

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The hybrid meeting, held at the Grays Harbor Transit Office and 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)
- Finance Manager Jean Braaten (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Councilmember Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
- Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- Commissioner Phil Papac (Port of Grays Harbor)

➤ Staff:

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

A quorum was established.

➤ Guests:

- Don Williams – Ocean Shores Community Member
- Wendell Sprigg – Kathryn Sprigg’s Husband
- Karen Carriker – Jim Sorensen’s Wife
- Douglas Orr – Aberdeen’s Newly Elected Mayor
- Josh Collette – Elma’s Newly Elected Mayor

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

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

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

Kathryn Sprigg made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of November 2023 Minutes**

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the November 2023 Minutes.

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Kathryn Sprigg. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

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

➤ **Action: Approval of November and December 2023 Claims Batch #23-12 and November & December 2023 Payroll**

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the December 2023 Claims Batches #22-12 in the amounts of \$24,473.62 and December 2023 Payroll each in the amount of \$12,256.89.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #681, Approval of 2024 Final Budget**

Vicki explained that the 2024 Final Budget did not have any changes from the Preliminary Budget that was approved at the August board meeting.

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Kathryn Sprigg. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: 2024 Administrative Sub-Council Election of Officers.**

Vicki Cummings gave a brief overview of Sub-Council responsibilities then proceeded with the election process for the Administrative Sub-Council. Normally Administrative Sub-Council elections are held in February each year, however, due to the amount of newly elected officials for 2024 we needed to establish the Sub-Council in December in order to keep the organization in compliance. Vicki then presented the slate of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. The slate of Officers nominated to serve in 2024 was then voted into office:

Chair – Troy Meyers

Vice Chair – Josh Collette

Secretary – Kevin Pine

Congratulations and thank you for serving on the Council.

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Resolution #682-686, Honoring Jim Sorensen, Vini Samuel, Kathryn Sprigg, Deborah Ross, and John Pellegrini.**

Approved resolutions and presented certificates of appreciation to five board members that did not seek re-election in 2024. Sincere thanks for serving the Grays Harbor Council of Governments in their capacity as designated representatives to the GHCOG Board, all of which provided GHCOG with multiple years of service.

Phil Papac made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- City of Hoquiam, Councilmember John Pellegrini
 - Council had to vote to increase the ambulance standby fee due to rate increases.
 - Timber sales are at risk of a decline until the fiber demand rebalances, which is troublesome for cities with working forests.
- City of Ocean Shores, Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
 - New Mayor is in place.
 - Moved around some elected official offices and staff offices because the city now has two female fire fighters that required separate sleeping quarters.
 - The election results are finally certified.
 - Oyhut ditch is cleared out but needs some rock or landscaping to finish it.
 - New 4-Way stop on Dolphin Avenue.
 - Erosion Study has the city installing a berm on Marine View Drive by moving existing sand and putting in some rock as a stop gap emergency, temporary solution to stop the erosion.
- Grays Harbor Transit, Finance Manager Jean Braaten
 - Approved the 2024 Budget and the dispatch contract.
 - Crazy year for sales tax fluctuation, but still ended about 4% over.
 - Awarded grant for coaches and vans but had to reduce quantity purchasing due to increases in auto costs.
- City of Westport, Councilmember Troy Meyers
 - City is working with UW to get ideas on how to engage citizens. Looking at ideas like a mobile city hall, an AM Radio station, and various other outreach methods.
 - The city now has a rugged motorized wheelchair called [David's Chair](#) that people can checkout for 1-2 hours to access the beach if they have mobility challenges.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Approved the 2024 Budget, which is the largest the city has ever had due to lots of grant awards and capital projects.
 - Jim thanked everyone and expressed how much he appreciated his time as Mayor and as Chair of the GHCOG board.
- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - Council approved the 2024 Budget at the last meeting, but tough without Cosmo.
 - New city municipal building is underway and will be completed by next December.
 - The city has a new Mayor and 4 new council members.
- City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Deborah Ross
 - Thanks to Vicki and Zana for everything.
 - City of Aberdeen was awarded a \$450,000 grant for US 101.

- Awarded contract for the booster bump replacement project.
 - Swor in the new Mayor and councilmembers.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Phil Papac
- Port expansion project is at 90% permit wise, once they are at 100% the expansion will start breaking ground.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

John Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn; second, Kathryn Sprigg. Motion passed unanimously.

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

 Troy Meyers
 Chairman

Date

 Vicki Cummings
 Executive Director

Date

DRAFT