

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairman Ben Winkelman at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Tom Boling (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- City Councilmember Tawni Andrews (City of Aberdeen)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- Councilwoman Clarinda Pies Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II

➤ Guests:

- Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
- John Louderback

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Tawni Andrews made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of February 2021 Minutes**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the February 2021 Minutes.

Tawni Andrews made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman Ben Winkelman reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom. Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. A preliminary review of the by-laws in regard to the PUD's request to consider voting rights for members with reduced dues and the Adobe Sign program were also discussed.

➤ **Action: Approval of March 2021 Claims Batches #21-03 and March 2021 Payroll**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the March 2021 Claims Batches #21-03 in the amount of \$3,359.09 and March 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$11,279.52.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Discussion: RTPO Inter-Local Agreement**

Vicki Cummings thanked everyone for their prompt response to the Executive Director of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, lead agency for the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), official Inter-Local Agreement that establishes membership in the RTPO for the County and each of cities. All Grays Harbor entities have either adopted the Inter-Local Agreement via resolution or it is on their Agenda and scheduled for adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #655 North Shore Levy Support Letter**

The City of Hoquiam asked GHCOG for a resolution of support for the Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project (North Shore Levy project) and for Legislative funding. The Aberdeen-Hoquiam Flood Protection Project will construct a 6.2 mile levy across the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam including dikes, pumping stations and other improvements that will provide flood protection for the communities.

Vini Samuel made a motion to approve; second, Rob Bearden. Motion passed unanimously

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Thanks to everyone for getting the RTPO Inter-local Agreement passed by resolution and returning it promptly.
- Work with our Brownfield Coalition is ongoing. Identifying community needs and focus areas for the 2021 work effort.
- Getting requests for spring/summer traffic counts from entities throughout the county.
- Working with Debbie Clemens from WSDOT on a predesign study for a roundabout at the intersection of SR 105 at Boone and W. Harriman Street.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II**

- Preparation for the Annual Report

- Preparation for the WA State Auditor's upcoming in-person audit.
- Took a short vacation for a birthday getaway.
- Still working on mapping for City of Aberdeen Fire
- Parcel map and mailing label for City of Hoquiam mailing.

6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
 - Council will meet next Monday to pass a resolution for the RTPPO Interlocal Agreement that Vicki presented information on at their last meeting.
 - The City received \$1.4 million in Covid-19 Rescue Funding.
 - The Council is starting to discuss going back to in person meetings.
- City of Cosmopolis City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - City is mourning the loss of Councilmember Dale Andrews.
 - Plan to bring in a new councilmember in April or May to fill the open position.
 - Revenues are up quicker than expected and people are paying their utility bills even though with the moratorium being extended until July 31st.
 - Lots of housing interest. A 40-50 parcel sub-division is currently on the market.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
 - Glad that GH entities are putting in applications for federal funding and hopes that at least a few entities in GH will be granted funding.
 - The City of Montesano has applied for funding for the Montesano Medical Arts and E-911 Training Complex. This could also house a massage therapy school proposed by Ambiance Massage. Additionally, the program would work with Grays Harbor College for training physical therapists and nurses. Thanks to GHCOG for providing a support letter for the project.
 - Increased water and sewer rates for the first time since 2016, which has a lot of residents upset and wanting an explanation from the city.
 - New park playground equipment worth approximately \$150,000 was donated and installed at a park in Nelson Field.
 - Montesano Council has been meeting in person since August using a larger room, masks and has had little public attendance.
 - Have been getting information on how to get the general fund and Fire/EMS fund into a sustainable place and the city is ready to move on the analysis phase. The mayor hopes to have a feasible plan in place prior to her term ending in 2023.
 - Started the sidewalk project on McBride and working with the State Park to get a trail from there to Lake Silvia.
- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
 - Grieving the passing of former Aberdeen mayor Bill Simpson who was a great asset to the community.
 - Hope to have union negotiations completed by June.
 - With the county going into Phase 3 transit hopes to be able to bring back 7 day a week service for riders.
- City of Elma, City Councilmember Tom Boling
 - Working to see if can use Brownfield grant funding to help with the Theater that needs to be demolished in downtown, which is a current safety issue, but also

likely has asbestos and lead paint contaminants at the very least so it is important that the city do their due diligence before acquiring if possible.

- Vicki Cummings did a Brownfield presentation at the last council meeting to explain the options and process of using the grant funds.
- The council is still meeting via zoom.
- Plans for Bi-Mart are complete and the building permit is ready for pick up.
- In April the city will vote on annexing the District 5 Fire/EMS.

➤ City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden

- Getting busier around the city.
- Crabbing season is moving along.
- Seabass and lingcod charter fishing opened.
- Several major projects in the works.

