

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairperson Jim Sorensen at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Jon Martin (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Susan Howlette-Leite (Timberland Regional Library)
- Library Manager Dee Depoe (Timberland Regional Library)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)

➤ Staff:

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

➤ Guests:

- Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
- Don Williams
- Denise Hauck

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

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

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of March 2022 Minutes**

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the March 2022 Minutes.

Vini Samuel made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Vicki reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom.

➤ **Action: Approval of April 2022 Claims Batches #22-04 and April 2022 Payroll**

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the April 2022 Claims Batches #22-04 in the amount of \$8,047.22 and April 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$11,899.90.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ None

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **ACTION: 2022 Administrative Sub-Council, Election 2nd Vice-Chair position**

Replacing Clarinda “Pies” Underwood: Unfortunately, Clarinda Underwood was not re-elected to the Quinault Indian Nation’s Council, so her position of 2nd Vice-Chair on the GHCOG board is vacated. Chairman Sorensen asked for interested parties then recommended Commissioner Kevin Pine for the position. Commissioner Pine was asked if he would be interested in being nominated for the position and he accepted the commitment. The GHCOG board then voted Commissioner Pine in as the 2nd Vice-Chair to the GHCOG Administrative Sub-Council.

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

➤ **ACTION: Approval of Resolution #664 Honoring Councilperson Clarinda**

“Pies” Underwood: Vicki read a resolution honoring Clarinda Underwood’s time on the GHCOG board, as well as the Administrative Sub-Council. Clarinda had been an active GHCOG member for many years and was a true asset to board and the community.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Ben Winkelman. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

➤ None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Presented the Port’s Recreation Lands and Facilities Plan to the Port Commissioners for final adoption.
- Ranked and recommended funding of 13 ARPA applications from Non-Profits that lost money during Covid-19.
- Accessible Transportation meeting through RTPO for which a survey will be distributed to our members to share with the community.
- Completed the Unified Planning Work Program and process required by state/fed.

- Met with WSDOT in regard to STP Administration Obligation.
- Statewide meeting on STP Funding Obligation Authority.
- Had 1st Steering Committee meeting for Elma's AWP with the Brownfield Grant.
- Economic Development survey was distributed as part of a project with SeaGrant and GGHI.
- Asked to provide a letter of support for the AGP expansion at the Port of GH.

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

- Working on STP Administration Obligation Packet/WSDOT approval.
- Making STP Funding spreadsheets to make sure we hit obligation target.
- Helped Vicki with putting together the Port's Park Plan document.
- Sent out a reminder to the TAC to start working on your 2023 TIP's.
- Got job postings distributed and on websites.
- Went on vacation!

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite**

- Implemented sliding scale for lost and damaged materials according to age of material.
- New subscription to ABC Mouse, free to library members on TRL.org.
- Added subscription to PressReader free on TRL.org. Thousands of free newspapers and magazines.

➤ **City of Ocean Shores, Mayor Jon Martin**

- City is having challenges hiring a new Public Works Director.
- With soaring costs the city is looking at how they can adjust the scale of the High Dune Trail to fit within the budget.

➤ **City of Cosmopolis City Administrator Darrin Raines**

- City hired 1st paid Fire Chief.
- City was invited to join the Regional Fire Authority planning board.
- Municipal building is on hold again due to opening bid being way over estimates.

➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin**

- Downtown to Gateway shuttle is starting in May.
- Ridership is up 60%.
- You can now ride the bus without a mask.
- Fuel station project is complete.
- Visited Island Transit to get ideas for the new facility.

➤ **City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen**

- City had their 1st Council Retreat.
- Trains are back to blocking/sitting idle and noise.
- Estimate for remodeling new building into a municipal station was exorbitant, twice the cost of purchasing the building.
- The lift station project ton 11th is finished.

- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
 - City is hiring for lot of open positions due to retirements, reorganizations, etc.
 - Starting work on the Broadway Project.
 - Meeting with FEMA on levee to get project approval.
 - Hoping to see more progress at Olympic Stadium. Siding may be changed back to wood to conform to historical registry.
 - City is providing a letter of support to the Port of GH for the AGP expansion.
 - Did a City wide cleanup with Outstanding Teen, the Rotary, etc. and saw guardrails and other safety improvements that need to be made.

- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
 - City is starting construction season with 5 major projects on the books.
 - Received \$1 million in funding from Commerce for day care needs in the area.

- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross.
 - Started construction on the roundabout.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Commissioners are doing a final review of the ARPA budget. Of course, there were more requests than funding available.
 - Working on a Road Adoption Program for litter pickup.
 - Commissioners are doing a homelessness workshop next month.
 - The Health Department is working on a health gap analysis.
 - Fair has signed up lots of good music for this summer.
 - Mike Bruner is looking for more food vendors for this summer's fair.
 - Forestry is on track to have a record year due to double minimum bids.
 - ORV Park entrance had a washout. May not be able to fix until 2023 and entrance may need to be moved to Grays Harbor County.

- WSDOT, Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
 - US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab: Construction begins this summer to repair outdated and damaged machine rooms which help operate the bridge. Project webpage: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-101-hoquiam-river-riverside-ave-bridge-machine-rooms-rehab>
 - US 101 - S of Cosmopolis - Stabilize Slope: Slope repairs are expected to wrap up late April. Project webpage: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-101-s-cosmopolis-stabilize-slope>
 - Olympic Region Strategic Bridge Preservation 2021-23: Construction starts in Spring. Includes two bridges in Grays Harbor (SR 108 Satsop River Bridge, US 12/SR 8 bridge near Elma). Work is weather dependent.

