-16 Six Year Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2028

Roll call of votes was taken.

<i>Councilmember Schmitt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Gaumond</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Metz</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Robb</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Pearce</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Shepro</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Bergman</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Public Hearing

a. Revenue Sources and 2023 Property Tax Levy

Hammond said that Council has been discussing the 2023-2024 budget since May. There is no new information on the economy. They are still forecasting and expecting a recession; therefore, the proposed budget is maintaining a conservative forecast for all revenue streams.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Shoaleh Colombi Stanwood, WA	Against the property tax levy and asking Council to consider other ways to raise revenue.
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With no other comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Council questions and comments:

- Total property tax is 9%, if the 9% equals on the average \$617 that would mean the average home would have a \$6,855 property tax, that sounds high, is it correct?

Hammond said the table in the packet is Snohomish County's published numbers, one reason to explain why it is high is the school district has a voted excess levy.

- Does the \$617 represent what a typical Stanwood property owner pays to the City of Stanwood for one year? Hammond said yes.
- Is it correct that one of the three options presented in the staff report would only raise the property tax bill \$6.00 per year (from \$617 to \$623)? Hammond said yes with the 1% levy increase.
- With the proposed 1% tax increase, how much will it raise the average homeowner's taxes per year? Hammond said \$11.61, 1.9% more than last year.
- The bulk of property tax goes to the schools, fire, and county. The city gets a very small portion of the tax. The city is showing the citizens where their tax dollars are going with the Capital Improvement Plan and that we are being good stewards of their money.
- Considering how much city expenses are increasing and how revenue sources are decreasing, if we can keep things managed well with just a 1% tax increase, it will show that we are being responsible managers of the finances.
- No one likes property taxes, but with the needs of the city, the 1% increase is the least bad option.
- If a future event comes up and we needed to raise money, we could levy bank capacity and that would cause taxes to go up.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Metz to approve the first and second reading of ordinance 1508 levying taxes upon all property subject to taxation within the corporate limits of the City of Stanwood, Washington for 2023, with one percent levy increase from 2022.

Roll call of votes was taken.

<i>Councilmember Schmitt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Gaumont</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Metz</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Robb</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Pearce</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Shepro</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Bergman</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Preliminary 2023-2024 Biennial Budget

Director Hammond discussed the first reading of the preliminary 2023-2024 budget, if approved, the second reading and adoption will be on December 8th.

City Council and Resident Priorities from the 2021 survey:

- Build Safe Streets
- Water and Sewer Systems
- Drainage and Flood Protection

- City Beautification
- Support a Sustainable Local Economy
- Enhance parks and Recreation
- Public Engagement Opportunity

Major Initiatives in the 2023-2024 Budget:

- Major Updates to the Utility System Plans
- Over \$4 million in Park Development Projects
- Nearly \$5 million in Street Improvements
- \$890,000 for Police Station and City Hall remodeling
- \$6 million to Repair the Skagit Bay Dike
- \$3.8 million for Phases Two and Five of the Irvine Slough drainage improvement project.
- \$6 million for Design and Construction of Bioprocessing Capability at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Coordinate and work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on options to join the Community Rating System
- Complete rewrite of the Stanwood Municipal Code
- Develop a long-term strategic plan
- Continue initiative to transition to paperless work environments
- Continue work with WSDOT on SR532 Intersection Improvements
- Continue pursuing long-term water source options

Key items for next year:

- Sheriff's contract will be negotiated for a longer term; it was a 9% increase in 2022.
- Leaving Senior Planner and City Engineer positions unfilled.
- Still negotiating with the collective bargaining unit, this budget does not include employee pay increases, so a budget amendment maybe needed or make some decisions on some of the big-ticket items.
- Big picture: balanced biennium budget, public safety contract, collective bargaining contract, inflation on our utilities and supplies for our water and wastewater plants.

Director Love gave a brief overview of the Community Development and Economic Development departments. The budget highlights for these two departments:

- Operating expenses are similar to the 2021-2022 budget; did lower some line items.
- Major expenses are the Comprehensive Plan Update and the Housing Action Plan which are both on a 10-year cycle, and the Stanwood Municipal Code Update which is a project that comes once in a lifetime.
- Expanding city sponsored special events.
- Twin City Mile project and the Storefront Improvement program.
- Professional Services for critical area review for new developments and support with backup building inspector, engineering review, hearing examiner review.

