

POULSBO CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Erickson; Councilmembers Livdahl, Lord, McGinty, Musgrove, Phillips, Stern

Staff: Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Fernandez, Public Works Director Lenius, Parks & Recreation Director Ozimek, Transportation Engineer Bateman

ABSENT: Councilmember McVey

MAJOR BUSINESS ITEMS

* * * RAISE Grant Application Update

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Erickson called the virtual meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Move to approve the agenda as presented.

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Musgrove, **Seconded by** Livdahl.
Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Linda Berry-Maraist spoke in support of the partnership for the RAISE Grant. She also gave an update of the lead applicants and the other co-participants.

Debbie Weinmann spoke in support of the RAISE Grant co-application. She believes there are safety concerns around Fjord Drive and Lemolo Shore and it is an opportunity for all citizens to enjoy waterfront property.

Don Willott, member of consortium developing the application, said they are pulling together the content. They are excited to have Port Angeles as a lead applicant. They consider the City of Poulsbo to be an anchor for this type of work, and it is special they would call a special meeting for this agenda item.

Carol Price said the STO framework or master plan has the paved trail going through two heritage parks. She urged them to be very thoughtful in this decision.

4. **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Lord said Councilmember Stern, Mayor Erickson, and herself attended the AWC City Action Days last week, attended sessions, lobbying on the hill, and a great dinner meeting with both our legislators and other elected officials from our neighboring cities.

Councilmember Musgrove said he was bummed he couldn't attend the City Action Days as planned but looks forward to attending next year.

Councilmember Stern noted he and the Mayor were able to have conversations with Port Angeles elected officials while they were in Olympia last week regarding the RAISE Grant application.

Mayor Erickson apologized for being a little late to the meeting, she was on a zoom call with the applicants for the health district study.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

a. **RAISE Grant Application Update**

Public Works Director Lenius presented the agenda summary and requested authorization to submit as a co-applicant on the RAISE Grant for Alternatives Analysis and Predesign of a non-motorized connection to the STO. This will be a collaborative effort with other jurisdictions as presented by Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative PS2P on February 8th at City Council workshop. She recommends a co-application.

Councilmember Stern said he supports the application, and appreciated the time they had in Olympia to talk with the project lead.

Councilmember Lord said one of the things that brought her to her conclusion that they can support this is that it is conceptual, and it is an opportunity that if the parties can coordinate their plans, it should work out. She is concerned about the path going through two heritage parks, but she would like to note it will be one piece, there will be public hearings, and there will be opportunities for flexible plans. This is all conceptual at this time. She appreciates PW Director Lenius for doing her due diligence and it makes her more comfortable. A coordinated approach with a loop makes sense.

Mayor Erickson said after the meeting, she and Public Works Director Lenius had several conversations. She supports the STO, but she wanted to make sure the City has the ability to do this project. We really need Lemolo fixed all the way into the City, and they need to soft armor it before we lose the road into the bay.

Motion: Move to authorize staff to submit as a co-applicant on the RAISE Grant for Alternatives Analysis and Predesign of a non-motorized connection to the STO and authorize the Mayor to sign the co-application letter on behalf of the City.

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Stern, **Seconded by** Lord.

Discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there are corporate interests weighing into this project that she is aware of. Public Works Director Lenius said there were none to her knowledge. Councilmember Musgrove asked if there is any concern that other entities can have ten years to deliver if we would want to move along quicker. Public Works Director Lenius said there is a lot to work out in terms of how the distribution of funds and timing work happens, which is to be seen. But the way she believes it is intended to operate would be individual ILAs with each jurisdiction and the City of Port Angeles. Councilmember Musgrove asked if we have the ability to make plans without having to wait for everyone else. Public Works Director Lenius said she hasn't seen the full grant application, only the projects from the jurisdictions. The City of Port Angeles will have to make decisions on how to manage the grant. Councilmember Musgrove said this is investigating feasibility and if we want to participate, and we are not committing to the entire project at this time. He said he is in support of being a co-applicant.

Councilmember Lord said she would assume that Port Angeles would not direct the coordination but may facilitate it. Public Works Director Lenius said that is something we can answer at this point. The non-profits have come together to make the application, and they have identified a lead. This is just the beginning of all the hard work that must happen with this application. Councilmember Lord said there isn't a definition of what the lead agency's responsibilities are, besides receiving the grant funds and dispersing them.

Councilmember Livdahl said Ms. Price's concerns were regarding the paving inside of heritage parks are not in our jurisdiction. But she wondered if signing onto this would give us more of a platform to discuss those concerns with the County. Mayor Erickson said there are two schools of thoughts regarding paving, one is to leave it all natural, and the other is to pave it in order to make it accessible to more people. She

is torn. If you pave the trails, you won't have the fast mountain bikers, it allows wheelchair accessibility, and they are much easier to maintain. She wondered if there was a way to make trails narrower and more pervious. But she is sympathetic to the wildlife and environmental concerns.

Mayor Erickson asked for assurance that we won't become the lead agency. Public Works Director Lenius said we would not become the lead agency. Mayor Erickson asked if this would take us through NEPA. Public Works Director Lenius said she does not believe it will take us through NEPA.

Councilmember Musgrove said members of the Council are concerned about inclusive access to the trail system and the environment. It will be a balance.

Councilmember Stern said we are the co-applicant, and it was discussed at the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning organization, and affirmed what the project is and what the intention is, and the applicant and co-applicant roles.

Motion carried unanimously.

Department Head Comment: Public Works Superintendent Lund gave an update on Joe Walker retiring, and they hired a new building maintenance person, and they will be overstaffed for one month with an additional FTE.

6. CONTINUED COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Barb Trafton thanked the Council and said Public Works Director Lenius has given them lots to think about.

Don Willott gave an update on what has been happening with the Sound to Olympics trail on Bainbridge Island.

7. MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Lord said our former Police Chief and Parks & Rec Director, Dan Schoonmaker, is now the head football coach for Bainbridge Island.

Mayor Erickson said the dinner in Olympia was a lot of fun, very collegial. Mayor Putaansuu would like to go in on the event with Poulsbo next year. It was a good trip.

She just filled out an application today to get reimbursed for another lawsuit for opioids against those drug chains that sold them.

Councilmember Musgrove asked everyone to be kind, caring, and considerate.

Councilmember Stern shared at AWC they lobbied on behalf of trying to finish the Morrow Manor Park (Senator Rolfes) and they are working on getting supplemental funding for WWU.

Councilmember McGinty thanked everyone who attended at Olympia.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move to adjourn at 5:54 p.m.,


Action: Approve, **Moved by** McGinty, **Seconded by** Musgrove.

Motion carried unanimously.

DocuSigned by:

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Rebecca Erickson, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Rhiannon Fernandez, CMC, City Clerk