

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 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:

- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Stephenie Reece (Timberland Library)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- Councilmember Tawni Andrews (City of Aberdeen)
- Commissioner Randy Ross (Grays Harbor County)
- Commissioner Phil Papac (Port of Grays Harbor)

➤ 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.

Jim Sorensen made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Phil Papac made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman Ben Winkelman reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom.

➤ **Action: Approval of November and December 2021 Claims Batch #21-11 & #21-12 and November & December 2021 Payroll**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the November & December 2021 Claims Batches #21-11 & #21-12 in the amounts of \$21,880.58 & \$10,210.26 and December 2021 Payroll each in the amount of \$11,279.52.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Phil Papac. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #659, Approval of 2022 Final Budget**

Vicki explained that the 2022 Final Budget had some minor changes from the 2022 Preliminary Budget, mainly adjusting taxes and benefits and removing the PUD from member dues revenue. Additionally, the 2022 budget will need to be amended in January to reflect the updated expenditures, but also to ensure it is as close as possible to the actual revenue and expenditures so those figures can be used to determine the 2022 Cost Allocation Plan. Some changes are anticipated for the final 2022 budget in January of 2022, namely the beginning fund balance once 2021 financials are closed out and possibly:

- Staff salary and benefits
- Grant amounts
- PUD dues

Jim Sorensen made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **Timberland Library, Library Manager Stephenie Reece**

- This was Stephenie's last meeting, but you can find her at the Aberdeen TRL.
- TRL board should pass the Aberdeen Library's 2022 budget this week.
- Aberdeen is getting many of the budget items they requested, including a new position for a Mobile Services Specialist to coordinate the rural book mobile.
- Aberdeen also got a van funded that will provide mobile services around town.
- January 3rd all TRL libraries will be changing their hours to reflect the needs that were observed during the summer pilot program. Aberdeen will be going from 49 to 54 hours a week and lots of marketing will be done to spread the news about the new hours at all of the TRL locations.
- The **Pacific Mountain** Workforce Development Council (PMWDC) and WorkSource are doing a three month pilot program with TRL in which they will hire liaisons to come into the libraries hours for up to 30 hours a week to help patrons with employment related activities like resume development, writing cover letters, and other things to help them apply for jobs.

- City of Ocean Shores, Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
 - Kathryn believes this will be her last GHCOG board meeting and a new councilmember will be assigned for 2022.
 - Mayor Dingler passed away, so the Council elected Jon Martin to carry out the remainder of the term.
 - Passed the 2022 Budget.
 - Hiring Fire/EMT positions, as well as other several other positions at the city.
 - Position open on City Council should be filled in January.
 - Working with the County and State on a blocked culvert as it is causing flooding issues. Questions were directed to Matt/WSDOT and will be addressed via email. City has budgeted money to start cleanup of the culvert on Chance A La Mer.

- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
 - City is doing fine.
 - Festival of Lights went well. Good crowd, but not too crowded.
 - Cancelled the last City Council meeting in December due to holiday.
 - Passed the 2022 budget with the destination tax helping the bottom line.
 - Looking forward to 2022!

- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
 - Property purchase is almost complete.
 - Starting a 2 month project to update the fuel island.
 - On January 3rd Transit will go back to 7 day service.
 - Lots of hiring, quitting, retiring, and rehiring happening.
 - Board passed the 2022 Budget on the 14th of December.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - Everything is good in Westport.
 - Everyone is getting ready for crabbing season.
 - Lots of people have been coming for the clam digging.
 - Deck the Docks lights, decorations, and crab pot Christmas tree are up for the holidays, but the storms have been knocking some of the lights out.
 - Mayor Bearden is assigning Melissa Huerta as the GHCOG Alternate.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Thanks to Stephenie and Tawni for serving on the GHCOG Board.
 - Passed a milestone budget for 2022 of over \$10 Million, partly due to Covid rescue funds.
 - Hiring a temporary project manager to oversee various projects that are coinciding in the upcoming year.
 - The Tree Lighting Ceremony in Elma was fun, although after Mayor Sorensen lit the tree the microphone wasn't working so he had to try to project his holiday speech to the crowd, but thinks a new PA system is in order.
 - Inquired on Fish Barrier Removal at Vance Creek with Matt/WSDOT.

- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - Passes a restricted 2022 budget and it in an even better position financially than in 2021. The new reserve fund helped the bottom line.
 - Instituting the annual increase for water and sewer in January.

- Cosmo is doing well and many other businesses are coming into Cosmopolis, including a Pepe/Kenworth Shop.
- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
- Completed the Bi-Annual budget review and hearing with revenues up and expenses as expected.
 - Cancelled last City Council meeting of the year due to holiday.
 - Said goodbye to some councilmembers at the last meeting, as new members will join in January, but still have one vacant position on the council to fill.
 - Coin Hunt is going on in Hoquiam with a few hundred coins hidden around town.
 - Preparing to get the RFA on the February Ballot.
 - Summit Pacific and the Port are hosting a free laser light show, Harbor Lights, on December 22nd and 23rd at Satsop Business Park, but preregistration is required via the Summit Pacific website in hopes of avoiding the overcrowding and parking issues from the previous laser event.
 - Walk with the Mayor will be starting in Hoquiam in 2022 and the newly appointed Ocean Shores Mayor, Jon Martin going to institute the program in his City as well. Mayor Winkelman invites other city Mayors to contact him if they are interested in joining and instituting the program in their areas as well.
- City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Tawni Andrews
- This was Tawni's last meeting with GHCOG, she did not run for Council in 2022.
 - 2022 budget was approved.
 - Aberdeen has several new Council members and Tawni is unsure who her GHCOG replacement will be.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
- Commission passed the 2022 Budget.
 - Approved new redistricting. Most changes happened in Central Park & Whiskah.
 - Grays Harbor has the hottest real estate market in the state.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Phil Papac
- The lights in Westport look good.
 - Summit Pacific and the Port are hosting a free laser light show, Harbor Lights, on December 22nd and 23rd at Satsop Business Park, but preregistration is required via the Summit Pacific website in hopes of avoiding the overcrowding and parking issues from the previous laser event.
 - The Port is entertaining lots of interested investors at their terminals and Satsop.
- WSDOT, Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
- Maintenance crews are busy in snow and ice preparations/winter activities right now. Crews from our Aberdeen facility were sent up to support our landslide response in Clallam County last month after the Nov. 15 storm.
<https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2021/12/clallam-county-landslides.html>
 - In terms of active construction, WSDOT is continuing with slope stabilization efforts on US 101 at Cosi Hill (from the second slide).
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-101-s-cosmopolis-stabilize-slope>

- We have a 29-barrier fish passage design bid build project kicking off next summer. More outreach will come in spring:
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-101-sr-109-grays-harbor-jefferson-and-clallam-counties-remove-fish-barriers-0>
- A bundled fish barrier correction project is coming to US 12/SR 8 between Montesano and McCleary this summer as well which will cause backups and people will want to plan ahead:
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-12-sr-8-grays-harbor-county-fish-passage-barriers-remove-fish-barriers>

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jim Sorensen made a motion to adjourn; second, Phil Papac. Motion passed unanimously.

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

 Ben Winkelman
 Chairman

 Date

 Vicki Cummings
 Executive Director

 Date