➤ Quinault Indian Nation, Councilwoman Clarinda Pies Underwood

- Correction: the General Council Meeting was not held on January 30th, but the Nation hopes to have one the last week of March that will combine two years of elections since unable to hold them in 2020 due to Covid. Have eight positions to fill, four of which are executive positions. Planning to have tents outside for elections and voting, as usually 800 of the 3000 members come to the meeting, which takes two days, but attendance and protocols will be guided by Covid safety measures.
- Clarinda (Pies) Underwood is in her 3rd year on the tribal council and will not be up for election for another year.
- Erosion on US 109 into Taholah has been declared an issue, washing away near corner 88 and glad to hear that WSDOT is working with the Quinault road maintenance team.

➤ City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman

- Appointed an ad-hoc committee for Olympic Stadium.
- Starting a controversial conversation about installing turf at Olympic Stadium as it would allow for more use which, in turn, would make the stadium more eligible for grants through Commerce.
- The dual fire/ems response that Aberdeen and Hoquiam have started in anticipation of the Regional Fire Authority being approved is working well.
- The City is expecting \$1.88 million in Covid-19 Rescue funding and encourages everyone to reference the 40 page document that accompanied those funds for ideas on how to best use them.
- Construction on the park at 5th and Adams will start around April 5th.
- Paving on 101 has been pushed back a little.
- Working to lower the speed limit going through town down to at least 25 miles per hour, if not 20, to help with safety and economic development.

➤ City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tawni Andrews

- Coordination with Hoquiam on the regional fire authority is moving forward.
- Working with Hoquiam on Flood Authority projects.
- Helping move businesses out of the Shoppes at Riverside due to safety issues.
- Dave Haviland stepped down from the council and will need to be replaced.
- City is doing a capital assets workshop to see how they can structure spending.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - New draft version of a County-wide Economic Development Plan is available.
 - Commissioners are looking at how to handle taxing nightly rentals.
 - The planning and development department says building is booming.
 - Starting a more extensive take back paint product program starting in April.
 - Also looking at how to take more moderate risk waste at the transfer station.
 - For social distancing purposes the court has moved to the Satsop Business Park.

- WSDOT, Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
 - **SR 105 Roundabout (S Boone Street at W Harriman Street)**
Stakeholder Meeting: April 2021: SR 105 (South Boone Street) and West Harriman Street intersection roundabout. Stakeholders: City of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Fire Dept, Aberdeen School District, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Grays Harbor County, Grays Harbor COG, Greater Grays Harbor, Grays Harbor Transit, Hoquiam/Aberdeen Transportation Cooperative, Port of Grays Harbor, Quinalt Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Shoppes at Riverside, and WSDOT. Will add County Commissioner Kevin Pine (kpine@co.grays-harbor.wa.us).
Online Open House: May 3rd-17th
Schedule:
 - Pre-design outreach: May 2021
 - Design: October 2021
 - Construction ad date: August 2022

 - **US 101 – S of Cosmopolis (Cosi Hill 2.0)** – Work begins this summer to stabilize the hillside and restore two-way travel. This is a two year effort. A construction contract to stabilize the slope near milepost 78.3 will be available for competitive bids beginning in late April.
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us101/cosmopolis/home>

 - **Downtown Hoquiam US 101 paving project.** Crews will return to grind and repave four miles of US 101 between Aberdeen and Hoquiam in May. During construction, travelers will encounter single lane closures with flaggers during nighttime hours.
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us101/5th-st-h-st/home>

 - **SR 107 Chehalis River Bridge – Structural Rehab**
Crews are close to being done rehabbing this 1958 structure. Work should wrap up late spring/early summer 2021 and restore two-way travel for people between Montesano and Artic.
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR107/chehalisriverbridgerehab/default.htm>

 - **US 101 Hoquiam River Riverside Bridge**
Work to paint the bridge approach spans begins this summer. Two additional projects will be needed to maintain the life of this bridge, so expect to see more work on it in the future.
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us101/riverside-bridge/home>

- **Wishkah River Bridge Mechanical Rehab**

Ad date in July. Potential to have significant traffic impacts. Will sign a detour for non-local traffic to use SR 107 to avoid the bridge. Local traffic will be able to use Heron Street Bridge in a “1 lane in each direction” configuration. The project will take 7-9 months to complete. HOWEVER, traffic will not be impacted that whole time. The detour will only be needed for a few weeks spread out over time. Public outreach will be extensive. Traffic impacts not anticipated until next Spring (2022). The bridge will be inoperable to marine traffic the entire length of the project.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Tawni Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
115 S. Wooding St.
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Ben Winkelman
Chairman

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date