

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
July 15, 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 Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember Tawni Andrews (City of Aberdeen)
- Assistant General Manager Jean Braaten (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Stephenie Reece (Timberland Regional Library)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Councilmember Clarinda Pies Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Commissioner Phil Papac (Port of Grays Harbor)
- Councilmember Tyler Trimble (City of Montesano)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)

➤ Staff:

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

➤ Guests:

- Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator

A quorum was established.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

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

*Rob Bearden made a motion to approve; second, Clarinda Underwood. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Chairman, Ben Winkelman, asked for approval of the June 2021 Minutes.

*Rob Bearden 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. Also discussed were changing the copier from Ricoh to Aberdeen Office Supply and potentially changing phone service providers to save money.

➤ **Action: Approval of July 2021 Claims Batches #21-07 and July 2021 Payroll**

Chairman, Ben Winkelman, asked for approval of the July 2021 Claims Batches #21-07 in the amount of \$3,381.13 and July 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$11,279.52.

*Phil Papac made a motion to approve; second, Rob Bearden. Motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- None

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- Vicki reported on behalf of Mayor Jim Sorensen from the City of Elma that they filled the City Clerk position and they apologize to the City of McCleary for hiring away their longtime Clerk Wendy Collins.

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Not much on the agenda, as July is a transitional month. Used to hold annual picnic.
- Starting work on an update to 2045 RTP. 2 years to compile data and complete by 2023.
- Collecting support letters for City of Aberdeen's new RAISE grant application.
- Social Justice is a big topic. Looking at how to assess equity and establish a baseline.
- [SR105 West Harriman Roundabout Pre-Design](#) is complete. Construction in fall of 2022.
- SR109 road work and bridge repairs around Grass Creek during weekdays this summer.
- Reviewing SEPAs for Ocean Shores.
- Busy with EPA Brownfield grant projects; area-wide plan for Elma and Quarterly Report.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner 1**

- Did final review and submittal of GH 2022-2027 TIPs to WSDOT.
- Finally got STP Administration approved for 2021 and started billing.
- Did final billing for 2020-2021 RTPO contract and established new 2021-2023 contract.
- Doing preparations for the GHCOG 2022 Preliminary Budget.
- Working on changing printer lease from Ricoh to Aberdeen Office Supply.
- Working with Vicki to find a new IT person to deal with GIS computer failure due to transformer blowing during heat wave and ongoing general IT upgrades and needs.
- Attended WSDOTs EV Grant Workshop for their [Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnership](#) that will run through June of 2023. Similar to previous grant, but more funding available, can upgrade existing stations, and includes hydrogen stations.

## 6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Stephenie Reece
  - All Timberland Libraries in Grays Harbor are open to the public.
  - In-person services are going to return sooner than previously expected. Already participated in the Founder's Day Parade and will participate in Art Walk, as well as the GH Emergency Preparedness Expo.
  - Patronage is still down compared to pre-Covid numbers, but the libraries are busy.
  - Two grants for \$75,000 were awarded to TRL. One is for online collections for youth, science, STEM, and technology. The other is for 50 Padlets for pre-kindergarteners.
  
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tawni Andrews
  - Lots of projects going on around the city.
  - Getting a lot of requests for housing permits.
  - Many vendor and parade participants for Founder's Day and big community turnout.
  - Receiving lots of applications for July 31st Art Walk vendors.
  - City Council voted to go forward with funding the Gateway Center.
  
- City of Montesano, City Councilmember Tyler Trimble
  - Lots of road and sidewalk construction in Montesano.
  - The Saturday Market is happening through the summer.
  
- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
  - Big turnout over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Second highest visitor count with around 125,000 visitors; 134,000 in 2020 and 119 in 2019.
  - Thanks to first responders for tending to the large amount of police and fire calls.
  - Self-guided Art Splash Studio Tour August 14-15<sup>th</sup> with maps/brochures available.
  
- Grays Harbor Transit, Assistant General Manager Jean Braaten
  - Been with GH Transit for 23 years.
  - Still hiring drivers to return to 7 day a week service.
  - Training Manager has an efficient process to get people through CDL certification.
  - Have instituted a referral program and other hiring bonuses to attract employees.
  - Board approved free fairs for Zone 1 riders in GH County through December of 2022.
  - Ridership is still only at 47% of pre-Covid numbers.
  
- Quinault Indian Nation, Councilmember Clarinda Pies Underwood
  - The Quinault Lake Fishing Derby was a success and helped eliminate some predator fish.
  
- Port of Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Phil Papac
  - Had 1<sup>st</sup> in-person Commission Meeting since Covid. New camera equipment was purchased so could provide/comply with virtual meeting requirements.
  - Had a record June for soy meal shipped.
  - Don't forget about the Tuna Classic at Westport August 13-14<sup>th</sup> is a Veterans Benefit.
  - Satsop Business Park is getting a lot of new interest.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
  - Summer is busy in Westport.
  - Finished upgrading street light to LEDs on W. Montesano.
  - Fish processors are going full boar, but need more employees.
  - Sport fishing is hot, especially King Salmon as of late.
  - Eastside Street Rods Show and Shine car show is July 16-17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Pirate Days was a success with lots of people attending.
  - The City put on a fireworks show for the Fourth of July.
  - South Beach Little League won district and is moving on to state. Having a fire truck parade to celebrate their achievement.
  
- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
  - New houses starts are booming.
  - Weyerhaeuser has posted waterfront property for sale that was part of the Area Wide Plan.
  - Cosmo had an emergency shutdown that was disconcerting, but everything is okay.
  - 2022 Budget Season has started.
  
- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
  - Hoquiam is busy with a lot of buildings in the city core being rehabbed.
  - Some businesses from the Shoppes at Riverside relocated to Simpson Plaza.
  - Buddy Moo's Ice Cream will have Mayor Winkelman doing an event in a cow costume.
  - LaVogue Building is being turned into a boutique hotel and restaurant opening in 2022.
  - The old Moose Lodge is almost ready for tenants. It will be an Airbnb with retail.
  - Two new realtor offices downtown, Quigg and Spivey.
  - Polson, the old Gambers/Detour, and Hoquiam Grand Central all have new owners.
  - Mayor banned fireworks for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and then rescinded ban due to legality.
  - Planning to have 1<sup>st</sup> in-person council meeting.
  - Hope to have RFA on ballot in fall.
  - Identified a job description for the shared Navigator Position.
  - Council debating whether a study is needed to implement an ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Simpson and Emerson in accordance with the Downtown Historical Plan.
  - Taking recommendations for names for the new parks.
  
- WSDOT, Multimodal Planning Coordinator Matt Pahs
  - We have a roughly 10-mile chip sealing project along SR 109 approaching Ocean Shores that is currently underway. Lots of talk about this work, but the important message here is we need warm dry conditions for pavement repairs and chip sealing to last – that is why it's being done during summer months. Crews are making pavement repairs to the highway now, and expect to begin chip sealing mid-August. This stretch of highway has not seen significant pavement repair or resurfacing work in nearly 15 years. Travelers will continue to encounter alternating conditions with flaggers or a pilot car through fall. <https://wsdot.wa.gov/news/2021/06/28/pavement-repairs-coming-sr-109-near-ocean-shores>.

- US 101 – South of Cosmopolis. This contract was recently awarded and we expect to begin later this month. It will be a two-year construction contract to address the hillside and ongoing slope stabilization work. We encourage travelers to sign up for project email alerts:  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WADOT\\_333](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_333)
- US 101 – Downtown Hoquiam paver wrapped up. Lots of positive feedback on the completion of the work we did on social media.
- Design work has begun and we selected a Design Builder for the US 101/SR 109 Grays Harbor County – 29 fish barrier removal project.
- Maintenance is continuing with traditional summer activities like mowing for sightline distance, pot hole repairs, guardrail repairs, vegetation management in advance of upcoming fire seasons, and other work. We appreciate travelers slowing down in work zones and keeping an eye out for our crews.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

***Rob Bearden made a motion to adjourn; second, Phil Papac Motion passed unanimously.***

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

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Ben Winkelman  
Chairman

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Date

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Vicki Cummings  
Executive Director

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Date