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

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

20. ROLL CALL

Mayor & Council:	Others Attending:
Mayor Nicola Smith	Corbitt Loch, Acting Finance Director
Council President George Hurst	Jim Nelson, Police Chief
Council Vice President Jim Smith	Chuck Steichen, Deputy Police Chief
Councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby	Robert Mathias, Building Official
Councilmember Ian Cotton	Connie Galer, Police Department
Councilmember Christine Frizzell	
Councilmember Ruth Ross	Guests:
Councilmember Shannon Sessions	Chris Collier, AHA
	Steven Amano, PFM
Asst. City Administrator Art Ceniza	Thomas Toepfer, PFM
Interim City Clerk Karen Fitzthum	Stacie Amasaki, Foster Garvey
City Attorney Rosemary Larson	Nancy Neraas, Foster Garvey
Executive Assistant Lisa Harrison	

---

30. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1:52)
Motion made by Council Member Sessions, seconded by Councilmember Cotton, to approve the minutes of:

A. February 16, 2021 Work Session Minutes

B. February 17, 2021 Work Session Minutes

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

D. February 22, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

The above minutes were approved as written unanimously.

40. MESSAGES AND PAPERS FROM THE MAYOR (2:31)
Mayor Smith stated that Snohomish County cases of Covid-19 are finally trending down, with less than 100 cases/1,000. A fifth mass vaccination center has opened at the Angel of the Winds stadium in Everett. She recommends residents check with their primary care physician or pharmacy first or go on to the Snohomish County web site.

50. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS (5:27)
The following individuals made comments via Zoom:
- Elizabeth Lunsford, Lynnwood 98037
- Ted Hikel, Lynnwood 98036

60. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS
None

70. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (12:21)
A written statement from Assistant City Administrator Art Ceniza was read aloud and shall be entered into the records (Exhibit A attached).

80. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (17:14)
Each council member had the opportunity to make comments about happenings around the city. Council member Cotton spoke to the reasons why the Community Justice Center is an important investment for the future and the benefits of this new development.

90. BUSINESS ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS

90.1 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA (35:02)

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

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

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

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

C. <u>Voucher Approval</u>

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

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

90.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS OR MEETINGS
None

90.3 OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (37:18)

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

B. Discussion- Community Justice Center Financing (1:31:00)
Acting Finance Director Loch introduced the teams from PFM and Piper-Sandler who shared analysis of the city's current financing situation with respect to funding the $60M development of the Community Justice Center. The bond will be presented for approval by the council on March 22, 2021.

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

March 8, 2021

To: Karen Fitzthum, City Clerk

From: Art Ceniza, Assistant City Administrator

CC: Mayor Smith, Councilmembers

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

Comments on Race and Social Justice Coordinator Position

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

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

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

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

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

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

To comply with that motion, further information was provided to Council via a presentation by staff and consultants at a Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Council was also asked by staff for input on outcome measures and what success for the position looked like. After the presentation and good discussion between Council and staff, it appeared that a majority of the Council felt the intent of the motion was satisfied and that the Executive should move forward to begin the process to advertise and fill the position

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

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

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

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

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

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