Director Hushagen gave a brief overview of Public Works which includes Buildings and Grounds, Parks, Streets, Drainage, Sewer and Water. The budget highlights are:

- A large Capital Improvement Plan will create more maintenance for the PW crew, recently hired new employees.
- The large professional service budget is used for licensed electricians, and certified mechanics.
- Large repair and maintenance budget.
- Increase in staff increases salaries and benefits, but with more staff they can do more maintenance.
- Historical staff level for the new park department, will hire three seasonal employees that will be dedicated to parks.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 8:10 p.m. With no public comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Council questions and comments:

- There was mention of a new position for the Economic Development Department, will that position take on the special events that were run by the Chamber of Commerce since they have closed? Love said it was a new position over a year ago and has been filled by Sarah Cho. Sarah has taken on a higher role with special events since the Chamber closed their door, the budget does reflect the added cost of taking on the Chamber's special events.

Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Metz to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1509 2023-2024 Biennial Budget.

Roll call of votes was taken.

<i>Councilmember Schmitt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Gaumond</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Metz</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Robb</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Pearce</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Shepro</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilmember Bergman</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Motion carried unanimously.

11. New Business

a. Approve the Digital Travel Photography Project Submittals

Sarah Cho said the City partnered with the Stanwood Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC) to prepare 95 photos that will be used for city efforts, specifically Discover Stanwood-Camano, as a tour initiative to attract out of state and county visitors. Fifty artists submitted 313 photos.

Council questions and comments:

- The photos are beautiful!
- Great photos, they really represent the City and area very well.

Motion by Councilmember Bergman, second by Councilmember Shepro to accept the submitted photographs for the Digital Travel Photography project. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Adopt Resolution 2022-18 and Ratify Mayor's November 14, 2022, Emergency Proclamation

Hushagen discussed the damage to Church Creek Park after the windstorm. The Mayor authorized an emergency proclamation. Monarch Tree Service was called in to remove the danger trees. A resolution must be adopted within two weeks of the Mayor's emergency proclamation.

Council questions and comments:

- What costs were incurred. Hushagen said approximately \$7,000.
- What will happen to the wood? Hushagen said the large cedars can be used for picnic tabletops and staff can contact the high school woodshop teacher to see if the students can use the wood.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Shepro to adopt Resolution 2022-18 and ratify Mayor Robert's November 14, 2022 Emergency Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Public Closing Comments

13. Executive/Legislative Reports

a. Mayor's Report

- Had a fun time with the Cub Scouts that came to city hall for a visit, they talked about energy conservation.
- The Snohomish County Board of Health is taking applications from small cities for a new board member. It is a commitment; they have a few meetings a month and do significant work. If you are interested or have questions let the Mayor know.
- The next Snohomish County Cities meeting is December 15th. Legislators will be there to talk about issues that we'd like help with, so the Mayor encourages everyone to attend. Contact Lisa if you'd like to go.
- Have a Happy Thanksgiving!
- The next council meeting is December 8th, when hopefully the 2023-2024 budget will be adopted.

b. City Administrator Report

- Wanted to stress how important it is to have a quorum next meeting. One councilmember will not be there, so please let Smith know if anyone else cannot make it.
- City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

c. Councilmember Reports/Questions

- Please remind folks that the property tax increase that was discussed tonight represents a \$5.93 per year increase for the average property owner.

- There is a great article that appeared on Jack Dorsey and family's art gallery website called SunnyShoreStudio.com regarding the proposed art center moving into the old furniture store building.
- On December 15th at the Floyd Center, the Stanwood-Camano Art Advocacy Group, Cat Olson is the president, is having an open house to discuss the new art center.
- Would like to discuss at some point the topic of car power charging stations in the city.
- It was sad to see the Conway Pub and Eatery close their doors yesterday, November 20th. They have been a pillar in our community for a long time and one of the few places to see live bands.

14. Recess to Executive Session – None

15. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, and hearing no objection to adjournment, Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

CITY OF STANWOOD



Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk