

CITY OF STANWOOD
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, January 26, 2023 – 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 Shepro 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, Steve Shepro, and Andreena Bergman. The meeting was quorate.

*Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Metz, to excuse Councilmembers Tim Pearce and Tim Schmitt. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Also present: City Administrator Shawn Smith, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Human Resource Manager Pat Adams, Finance Manager Wendy Dowhower, Associate Engineer Alan Lytton, City Attorney Nikki Thompson, Police Chief Jason Toner, and City Clerk Lisa Sokolik. Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen and Utility Supervisor Leigh Danielson attended via Zoom.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Roberts asked Council to remove item 4 Presentation from the agenda. Recognition of Scott Black will be added at a later date.

*Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Gaumond to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 4 Presentation. **Motion carried unanimously.***

4. Presentation - No Presentations

5. Public Comments - No written or verbal comments.

6. Staff / Department Reports

- a. Fourth Quarter 2022 Finance Report
- b. Transportation Benefit Fund Report 2022

*Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Shepro to approve the 2022 Transportation Benefit Fund Report. **Motion carried unanimously.***

7. Council Committee Reports

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Minutes – November 21, 2022

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Vouchers and Payroll Checks.
- b. Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2023
- c. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 1510: Regarding Stanwood Municipal Code New Chapter 4.16 Compost Procurement

*Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Robb to approve the consent agenda items A through C. **Motion carried unanimously.***

9. Unfinished Business - No unfinished business.

10. Public Hearing

Emergency Ordinance 1515: Sign Code Amendment

Director Love discussed the reason for Emergency Ordinance 1515: Sign Code Amendment which will clarify zoning regulations for nonconforming signage in the City Right-of-Way.

Mayor Roberts opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Peggy Wendel, Stanwood

Googled Stanwood's sign code and would like clarification on the emergency ordinance; can signs that are not in the right-of-way (ROW) be repaired? What is meant by maintain? Director Love answered when googling the existing code, under the nonconforming signs section, it does not say 'in the city ROW', the emergency ordinance is adding a new section regarding signs in the city ROW which will allow the City to issue permits to allow citizens to repair or maintain existing nonconforming signs. In terms of existing signs outside of city ROW, signs on private property that follow the normal nonconforming code section, that code can be updated during the Stanwood Municipal Code update.

With no other public comments, Mayor Roberts closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Council questions and comments:

- Should the phrase referencing vehicular travel areas also include pedestrian travel areas? Director Love said that adding pedestrian travel areas can be added.
- What is meant by a 'nonconforming sign'? Love answered that a nonconforming sign is one that is legally permitted, but currently does not meet the sign code due to changes/updates to the code.
- How far from the sidewalk is the Right-of-Way? Love answered ROW is 15 to 20 feet back of the sidewalk.
- There are very old sidewalks downtown and newer sidewalks on 271st, are signs placed back from the old or new sidewalks? Love said from her understanding it is from the old sidewalk.
- With this ordinance, maintenance of nonconforming signs will be allowed.
- If replacing legally nonconforming signs, would this ordinance allow a sign to be replaced as built or would the new sign be required to conform to all sign requirements? Love said this ordinance only applies to signs in the ROW that were

permitted, if it was nonconforming for any other reason, the new sign would have to meet all sign requirements.

Motion by Councilmember Shepro, second by Councilmember Metz to amend Emergency Ordinance 1515 Nonconforming Signage to include the words 'or pedestrian' after the word vehicular and before the word travel in sections 3c, 3i and 3ii.

Roll call of votes was taken.

Councilmember Robb	Yes
Councilmember Shepro	Yes
Councilmember Bergman	Yes
Councilmember Gaumond	Yes
Councilmember Metz	Yes

Amendment to the motion carried unanimously.

*All in favor to adopt Emergency Ordinance 1515 Nonconforming Signage as amended, any Nays? **Main motion carried unanimously.***

11. New Business

a. Approve 2023 Council Committee Selections

City Administrator Smith said that he met with Mayor Roberts, Mayor Pro Temp Pearce, and the longest standing Councilmember, Councilmember Shepro to discuss the committee selections.

Motion by Councilmember Robb, second by Councilmember Shepro to approve the 2023 council standing committee membership as submitted by the nominating committee.
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Authorize Mayor to Sign a Contract with Interwest Construction, Inc. for the 88th Ave Arch Project

Community Development Director Love said the 88th Ave Arch project is the first major project that is part of the city's beautification effort, to come before Council ready for construction. The arch project is listed as one of the top elements to promote the city, to get people off SR 532, to let people know there is a downtown Stanwood, and to add some excitement to the downtown area.

Construction for the arch project was expected in 2022, but there were delays in the design phase that needed to be worked out. Associate City Engineer Lytton worked with Pace Engineering and Lankford Architects to move it from design to the construction phase and ready to bid. The submitted bids came in higher than the engineer's estimate of \$260,000, the low bid from Interwest Construction is approx. \$327,000.

Council questions and comments:

- What is the temporary banner? Love said the arch has rings that will hold special event banners under the arch, the arch is designed high enough so all vehicles including trucks can pass under the arch without touching the banners.
- What are the historic photos? Love answered the pillars holding up the arch are made of concrete and are inset; the intent is to have four art panels (on the north and south side of both pillars). The photo themes will reflect Stanwood's history: Native American, Norwegian or Scandinavian, farming and agriculture, and environmental. The artwork will be a separate project and the cost is not part of this bid award.
- Concern about the cost of this project, is this the right project to be doing at this time or should we look at a different design? Love's understanding is that the concrete design is less expensive than the steel design.
- This project will affect the overall budget and will leave less money for the other components of the beautification plan. Will other components have to be dropped from the plan? Love said that there is enough money in the whole budget to cover the cost, but it will have to be monitored to see if something needs to be dropped. Design for the lighting project on 88th (\$219,000) and the traffic calming measures on 271st (\$250,000) have not started, so these two projects could be put on hold if needed. Another option is to delay doing the art on arch to a different time (\$50,000).
- Will the arch be lit? Love said it will have outlets.
- How long are the bids valid? City Attorney Thompson said bids are valid for 30 days.
- Comment: It's the first Twin City Mile big project and council is faced with the choice of kicking it off with a project well over budget or having to delay it, neither is a good option.
- Comment: Seems odd to have a 'Welcome to Stanwood' arch to a much larger project that's not anywhere close to being completed in the foreseeable future, it's a very expensive frontloading thing when this money can be spent on other parts of the Twin City Mile. The arch can come later to draw people to downtown after the other elements of the Twin City Mile are completed.
- Comments: The cost is a big concern, maybe doing other elements and bring the arch in later.

Mayor Roberts said a real estate broker who has sold properties on Camano Island for many years, asked him where downtown Stanwood is located. That is one of the things our city is fighting. We have already spent money on design, how much less would the project have to cost before council is Ok with it?

City Administrator Smith added that inflation, especially steel, is the reason the cost is so much more than the engineer's estimate. It's more likely than not, that the cost will continue to go up, not down. The Arch project was prior to the Twin City Mile project and is a stand-alone project. This project is meant to get people shopping downtown now, there are businesses there now that need people to know they are there.

Love said there is a lot of desire to get people off SR 532, direct them to downtown to eat and shop, to help draw people in for the festivals, and to help identify the city.

Councilmember Shepro added that final payment for several projects have been way over the bid amount because of findings in the ground, e.g., Sebranke Cleanup and Viking Way.

It's a fair assumption that the cost for the Arch project will be over \$377,000. He'd like staff to convince Council that this is the right project to do at this time.

Councilmember Bergman asked how the cost of the Arch project will impact the west end of town. Love answered it won't, the west end has their own budget.

In response to Councilmember Shepro's comment, Love said that she believes this is a good investment for Stanwood. She has heard many times that people do not know where Stanwood is located. Love said the city has an Economic Development Plan, a Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT) plan, and a Downtown Master Plan that were approved over 10 years ago and nothing has been done with them. This is the first step of moving forward with promoting our town and businesses and improving the visibility and aesthetics of Stanwood. We have been promoting the beautification project and what it will entail, and the 88th Ave Arch is the first step. Love said when she first started working on the beautification project, all she heard was that Stanwood would never do anything, they always plan, they always say they'll do it, but they never do. This is a commitment to our community, that we will do what we said we were going to do, and we said we want to promote our downtown area. Love said she is very passionate about this project; she thinks it's very important. We have been working on beautification and telling people about it and as a council you were all excited about promoting Stanwood too.

Councilmember Metz said when the Community Development Committee discussed keeping City Hall downtown, how it would be a great value to the downtown area. It shows that the city values and wants to maintain and develop the area. It can give faith and inspiration to people to continue investing and maybe we'll see improvements from businesses as they will see the city is investing there as well. This project is investing in the downtown area, Metz has concerns that by slowing down the momentum it might not get going again.

Councilmember Robb agreed with most of the points made. It was asked of Council how much cheaper would it have to be to support the project? Robb flipped the question and asked how much more expensive would it have to get before Council wouldn't support it? He said it's already gone up quite a bit. There was a question about this council's commitment to deliver for the city, this council has a strong track record with the CIP and the Six-year TIP. The 88th Arch project is the cost of a new sidewalk. Robb likes what the Arch project represents, the initial investment into the downtown area, but it doesn't start off on the right foot, which is investment at any cost. Is the arch the best use of funds across all the competing interests that council must deal with? The arch doesn't live up to what he had envisioned through the process that has led to this point. In his opinion, a delay isn't to hope for better bids in the future, but to reposition the project in the deck of city improvements.

Councilmember Bergman asked if the East End Gateway is going to match the West End Gateway? Love said no, there's not a lot of right-of-way, so the gateway will be smaller and totally different. Bergman said she thought that both ends would be cohesive and would resemble each other. She's inclined to delay the process to make sure we are planning things correctly and not hodgepodge through town. Love said the intent has been to make both ends different.

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Shepro to table this matter until February 9, 2023, at the City Council Regular meeting.

Roll call of votes was taken.

Councilmember Robb	No
Councilmember Shepro	Yes
Councilmember Bergman	Yes
Councilmember Gaumond	Yes
Councilmember Metz	Yes

Motion carried 4 yea, 1 nay.

c. Final Acceptance of the Sebranke Site Cleanup Project Completed by Wyser Construction

Associate City Engineer Lytton said the Sebranke Site Cleanup project has been completed. The scope of the project was to cleanup 2,200 sq ft, however, by completion of the project the amount was increased to 6,500 sq ft. The grant was increased to cover the extra cleanup and for future monitoring.

*Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Gaumond to authorize the final acceptance of the Sebranke Site Cleanup Project completed by Wyser Construction. **Motion carried unanimously.***

d. Approve Resolution 2023-02: Personnel Policy Manual Update

Human Resource Manager Adams discussed the proposed changes to the personnel policy in the following sections:

- Retirement Benefits
- Paid Time Off (PTO) Accruals/Holidays/Floating Holidays
- Paid Time Off (PTO) Maximum Allowed Balances
- Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Inclement Weather
- Shared Medical Leave

Motion by Councilmember Metz, second by Councilmember Bergman to pass Resolution 2023-02, adopting the City of Stanwood personnel policy manual amendments.

*Roll call of votes was taken. **Motion carried unanimously.***

12. Public Closing Comments - There were no public closing comments.

13. Executive/Legislative Reports

a. Mayor's Report

- Will be sharing the State of the City with Stanwood Commerce Alliance at the Sons of Norway Hall on February 15th at 11:00 am.
- City Hall has been cleaned and disinfected by the fire department after several employees came down with Covid-19. Just a reminder that we still need to be careful, so wear a mask when needed, when sick go to the doctor or self-test.
- A shout out to Smith and Lytton for submitting a two-million-dollar grant request to Snohomish County for the Dike repairs.
- Nice article in the Stanwood-Camano News by Peggy Wendel about the Civic Campus.
- Reminder that registering to run for office is a little over 3 months away.
- There is a Council Special Workshop on February 9th at 5:00 pm, supper will be provided.

b. City Administrator Report

- Shout out to Associate City Engineer Lytton who was successful in receiving a \$141,921 grant from Department of Ecology for nutrient reduction for the wastewater treatment plant.

c. Councilmember Reports/Questions

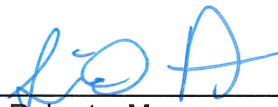
- Since the EPA is being generous with grants for cleaning up and remediating soils, has there been any more discussion about the City's interest in cleaning up the Raplee site? Love answered said she is working with Maul Foster and Alongi who is helping to find grant funds. She has had some initial conversations with Dept. of Ecology, but they still have reservations because of history with Chevron. Love and Mayor Roberts met with an individual who investigates past insurance policies. No path forward yet, but they are working on it.
- Will Council be seeing the 2023-2024 workplan soon? Smith said yes, it is on the agenda for the February 9th Special Workshop.
- The Floyd is having a benefit concert on February 4th, the South String Band will be playing, so come on out to support the Historical Society.

14. Recess to Executive Session - There was no Executive Session

15. Adjourn

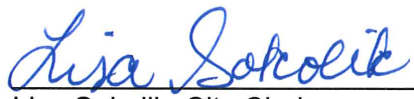
There being no further business before the Council, and hearing no objection to adjournment, Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

CITY OF STANWOOD



Sid Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk