

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

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

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Mayor Chris Miller (City of McCleary)
- Library Manager Susan Howlette-Leite (Timberland Regional Library)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)

➤ Staff:

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

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

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

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

Kevin Pine made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the June 2022 Minutes.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Executive Director, Vicki Cummings, reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom. Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved, as Chairman, Jim Sorensen, did not attend the meeting.

➤ **Action: Approval of July 2022 Claims Batches #22-07 and July 2022 Payroll**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the July 2022 Claims Batches #22-07 in the amount of \$40,136.47 and July 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$11,899.90.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #667, Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2023 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Vicki explained this resolution is for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and should not be confused with the GH Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (Regional TIP). The only funding secured projects in the TIP is Surface Transportation Program Administration for 2023 through 2025.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously with the amendment of the Resolution number from #666 to #667.

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #668, 2022 Cost Allocation Plan Amendment**

The 2022 Cost Allocation Plan was adopted on January 20th, 2022 to determine the new 2022 Cost Allocation rates for benefits and salaries. The plan has to be put in place annually for grant reimbursement requests from WSDOT, but when submitted to WSDOT a correction was requested so the plan must be approved by the GHCOG board again before we can proceed with STP billings for 2022.

Kevin Pine made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously with the amendment of the Resolution number from #667 to #668.

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Federal EPA Brownfield grants will be opening soon and we plan to apply for another round of \$600,000 in funding to keep the program going. The two previous grants have greatly benefited the communities in Grays Harbor County, as well as saved money.
- We are undergoing a State Audit, which is unfortunately a 4 year audit due to Covid.
- There is new stormwater guidance that is delaying some of our current transportation projects and will affect future projects by adding at least 2 years onto the project.

- CWCOCG is working on the update to the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. Public meeting will be held in Grays Harbor on August 18th at the Elma Library from 2pm-3pm at the Hoquiam Library from 5:30pm to 7pm.
- We have sent out invitations for the second stakeholder meeting for Elma's Area Wide Plan, developed under our Brownfield grant, for Thursday, August 28th at 5:30pm.
- We have been working with entities that received STP funding to help them obligate their 2022 projects on time.

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

- Worked with all GH entities to prepare and adopt their 2022-2027 TIPs.
- Working with STP funding awardees on obligating funding before August 2022.
- Started GHCOG's four year audit, 2018-2021, with the State Auditor's office.
- Met with Stantec and Elma on Brownfield AWP progress.
- Met with WSDOT and Hoquiam for monthly project coordination.
- Working with IT on setting up remote access, new Microsoft Suite, and GIS.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- The Elma Library is open with new seating, paint, and other updates.
- The Summer Library program has had over 1,500 people enroll.

➤ **City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross**

- Working with Hoquiam and Cosmopolis to get RFA on next ballot.
- Held a special Council Meeting and awarded Northshore Levy to Quigg.
- New Fire Chief, John Clark, starts August 1st.
- The roundabout project is scheduled to be completed in September.

➤ **City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg**

- The 4th of July went well. Not as busy as last year.
- Toxic Algae warning is in effect on waterways in Ocean Shores.
- Hog Wild is the weekend of July 30th.
- Rate study will be reviewed at next council meeting for fire/EMS.
- Public works picked up 56,000 pounds of trash after the 4th of July.

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

- In 3rd year of labor negotiations. Looks like it will be going to arbitration.
- Old gun store is scheduled to get torn down for the Transit Center expansion in the next two months.
- Zero fare program is starting throughout Grays Harbor County and will be reviewed yearly to see if it can be reinstated.
- Move Ahead WA grant was awarded for 18 and under to ride free for the next 16 years.
- Vanpool is now a fixed rate, regardless of the fluctuation in van riders.
- Ridership is still at 75-80% of what it was prior to Covid.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - The 4th of July went well.
 - Fishing is busy and bringing in tourism.
 - Still working on replacing the last few of the 12 sewer pump stations.

- City of McCleary, Mayor Chris Miller
 - New Police Chief Sam Patrick from Toledo started this month.
 - Interviewing new Public Works Director as Todd Baun moved.
 - Applying for an RCO grant to make the old Simpson Door Plant into a recreational area.
 - Bear Festival had more floats this year, but not as many tourists as usual.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Mid-year budget report shows County is on track to have a balanced budget.
 - Approved RFP for 2023 Cold Weather Shelter with specific guidelines and services.
 - Approved funding a variety of grants in Aberdeen, for lighting, a reader board, marketing, and an event center at the Seaport Landing.
 - Went to John's River to see an abandoned Steam Donkey that they would like see recovered, preserved, and put on display.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Working on water, sewer, gutter, and paving on 12th street, but water pressure problems have delayed the project a little.
 - Heat on the Street car show and street dance is August 5th and 6th.
 - Biker groups are holding fundraising and support events for Oakley Carlson the weekend of July 30th starting at the County Jail in Montesano.
 - Met with a new private citizen committee that is working on forming a museum for Elma.

- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - Monthly revenue is back is up this year.
 - Had a councilmember resign at the last council meeting, so will need to fill the seat.
 - The AWP for Cosmopolis that came out of the last Brownfield grant has spurred redevelopment and currently have new developer looking at waterfront property

- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
 - The Deputy Police Chief retired and Joe Strong has been promoted to the position in the interim of hiring a new Deputy Chief of Police.
 - Councilmember Paul McMillan resigned due to moving out of his ward.
 - Last council meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items, but next meeting now looks like it will have a full agenda, including needing to fill a council seat.
 - Road project on Lincoln is in its 8th week.
 - City is moving ahead with the levy project.
 - Attended the groundbreaking of the new pump station.
 - City will be hiring for some new positions, one being a building official.
 - Renovations at Olympic Stadium are ongoing, but looking good.

