

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 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)
- Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite (Timberland Library)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- 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.

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

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

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the October 2022 Minutes.

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

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman Jim Sorensen reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom in November, but not in December.

➤ **Action: Approval of November and December 2022 Claims Batch #22-11 & #22-12 and November & December 2022 Payroll**

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the November and December 2022 Claims Batches #22-11 & #22-12 in the amounts of \$7,297.44 & \$57,318.58 and November and December 2022 Payroll each in the amount of \$11,899.90.

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

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #672, Approval of 2023 Final Budget**

Vicki explained that the 2023 Final Budget did not have any changes from the Preliminary Budget that was approved at the August board meeting.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #671, Approval of 2023-2030 STP Funding**

The board approved \$7,878,915 in funding to projects scheduled to begin between 2023 and 2030. These funds needed to be distributed for the region to meet our STP funding allocation and WSDOT's obligation target requirements. The TAC had previously reviewed and vetted the projects and forwarded the STP project list recommendation for funding (included in the packet).

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

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- All the TRL's in our County will now have iPad's for in library use.
- TRL received a grant for math backpacks for 3-5-year-old children that will have books and launch pads to assist with learning.
- The libraries also have light therapy lamps available to checkout.

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

- Council passed the 2023 Budget.
- Council cancelled the last council meeting of 2022.

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

- Board approved the 2023 Budget and two labor contracts.
- Martin Best passed away and Transit will be using a contractor from Nevada until his position can be filled.
- Ridership is up and continues to grow. Hope to surpass pre-Covid ridership.
- Hiring for Operations, Mechanics, IT, and Grant Writer.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - This will be Rob’s last meeting. Councilmember Troy Meyers will be representing the City of Westport in 2023.
 - Had a positive and well attended public meeting to discuss the potential golf course for which the state park and the golf company are still working out details.
 - Received a TIB award for \$673,000 for work on North Forest Street.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Received several applications, some of which are great candidates, for the Temporary Public Works Assistant position that will work with Jim Starks to gain institutional knowledge until he retires at the end of 2023.
 - Council passes the 2023 Budget.
 - Council swore in a new Police Officer, which puts the city closer to having a full force, but still need some entry level officers.
 - Reminder to the GHCOG council representatives that we will need people for the 2023 GHCOG Administrative Sub-Council positions.

- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - The Council approved the 2023 Budget, but the city also received notice that Cosmo will be closing as of the 21st, which will affect the budget.
 - Cosmo notified the city of closure as of December 21st but hoping it will be temporary and reopen in 2023.

- City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Deborah Ross
 - 2023 budget was approved.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Commissioners have a budget workshop on December 16th and hope to pass the 2023 Budget at the meeting on the 20th.
 - Union negotiations are ongoing.
 - Still looking for locations for the cold weather shelter. Have requested some locations modify their applications so they might become eligible.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

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

 Jim Sorensen Date
 Chairman

 Vicki Cummings Date
 Executive Director